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Planning for People & Wildlife

June 7 – 8, 2011

Great Northern Hotel, Helena, Montana

The Sonoran Institute

Montana Fish,
Wildlife, and Parks

Day Two, Wednesday, June 8th

7:00 – 8:00 **Breakfast** **Room: Oriental Ltd.**

8:00 – 8:10 **Review of Day**

8:15 – 9:00 **Legal Framework for Planning for Wildlife**

*Montana's legal statutes can be difficult to interpret and local governments fear expensive lawsuits. **Kelly Casillas**, Deputy Legal Counsel and Administrator of the Community Development Division, Montana Department of Commerce, and **Jerry Grebenc**, Bureau Chief of the Planning Bureau in the Community Development Division, will cover the legal basis for planning, zoning and subdivision regulation, and decision making as well as help you understand the importance of science in legally defensible policy making. This session includes plenty of time for participants to ask questions regarding issues at home or questions about the legal framework. Feel free to come prepared with legal questions!*

9:00 – 10:00 **Building Public Support: Communicating Information in a Meaningful Way**

*Imagine this scenario: Your community visioning process and growth policy both articulate goals for wildlife protection. You had three conservation organizations present their ecological studies indicating your community is THE most critical habitat location in the state. Yet, when you tried to pass a regulation to protect a wildlife corridor you were taken by surprise by 145 angry citizens at the public hearing concerned about their private property rights. What happened? Learn effective techniques from **Marjo Curgus** on how to frame controversial and sensitive issues in order to create meaningful dialogue and build support for achieving community goals.*

10:00 – 11:00 **Work Session: Building Public Support**

Your group will have 60 minutes to develop a draft communication frame and outreach strategy to build public support for wildlife conservation in your community.

11:00 – 12:15 **Work Session: Putting the Pieces Together – Team Action Plan**

Over the past day and a half you have discussed the role of land use planning in conservation of wildlife resources. This work session is designed for teams to discuss what they think are appropriate next steps in their own communities once they return home.

- *What do you want to do when you get home?*
- *How can you maintain momentum?*
- *What should your priorities be?*
- *How will you measure your success?*
- *If you submitted an FWP mini-grant application, do you want to adjust your project description at all, based on your team's learning and discussions at this workshop?*

12:15 – 12:30 **Wrap Up and Workshop Evaluation**

12:30 **LUNCH** **Room: Empire Builder**

P4PW Team Statements

1. Upper Swan Valley

The Upper Swan Valley community is committed to maintaining the natural beauty and fully functional ecosystems of our area, and to fostering its economic vitality. Co-existence between people, plants, and wildlife is central to what makes our area so unique. The Upper Swan Valley Growth Policy Committee recently drafted a *Swan Valley and Condon Community Profile* and is ready to embark on the process of bringing the community together to formulate a plan for the future. In that process, we hope to define issues, goals and objectives, future alternatives, and implementation strategies. We look upon the P4PW workshop as an opportunity for learning about tools, collaboration with one another, and sharing of resources.

2. Missoula County

Missoula County is continually challenged to balance private property interests with support of our outstanding natural resources. This challenge is most evident when large-scale subdivision development is proposed in unzoned areas of big game winter range and black bear and grizzly bear habitat. Our goal is to mitigate impacts to the natural environment, wildlife, and wildlife habitat to the greatest extent possible under county and state regulations. We want to encourage more proactive interactions between the development community and local government. We look forward to the workshop's opportunities for group dialogue, discussion of effective tools and approaches, and conversations about how the development process might be more collaborative.

3. Ruby Watershed

The Ruby Watershed Council and Ruby Valley Conservation District are committed to uniting agriculture, recreation, conservation and education to "protect the land and preserve our heritage". Presently, the Ruby Watershed Council is developing a five-year strategic watershed restoration plan that will be our vision for the future with an eye to the past. Given limited paid staff and already-busy volunteers, our plan will need a set of realistic annual work plans that help us address our resource priorities -- water, soil and range conservation, fish and wildlife, land stewardship, and education/outreach. We hope the workshop will offer information and inspiration about tools and ideas that can support our plan's goals and objectives and help us cohabitate peacefully with wildlife.

4. Park County

The Park County Wildlife Coalition aims to work collaboratively, to: (1) assemble a document describing the County's wildlife and wildlife habitat resources; (2) recommend updates to the County Growth Policy; (3) make recommendations for the County subdivision and floodplain regulations; (4) develop a set of Living With Wildlife guidelines; and (5) conduct community field trips to promote learning about wildlife habitat identification and human/wildlife conflict strategies. We look to this workshop for scientific information and training on impact mitigation that will help equip our team to carry out its projects.

5. Madison Watershed

Madison County is updating its Growth Policy. Maps of important natural resources, including wildlife migration corridors, have been prepared and will be incorporated. The Craighead Institute has developed models intended to guide development decisions. Our challenge now is to create a plan that utilizes this updated and comprehensive information to identify wildlife-related goals and methods for meeting those goals. Community support and feedback will be sought, and education on available tools will be offered. This workshop provides an opportunity for our team to learn more about available tools and how they can be effectively used to address management of wildlife and development.

P4PW Participant List

RUBY WATERSHED

Rebecca Mayfield Ramsey
Ruby Valley Conservation District/
Ruby Watershed Coordinator
POB 295
Sheridan, MT 59749
406-842-5741 X106
rbywatershed@gmail.com

Matt Jaeger
Montana Fish, Wildlife, Parks Fisheries Biologist
130 1/2 N. Montana
Dillon, MT 59725
406-683-9310
mattjaeger@mt.gov

Katie Benzel
Bureau of Land Management
Dillon Field Office Wildlife Biologist
1005 Selway Dr.
Dillon, MT 59725
406-683-8032
Katie_benzel@blm.gov

Jan Kluver Banks
Ruby Valley Conservation District, Madison County
Planning Board, Ranch Resources/ Range & Soil
Specialist, RVDC Supervisor
POB 638
Sheridan, MT 59749
406-842-5010
jbanks@ranchresources.net

Bill Fraser
Lewis & Clark Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Ruby
Watershed Council, Polar Arctic Research Group
619 Middle Rd.
Sheridan, MT 59749
braser@3rivers.net

Frank Colwell
Prudential Montana Realty, Ruby Watershed
Council
128 Indian Creek Rd.
Sheridan, MT 59749
406-596-1076
frank.colwell@prumt.com

PARK COUNTY

Wm. Michael Inman
Park County Community Development
Department/Park County Senior Planner
414 E. Callender Street
Livingston, MT 59046
wminman@oarkcounty.org

Bill Berg
Chairman, Gardiner Chamber of Commerce/ Park
County Planning & Development Board
POB 275
Gardiner, MT 59030
406-848-2380
bill@coolworks.com

Karen Loveless
Montana FWP Livingston Area Biologist
1354 HW 10 West
Livingston, MT 59047
406-222-4723
KLoveless@mt.gov

Scott Opitz
Montana FWP Livingston Area Fisheries Biologist
1354 H 10 West
Livingston, MT 59047
406-222-5105
sopitz@mt.gov

Tracey Isaly
Park County Planning and Development Board
127 Quinn Ck Rd
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-586-7062
risaly@3riversdbs.net

SWAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

John Mercer
Co-Chair Upper Swan Valley Growth Policy Council
Committee and Upper Swan Valley Economic
Committee Swan Valley
POB 980
Swan Valley, MT 59826
406-754-2580
jkmercer@mac.com

Joan McGuire
Swan Ecosystem Board of Directors
POB 1252
Swan Valley, MT 59826
406-754-6569
joansaffordmcguire@earthlink.net

Gary Lazarowski
Growth Policy Committee
5448 Highway 83 North
Swan Valley, Montana 59826
406-754-0034
rohrevid@aol.com

Mike Lake
Upper Swan Valley Community Council, Growth
Policy Committee
POB 1048
Swan Valley, MT 59826
406-754-2221
imbl@blackfoot.net

Vern Sharp
Growth Policy Committee
2052 Styler Drive
Swan Valley, MT 59826
406-754-2002
vandj@blackfoot.net

John Keller
Growth Policy Committee
6124 Highway 83 North
Swan Valley, MT 59826
406-754-3300
JKeller@CMPMontana.com

Betsy Spettigue
Swan Ecosystem Center, Wildlife Program
Coordinator, Growth Policy Committee
6887 Highway 83 North
Swan Valley, MT 59826
406-754-3137
betsy@swanecosystemcenter.org

MISSOULA COUNTY

Tim Worley
Missoula Office of Planning and Grants, Planner III
435 Ryman St.
Missoula, MT 59802
406-258-4794
tworley@co.missoula.mt.us

Juanita Vero
E Bar L Ranch; Board Member Northwest
Connections
8470 Sunset Hill Road
Greenough, MT 59823
406-360-5821
juanitavero@gmail.com

Michele Reinhart
Legislator, Montana House of Reps. HD 97
POB 5945
Missoula, MT 59806
406-360-4762
Michele@michelereinhardt.com

James Jonkel
Montana Fish, Wildlife, Parks Bear Management
Region 2
3201 Spurgin Rd.
Missoula, MT 59804
406-544-1447
JaJonkel@mt.gov

Jackie Corday
Missoula Parks & Recreation, Open Space Program
Manager
600 Cregg Lane
Missoula, MT 59801
406-552-6278
jcorday@ci.missoula.mt.us

Sarah Canepa
Missoula County Rural Initiatives, Rural Landscape
Scientist
200 W. Broadway
Missoula, MT 59802
406-258-4868
scanepa@co.missoula.mt.us

Tim Skufca
Missoula City/County Consolidated Planning Board
107 North Avenue West
Missoula, MT 59801
406-207-9300
tmskufca@gmail.com

MADISON COUNTY

Charity Fetcher
Madison County Planner
POB 278
Virginia City, MT 59755
406-853-5250
cfetcher@madison.mt.gov

Jim Hart
Madison County Commissioner
POB 278
Virginia City, MT 59755
406-843-4277
madco@madison.mt.gov

Kathy Looney
Madison County Planning Board and Chairwoman
POB 703
Pony, MT 59747
406-685-3609
gus@3rivers.net

Lane Adamson
Director, Madison Valley Ranchlands Group
POB 703
Pony, MT 59747
406-685-3609
mvranch@3rivers.net

Kevin Germain
Planner, Moonlight Basin
POB 1369
Ennis, MT 59729
406-682-6666
kgermain@moonlightbasin.com

Sunni Heikes-Knapton
Madison Conservation District/Watershed
Coordinator
POB 606
Ennis, MT 59729
406-682-3181
mwc@3rivers.net

P4PW Presenter and Staff Biographies

Randy Carpenter

Associate Director, Northern Rockies Regional Program, Sonoran Institute
201 S. Wallace, Suite B3C
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-587-7331 ext. 3002
rcarpenter@sonoraninstitute.org

Randy has extensive experience in helping to protect rural landscapes and wildland ecosystems. Randy provides assistance to local governments and concerned citizens in the Northern Rockies on growth management and land conservation efforts. He holds a B.A. in History and an M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning, both from the University of Iowa.

Kelly Casillas

Administrator, Community Development Division
Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, Montana Department of Commerce
301 S. Park Ave.
P.O. Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620-0523
ph 406-841-2776
kcasillas@mt.gov

Kelly was raised in East Helena, Montana and graduated from Helena High School in 1989. She received her B.A. in Environmental Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1993; her M.A. in Urban Planning in 1997 from the University of California, and her J.D. in 2001 from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law. She was admitted to the State Bar of California in 2001 and the State Bar of Montana in 2003.

Kelly joined the Montana Department of Commerce in July 2007, serving as the Staff Attorney for the Community Technical Assistant Program (CTAP), support legal counsel in the Director's Office, and then Deputy Chief Legal Counsel for the Department. In May 2010, Kelly was appointed as the Administrator for the Community Development Division with the Montana Department of Commerce. As Administrator, she oversees the Coal Board, Hard Rock Mining Impact Board, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, Neighborhood Stabilization Program, Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP), the Treasure State Endowment Programs (TSEP), and the Quality Schools Grant Program. Kelly is responsible for managing the allocation and administration of over \$120 million in state and federal grant funding and technical assistance to local governmental entities in Montana for community planning and infrastructure development.

Prior to her employment at the Department of Commerce, Kelly was employed at the law firm of Richards, Watson & Gershon in Los Angeles, California, from August 2001 to August 2003, where she served as special counsel to several California cities and public agencies in land use planning, environmental review, water supply planning requirements, agricultural land, and open space preservation. From August 2003 to November 2006, Kelly served as Deputy County Counsel for the County of Santa Barbara, California, where she provided land use, planning, subdivision, and environmental review advice to the Planning & Development, Redevelopment Agency, Public Works, and other county departments.

Kelly is a current member of the volunteer Ski Patrol at the Great Divide Ski Area, and a former member of the Helena/Lewis and Clark Consolidated Planning Board (2007-2009).

Marjo Curgus

Director, Training & Community Leadership, Sonoran Institute
629 C Street
Salida, CO 81201
mcurgus@sonoraninstitute.org

Marjo became the Sonoran Institute's Director of Training and Community Leadership in 2008 after working here since 2005 as a planner and project manager. She specializes in community engagement, collaborative processes, and problem solving. Prior to joining the Institute, Marjo worked primarily in her home state of New Mexico in non-profit management and as a planning consultant and facilitator. Her projects included: community visioning, economic development, water and watershed planning, affordable housing, neighbourhood planning, public safety and youth development. Marjo has a master's in community and regional planning with an emphasis in natural resources planning and a bachelor's in political science and studio art from the University of New Mexico. When not at the office, she enjoys exploring the Rockies by foot, bike, kayak or skis. She is an independent traveller who has been to Nepal, Tibet, Ireland, Great Britain, the Far East, Eastern Europe and India – for starters.

Cameron Ellis

201 S. Wallace, Suite B3C
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-587-7331 ext. 3008
cellis@sonoraninstitute.org

Cameron is the Sonoran Institute's GIS specialist and member of the research team. He holds a BA from UCLA in Political Science and an MSc in Evolutionary Anthropology from the University of New Mexico - with a focus on evolutionary systems and GIS applied to large-scale patterns in behavioral ecology. In 2004-2006 Cameron served as the Assistant International Programs Director of The Peregrine Fund, working on raptor conservation efforts throughout Latin America, Africa and the Indian Subcontinent. Prior to working with the Sonoran Institute he provided freelance GIS and cartographic support for cultural and natural resource management, and acquisition of formal land-tenure for indigenous communities in Central America through the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in DC. He has worked extensively in Latin America and sits on the Advisory Board of the Neotropical Raptor Network and the Advisory Council of Native Future.

Doris Fischer

Montana FWP Land Use Planning Specialist
P.O. Box 52 402 South Main
Sheridan, MT 59749-0052
406-842-7467
dofischer@mt.gov

Doris is the Land Use Planning Specialist for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. As such, she works with FWP biologists, community planners, and others to support efforts to integrate fish/wildlife information into residential and transportation planning and development processes. Prior to joining FWP 3 ½ years ago, Doris worked for Madison County, Missoula City and County, Yellowstone National Park, the Gallatin Development Corporation in Bozeman, the Northwest Regional Planning Commission in Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Mining Impact Board. Eons ago (!), she earned her Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Doris first experienced Big Sky Country in 1980 and is lucky enough to live, now, in the Ruby Valley of Southwest Montana.

Charity Fetchter

Madison County Planner

POB 278

Virginia City, MT 59755

406-843-5250

cfetcher@madison.mt.gov

Born and raised in Helena, Charity Fetchter returned to Montana as the Madison County Planning Director in 2007. She received a BS in Earth Sciences – geographical planning option, from Montana State University. She also holds a Master of Science in Geography (regional planning and physical geography) from Oregon State University and a Masters in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Charity has experience in land use planning, zoning, subdivision review and transportation planning in areas as diverse as sparsely populated rural areas to large metropolitan areas, and in climates covering the spectrum from the desert to the temperate rainforest.

Jerry Grebenc

Bureau Chief, Planning Bureau, Community Development Division

Department of Commerce

301 S. Park Ave. PO Box 200523

Helena, MT 59620-0523

JGrebenc@mt.gov

406- 841-2598

Jerry is currently the Planning Bureau Chief for the Community Development Division of the Montana Department of Commerce. The Bureau provides technical assistance regarding community planning and infrastructure to local governments, planning boards, private sector developers, engineers, consultants and non-profit organizations.

Jerry received a bachelor's degree in History/Geography from the University of Minnesota–Duluth and a graduate degree in Geography/Planning from the University of Montana. He has twelve years of experience in community planning and development issues, including serving as an associate planner and then as Planning Director for Lewis and Clark County. He has also worked for engineering firms in Missoula and Helena designing residential developments and shepherding them through local review processes.

Diane Snyder

Director, Northern Rockies Regional Program

201 S. Wallace Ave., Suite B3C

Bozeman , Montana 59715

406-587-7331 ext. 3010

dsnyder@sonoraninstitute.org

Diane is the Director of the Sonoran Institute's Northern Rockies Regional Program. Diane is a woman of passion; for her family, rural communities and, their environment. Prior to this, Diane served as Vice President of Community Development for the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities - a non-profit corporation endowed to support educational, charitable, public interest, and forest sustainability projects in forest-reliant communities. She also spent more than a decade as the founding Executive Director of Wallowa Resources, a local non-profit organization promoting community development and sustainable management in the natural resources sector.

Diane grew up in ranching as a fourth generation resident of Wallowa County and managed her own herd on the family ranch for nearly 20 years. She has extensive experience in land-use planning, community development, public mediation and state and local government. She has worked for the Oregon State House of Representatives and Wallowa County as the director of the Land Use Planning and Building Department. Diane serves on numerous local, regional, and state boards including, the American Leadership Forum, Oregon Chapter Board, the Oregon State Watershed Enhancement Board, Wallowa County Natural Resources Advisory Committee, and Wallowa County Economic Action Team. She is a member of the Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce, Liberty Grange and The Society of American Foresters. For nearly six years, she served as a member of the Oregon State Board of Forestry. In 2001, Diane was recognized as Wallowa County's Civic Leader of the Year. In 2007, Oregon Business Magazine highlighted her work as one of 50 Great Leaders in Oregon and she was the recipient of the Donald M. Kerr Award from the High Desert Museum. Diane is the proud mother of four wonderful children: Rachel, Sterling, Thane and Wyatt.

Dr. Gary Tabor

Executive Director, Center for Large Landscape Conservation
P.O. Box 1587
Bozeman, MT 59771
406.586.8082
wildcatalyst@gmail.com

Gary Tabor, DVM, MS, is a conservation catalyst. He has championed large landscape conservation efforts throughout the world, notably the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y). His efforts have increased the conservation capacity of the Wildlife Conservation Society, the African Wildlife Foundation, the Wildlife Trust and numerous other conservation organizations. More recently, Gary established and directed the Wilburforce Foundation's Yellowstone to Yukon field office in Montana and in 1999 designed one of the first conservation science grant making programs in western North America. His conservation background includes eight years of international conservation work in East Africa and South America. Trained as a wildlife veterinarian and an ecologist, Gary also co-founded the Consortium for Conservation Medicine, an ecological health collaborative linking ecology, epidemiology, human and veterinary medicine, and public health. During his career, Gary has served as an adviser to six major private foundations and several bilateral and multilateral donor agencies in the area of environmental philanthropy. Gary is currently the NGO representative on the Board of Governors of the Society for Conservation Biology.

Stephanie Weigel

Regional Land Use Planner
c/o Joshua Tree National Park 74485 National Park Drive
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
760-367-5567
sweigel@sonoraninstitute.org

Stephanie Weigel is the regional land use planner in the Morongo Basin of southern California. Being in the field conducting research as a Ph.D. geographer, which included using geographic information systems and remote sensing to document and analyze changes in landscapes and ecosystems, inspired her return to M.S. studies in urban and regional planning to gain a better understanding of the policy settings that so profoundly impact communities and their landscapes. Stephanie has worked in academia, state and local government, and with community-based non-profits. Born in South Dakota and raised in the Midwest, she holds a B.S. in bacteriology and chemistry from Iowa State University. Her perspectives on place and community are

informed in part by the diversity of places she has lived and worked, including North Carolina, Puerto Rico, Louisiana, Colorado and California. Stephanie is an avid dog walker, reader and fiber artist who enjoys quilting and weaving.

Claire Zugmeyer

Ecological Research Specialist, Sonoran Institute

7650 E. Broadway Blvd., Suite 203

520-290-0969 ext. 1143

Tucson , AZ 85710

czugmeyer@sonoraninstitute.org

Claire is working on the ecological monitoring component of a larger project to promote conservation of the Santa Cruz River. She completed a B.S. in Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution at the University of California, Los Angeles, and has since worked on a variety of research projects focusing on birds, mammals, fish and amphibians. More recently she studied the endangered Mt. Graham red squirrel while completing her master's in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology at the University of Arizona. She enjoys photography, running, hiking and good food.

P4PW Resource CD Contents

1. **A checklist for ecological management of landscapes for conservation.** Ecology Letters, (2008) 11: 78–91 doi: 10.1111/j.1461-0248.2007.01114.x
2. **Lasting Landscapes: Reflections on the Role of Conservation Science in Land Use Planning.** Environmental Law Center
3. **Green Infrastructure Plan Evaluation Frameworks.** Journal of Conservation Planning 1(1):12-43
4. **Linking Land Use and Conservation: Using the State Wildlife Action Plans to Protect Wildlife From Urbanization.** Defenders of Wildlife.
5. **Green Infrastructure – Linking Lands for Nature and People Case Study Series: Pima Desert Conservation Plan.** The Conservation Fund.
6. **Conservation Thresholds for Land Use Planners.** Environmental Law Institute.
7. **Conservation Opportunities in High Hazard Areas.** Environmental Law Institute.
8. **Safe Passage: A User’s Guide to Developing Effective Highway Crossings for Carnivores and other Wildlife.**
9. **9. Wildlife Friendly Development Guidelines – Community & Project Planning – Arizona Game & Fish Department**
10. **PACE Law School Summary of Land Use Policies**
11. **Wildlife Ordinance BMPs Folder** (examples of ordinances for wildlife protection)
12. **The Role of Fish and Wildlife Evidence in Local Land Use Regulations.** University of Montana Land Use Clinic Report. April 2009.
13. **Impacts to Wildlife from Low Density, Exurban Development. Adirondack Park. Wildlife Conservation Service.** 2005.
14. Craighead Institute **Wild Planner Manual**
15. **Montana Natural Heritage Program Map Viewer Demo**

16. **Effects of Exurban Development on Biodiversity: Patterns, Mechanisms, and Research Needs.**
Hansen et al.
17. **Effect of Exurban Development on Wildlife and Plant Communities.** NRCS.
18. **Florida Wildlife Manual**
19. **Bridging the Divide, Strategic Conservation for the Rural West.** Resource Media
20. **Defining We.** Action Media

Web Links

1. **Montana FWP Crucial Areas Planning System (CAPS)** www.fwp.mt.gov
2. **Building with Wildlife**
<http://fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/livingWithWildlife/builidngWithWildlife.html>
3. **A Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fences.**
<http://fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/livingWithWildlife/tips.html>
4. **Important Bear Aware Tools**
<http://fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/livingWithWildlife/beBearAware/bearAwareTools.html>
5. **Montana State Audubon Wetlands Planning**
<http://www.mtaudubon.org/issues/wetlands/planning.html>
6. **Living With Wildlife Advisory Board, La Plata County, Colorado**
http://www.co.laplata.co.us/departments_elected_officials/living_wildlife_advisory_board
7. **Montana Natural Heritage Program On Line Map Viewer** <http://mtnhp.org/mapviewer/?t=6>
8. **Florida Wildlife Manual** <http://www.floridahabitat.org/wildlife-manual>
9. **Bridging the Divide.** <http://resource-media.org/files/btd-2011>
10. **Action Media Library** <http://www.actionmedia.org/library.html>