



Date: April 13, 2026
To: Mayor Bergquist and Town Trustees
From: Katie Hearsum, Marketing & Communications Manager
Re: Dark Sky Week Proclamation

Background:

DarkSky International is the globally-recognized authority on light pollution issues and night sky conservancy. With more than 60 advocacy chapters across 70 countries, it provides leadership, tools and resources to help reduce light pollution and promote responsible outdoor lighting. Taking place annually in April during the week of the new moon, International Dark Sky Week was created to offer an opportunity for communities across the globe to collectively celebrate the night with activities such as star parties, astronomy tours and classes, and other programs designed to raise awareness about the adverse effects of light pollution on health, wildlife and ecosystems.

In 2023, the Grand Lake Board of Trustees gave staff direction to start the process of becoming certified by DarkSky International as an International Dark Sky Community. In 2024, the board adopted a Lighting Management Plan and updated ordinance compliant with Dark Sky standards. In 2025, the town received a grant from the state for mentorship hours to assist with putting together our Dark Sky application. I am happy to report that we have already achieved many of the requirements for this application, and Grand Lake is well on its way to obtaining certification.

In honor of this year's Dark Sky Week April 13-20, 2026, I hope you will consider my request for a proclamation to declare April as Dark Sky Month in Grand Lake. While it is not required for certification, having a proclamation is a great way to show our commitment to not just obtaining certification, but to maintaining it in the future. With this proclamation, we will publicly recognize Dark Sky Month annually with programs, events and activities to engage and inform the community in this important initiative. Raising awareness through this proclamation fosters a deeper appreciation for dark skies, promotes sustainable tourism and enriches the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

Recommended Motions:

I move to adopt the Proclamation declaring the month of April as Dark Sky Month in the Town of Grand Lake.

TOWN OF GRAND LAKE PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS DARK SKY MONTH IN THE TOWN OF GRAND LAKE

WHEREAS the aesthetic beauty and wonder of natural dark skies at night are inherent to the character and allure of the state of Colorado and the Town of Grand Lake; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Grand Lake recognizes that the aesthetic beauty and wonder of natural dark skies at night are inherent to the character and allure of the state of Colorado and our Town and;

WHEREAS, the Town of Grand Lake desires to align with the State of Colorado’s mission to preserve dark skies, as declared in its own proclamation of Colorado’s Dark Sky Month in June 2021 and;

WHEREAS, our Town is committed to improving the quality of the night sky for our residents, visitors, wildlife and environment, by reducing light pollution through responsible outdoor lighting practices and;

WHEREAS, artificial light at night and light pollution have been scientifically linked to negative impacts the health of humans, wildlife and ecosystems and;

WHEREAS, dark sky compliant lighting practices can reverse light pollution impacts, promote safety, save energy and support climate smart policies and;

WHEREAS, the Town of Grand Lake has committed to leading by example by retrofitting, replacing and improving municipal outdoor lighting to use downward directed light only where needed, in levels no brighter than necessary, with warmer color lighting, as well as supporting efforts on private property to replace non-conforming light fixtures in alignment with our current Lighting Management Plan and;

WHEREAS, dark skies enhance the health and lives of those residing and visiting Grand Lake and promote responsible climate practices and sustainable tourism.

NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF GRAND LAKE, COLORADO, does hereby proclaim the month of April as Dark Sky Month in the Town of Grand Lake, and support efforts to protect our night sky and environment, and FURTHER, urges citizens to adhere to Dark Sky-compliant lighting practices to reduce light pollution and promote the well-being of this and future generations. **MOVED, SECONDED, AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF GRAND LAKE, COLORADO THIS 13TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.**

Votes Approving:
Votes Opposed:
Absent:
Abstained:

ATTEST:

TOWN OF GRAND LAKE

By: _____

Alayna Carrell
Town Clerk

Christina Bergquist
Mayor