

Reducing Impacts of Artificial Light on Wildlife in Grand Teton National Park

The Jackson Hole Airport, uniquely located within Grand Teton National Park, is the only airport in the United States situated in a national park. This distinctive location underscores the importance of our commitment to protecting the night sky and to the preservation of wildlife and critical wildlife habitat within Grand Teton National Park.

Nocturnal Wildlife in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park is home to nocturnal wildlife that rely on the natural darkness of the night sky. Common nocturnal species in Grand Teton National Park include:



MIGRATORY BIRDS: Artificial lights can attract and disorient migratory birds, like the bald eagle, causing them to deviate from their natural flight paths, leading them to circle illuminated areas, depleting their energy reserves.



BATS: Bats, such as the little brown bat, rely on the darkness to hunt insects and navigate using echolocation. Light pollution can disrupt their feeding patterns and reduce their prey availability.



OWLS: Owls, including the great horned owl, use the cover of darkness to hunt small mammals and insects. Artificial light can interfere with their hunting efficiency and disorient them.



MICE & OTHER SMALL MAMMALS: Many small mammals, such as the deer mouse are nocturnal and depend on the darkness to avoid predators. Light pollution can expose them to increased predation risk.



INSECTS: Nocturnal insects, such as hummingbird moths, are attracted to artificial lights, which can lead to fatal exhaustion and disrupt their natural behaviors.

Help Protect Nocturnal Wildlife:

- Use fully shielded fixtures for outdoor lighting.
- Use only the necessary amount of light.
- Install timers and dimmer switches.
- Turn off lights when not in use.
- Use motion sensors for security lighting.
- Choose lighting with a color temperature of 3000K or below.

By making these small changes, the Jackson Hole Airport is helping to protect the nocturnal wildlife of Grand Teton National Park and preserve the natural beauty of our night skies.

Learn more about light pollution and wildlife habitats:



DarkSky