

FOWLER CREEK GUEST RANCH
EXHIBIT 8
LIGHT POLLUTION MITIGATION STATEMENT

Light pollution, a growing international concern, is gaining well-deserved awareness. Kittitas County has started to bear witness to this issue in its cities and areas of high population density. However, despite extensive research, there are no applicable rules, laws, or ordinances within the Kittitas County Code, the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan, the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), or the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) that effectively control lighting fixtures or ban excessive light emission.

The proposed Fowler Creek Guest Ranch project is prioritizing the reduction of light pollution in alignment with its environmentally conscious vision in all stages of its development. While there are no policies in any local or state codes pertaining to this increasing problem, dedicated advocacy groups, such as the non-profit organization DarkSky International, are actively campaigning to neutralize light pollution around the world. Using the suggestions from DarkSky, the proposed project has implemented strategies to mitigate light pollution issues for guests, the surrounding community, and Kittitas County as a whole.

One of the suggestions of DarkSky International is to utilize outdoor lighting only when and where it is needed. Using this guide, Fowler Creek Guest Ranch will include the judicious placement of lights only in necessary locations such as main roads, lodging sites, essential buildings, and selected trails. The primary aim is to ensure emergency route access and the safety of guests and staff.

Energy-efficient lighting is another key aspect of light pollution mitigation. The use of LED bulbs is highly beneficial for the environment due to their longer lifespan and lower heat emission, resulting in energy conservation and reduced overall environmental impact. Given these benefits, the proposed project is opting to use LED lights wherever possible.

The design of light fixtures, another NightSky suggestion, is also taken into consideration. Fowler Creek Guest Ranch will ensure that all outdoor lighting is shielded and directed downwards to minimize the impact on the night sky. This practice helps

direct the rays to illuminate only what is necessary, rather than creating a larger area of unnecessary lighting.

The proposed project also plans to use motion sensors and timers for outdoor lights. This is important for conserving energy and creating less light pollution. These measures will be predominantly implemented in areas of high user concentration, such as lodging sites and buildings. This allows guests and staff to safely navigate the premises at night without the need for continuous lighting.

Fowler Creek Guest Ranch hours of operation for those without overnight reservations will be from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. The hours from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. are designated as quiet hours during which general entry is not permitted, with the exception of emergency situations. This significantly reduces additional traffic and vehicle lights that would otherwise illuminate the area during these hours.

This proposed project aims to minimize any potential impacts on the natural area while providing guests with an opportunity to enjoy the rural features of upper Kittitas County. As a member of DarkSky International, Fowler Creek Guest Ranch stays updated on new strategies and suggestions to further reduce its light impact, and guests will be educated about the adverse effects of excessive light emission. Through these strategies, Fowler Creek Guest Ranch strives to create an environmentally conscious space that is respected and appreciated by all users and the surrounding community.