

Board of County Commissioners

PROCLAMATION



Whereas, the opportunity to experience a naturally dark, star-filled night sky inspires wonder, fosters interest in science and nature and supports the growing astro-tourism economy as travelers seek out rare, naturally dark destinations; and

Whereas, excessive artificial light has obscured naturally dark skies—denying most Americans, including those in urban Washoe County, the experience of a natural night sky—while also harming human health, disrupting wildlife and ecosystems, and wasting an estimated \$3 billion annually in energy and resources, contributing to pollution and reduced energy security; and

Whereas, Nevada, particularly sparsely populated far northern Washoe County, is home to some of the darkest, starriest skies in the country, including the Massacre Rim International Dark Sky Sanctuary certified in 2019; and

Whereas, Washoe County's other public parks and open public lands managed by local, state and federal agencies serve as vital refuges for natural darkness, supporting a nocturnal ecosystem where wildlife can thrive free from the disruptive effects of artificial lighting, and providing abundant opportunities for pristine stargazing; and

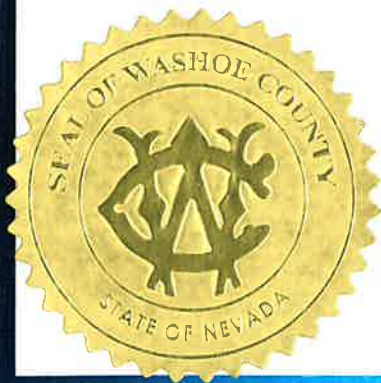
Whereas, recognizing that excessive artificial light can be reduced by the use of responsible outdoor lighting practices, Washoe County in 2025 included Dark Skies as a top policy priority in the Envision Washoe 2040 Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners does hereby proclaim the week of April 13 - 20 as:

Nevada Dark Skies Week

Dated this 14th day of April 2026.

Clara Andriola, Chair
Washoe County Commission



Washoe County