

Custer County is in the enviable position of starting with mostly dark skies today. Please illuminate carefully. Picking the right fixture and bulb type for your needs will yield quality of life dividends for all of us.

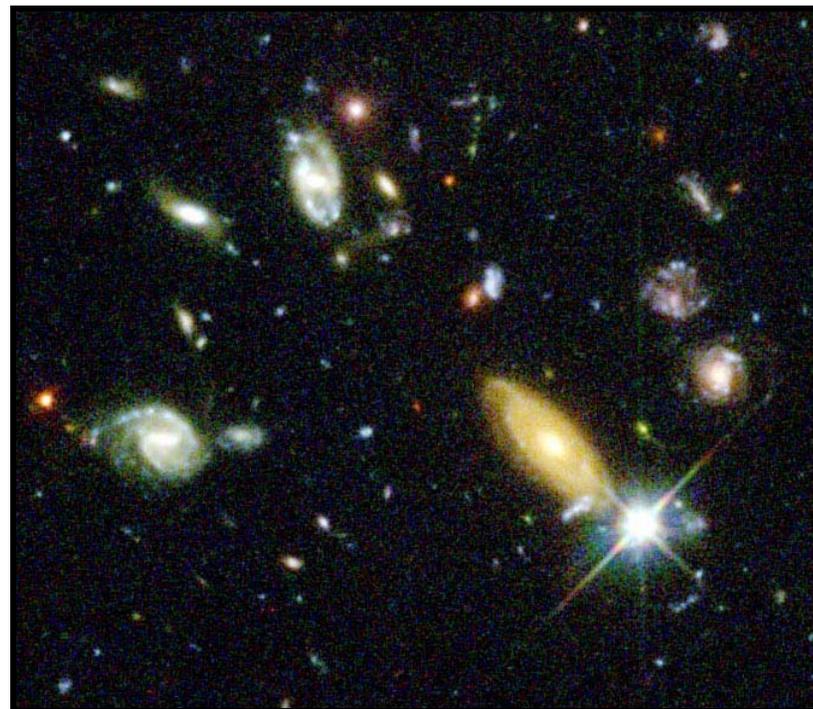
It is a win-win situation: glare and upward light pollution have no benefit; they only reduce the effectiveness of well modulated, useful light.

Bulb Type	Lumens Per Watt	
Incandescent	20	<i>LEDs should now be considered as the preferred choice.</i>
Mercury vapor	54	
Metal halide	80	
High-pressure sodium	125	
Low-press sodium	183	
LUMENS = the amount of light		
WATTS = the amount of electricity		
MERCURY VAPOR: 175 watt = 7140 lumens = annual cost of \$70.26 @ \$0.10 / kwh		
HIGH PRESSURE SODIUM: 100 watt = 8550 lumens = annual cost of \$40.14 @ \$0.10 / kwh		

For more information, contact:
 DARK SKIES
 P.O. Box 634
 Westcliffe, CO 81252
www.wetmtdarkskies.org

Want to talk to a real person? You can call: ~~Bob Gilchrist 719-789-2944, Sam Frostman 719-789-0252, Tom Larkin 719-789-9271, or Smokey Jack 719-789-2905.~~

March-2003



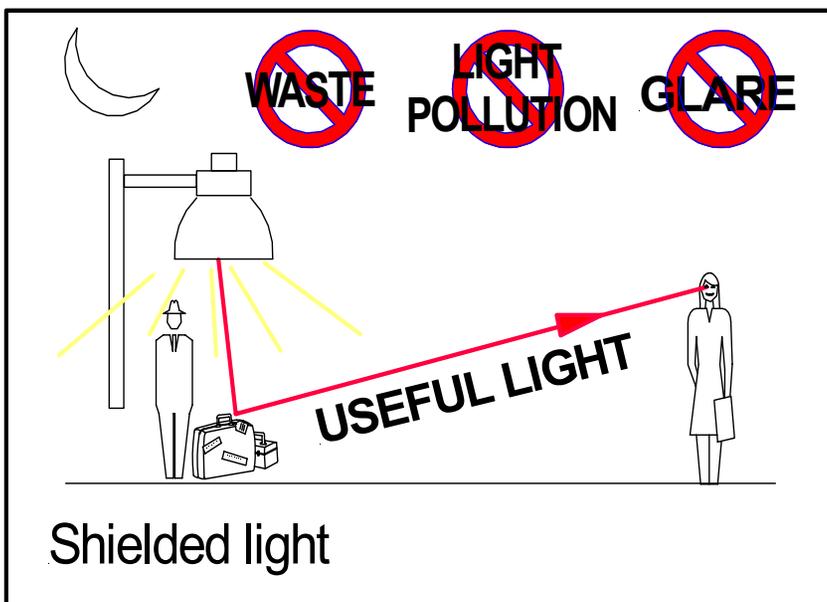
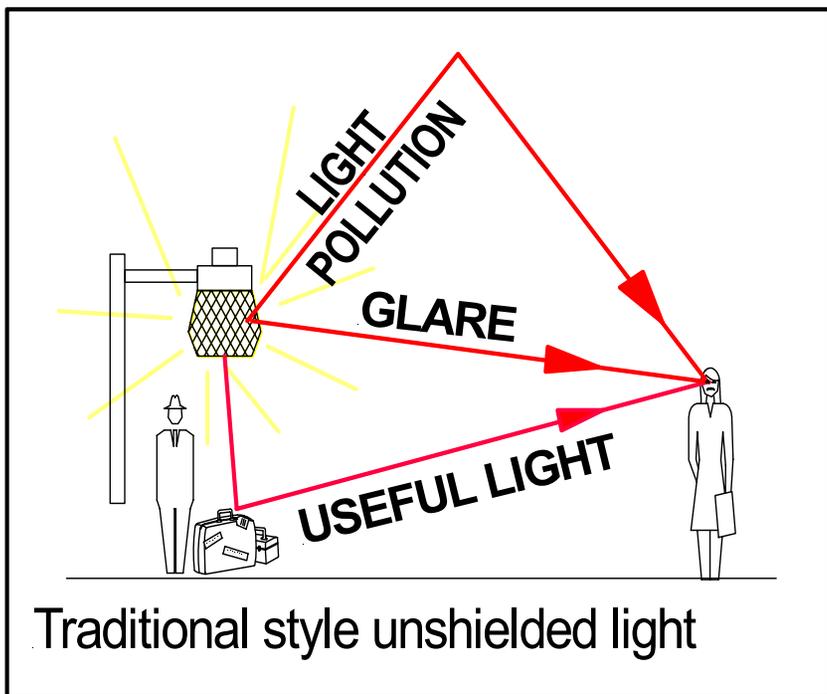
Detail from Hubble deep field image - NASA

Is the night sky worth saving?

We think so.



www.wetmtdarkskies.org



Today the Wet Mountain Valley is a lightly populated rural area with spectacular night skies. You can do your part to help preserve this resource by installing well designed outdoor lighting.

Unshielded lights broadcast glare for tens of miles. An unshielded yard light viewed across the valley through our crystal clear air is many times brighter than the brightest star.

Upward directed stray beams from unshielded or open-top lights reflect from particles in the atmosphere and cause 'sky glow' that obscures the millions of dimmer stars. We already see the sky glow of Pueblo and Canon City, we need to take care before our dark skies are gone, one light at a time!

All outdoor lights should feature:

- ☑ **No escape of light in an upward direction.** This will eliminate light pollution and save our night skies.
- ☑ **A shaded source of illumination.** This will prevent glare and show consideration for neighbors.

Dark Skies is an emerging concern nationwide and more dark-sky-friendly fixtures are available every day. Visit our web site or call a volunteer to find out where you can purchase good lighting.

Dark Skies always has Hubble hoods on hand – we will sell you a hood or give you a hood – whatever it takes to save our skies! Hubble hoods are for yard lights, they feature a parabolic reflector that provides optimum light distribution.

If you decide to lease a security light from a power company, be sure to specify a shielded luminaire when ordering.