

# Hold on, Friend. That's Trespassing!!

Folks around here pride themselves in being good neighbors. We look out for each other, lend a hand when needed, and enjoy the peaceful vibe of the Methow Valley. But there's one thing some of us do: unintentionally trespass on our neighbor's property. Not physically trespassing with our boots but a different kind of trespass: light trespass.

Most of us live in the Methow Valley because we enjoy rural living. For many of us, part of that enjoyment is being able to sit back and enjoy our dark night sky.

Unfortunately, sometimes our enjoyment of the night sky is spoiled by that one neighbor down the way or even across the valley who has a bright light that shines on your property. Their light **trespasses** onto your property and does have an impact on us.

The thing about it is... that neighbor may not know their light is bothering you. The best way forward is to talk with your neighbor. If you know them well enough already, then a friendly conversation might do the trick. You may discover that they had no idea their light bothers you. You can discuss why they want the light and discuss options for eliminating the light trespass. Like a good neighbor, be prepared to help them. If you're unsure of how to proceed, we offer some guidance on our website at <https://www.methowdarksky.org/talking-to-your-neighbor>.

If you are unsure about your own lights, go out at night, stand on your property line and look back. If you can see light coming directly from your fixture, that light is trespassing onto someone else's property. Whether your neighbor mentions it to you or not, go ahead and do the right thing — shield the light or reposition it so it shines down and stays on your own property. If we all do that, we'll all be able to continue to enjoy those beautiful nights we have out here.

## Please, be a good neighbor!

Make sure all your outdoor lighting is

- truly **needed**
- **fully shielded** and **directed down**
- as **dim** as possible
- a **warm color temperature** (<3000 K)
- **turned off** when not needed



Let's team up here in the Methow Valley to preserve our natural dark skies for the enjoyment of everyone.

For more information please visit us: <https://www.methowdarksky.org/light-pollution>