

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: Intellectual Property Rights
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2010 4:32:00 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel,

I have learned of your work through one of my picture agents, Danita Delimont, and the American Society of Picture Professionals. I welcome this invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts.

I earn my living through photography. It is my only and my more than full time job, profession and career. Every day well-meaning and not-so-well-meaning individuals email me the latest "cool pictures," or whatever their nomenclature, and there appear dozens of photographs. I always ask where they obtained them, how much they paid of the photographs, or -- where they stole them? "Well, gee," they respond, or something to that effect, Sam/Joe/Kathy, etc., emailed them to me and I thought they were cool/moving/beautiful/awful, etc., and sent them to my list . . . But someone originally stole them, extracted them from the internet, etc, and thus someone, usually a professional photographer like me, trying to make a modest living, had their stock in trade stolen.

What if those were socks, or vitamins, or washing machines? Someone would be calling the police and an investigation would be opened to find the thief. Not so with our stock in trade. Ho hum. If it's on the internet -- how else are we to communicate these days? -- it's "free," they apparently believe. Or maybe not.

My own story is short and frustrating. I saw a unique photograph of mine on a travel brochure a few years ago. I immediately called the travel company who proved, through an invoice and proof of payment, they had bought the image from an agent in India. I could never get a reply from the "agent" in India who had probably downloaded whatever photos they wanted then sold them as if they were the agent representing the photographer.

I am not bright enough to suggest a way to intercept these internet thefts, but I do hope that you can use my experience along with the experiences of my colleagues to try to protect our livelihoods.

Yours sincerely,

Connie Bransilver



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"WILD LOVE AFFAIR: ESSENCE OF FLORIDA'S NATIVE ORCHIDS" &
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Both books at Amazon, Borders, Barnes&Noble or from me.

ILCP Fellow - Charter member, ExecCmte 2006-7 www.ilcp.com

NANPA - Pres. 2001-2 www.nanpa.org

ICF Pro-Tour of Nature Photography www.Imagesforconservation.org

Explorers Club Fellow (FN'96)