

TELLURIDE INFOZONE

A PROGRAM OF THE TELLURIDE INSTITUTE

DEAR STEINA & WOODY,

JUST BACK FROM TRAVELS. SORRY

NOT TO GET A JAPAN FELLOWSHIP RECOMMENDATION LETTER FROM YOU, IN TIME. ALSO, HAVE TRIED NUMEROUS TIMES TO SEND EMAIL TO (WOODYV@SANTAFE.EDU) WITH NO SUCCESS; THEY BOUNCE BACK ONE TO TWO WEEKS LATER. THERE MUST BE A PROBLEM AT THE SANTAFE.EDU SERVER; WHICH MAY BE KEEPING OTHER MAIL FROM REACHING YOU, AS WELL.

ENCLOSED IS INFO. ON INFOZONE, AND THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON ART & TECHNOLOGY. IT WAS LIKE OLD HOME WEEK, SEEING LOTS OF FRIENDS.

HOPE ALL IS WELL, SEE YOU SOON.

Ruilan.

TELLURIDE INFOZONE

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The Telluride InfoZone is a pilot project for broad spectrum community development and education in rural areas, using information and telecommunications technologies. The InfoZone is a program of the Telluride Institute, a Colorado non-profit research, education and cultural organization.

The InfoZone Program has two primary components. The first is the creation and operation of a vital, enhanced community information infrastructure (CII). The second is to serve as a research and development test-bed for systems and services, and for the social and economic impacts and implications of an information society.

The InfoZone is a community development incubator, generating opportunities for economic development and diversification, life-long education, and cultural interaction. It promotes enhanced civic information, decision-making and responsibility; and it encourages the consideration of telecommunications infrastructure as part of long-term community planning.

The InfoZone serves its rural Southwest Rocky Mountain region of resort, mining, ranching and Native American communities. Cheap, easy to access Internet and CommunityNet services are provided via phone, cable and wireless systems, with public access terminals stationed at the library, cafe, medical center, agriculture extension office, school, arts council office, historic museum, and other sites.

The InfoZone has made steady, incremental progress in working towards its goals. The program receives continued international media attention. Substantive collaboration with government agencies, corporate labs, and academic institutions are being established and participated in. Most important, there is steady growth in CommunityNet subscriptions and training, mirroring the larger trend associated with the 'Net. People are using it. Approximately 30% of the local population is now online.

InfoZone Program special (funded) projects include:

CommunityNet and Internet/WWW systems and services development and operations, with technical support received from: IBM; Global Village Communications; US Robotics; SuperMac; Tetherless access, Ltd.; US West and Colorado Supernet.

Apple Library of Tomorrow Award: Public access, and services development systems.

Colorado Advanced Technology Institute's Rural Telecommunications Program Award: Internet access subsidy and community tele-services development.

Colorado Advanced Technology Institute & U.S. Economic Development Administration Project: A WWW (18 community case study) Workbook on rural community economic development.

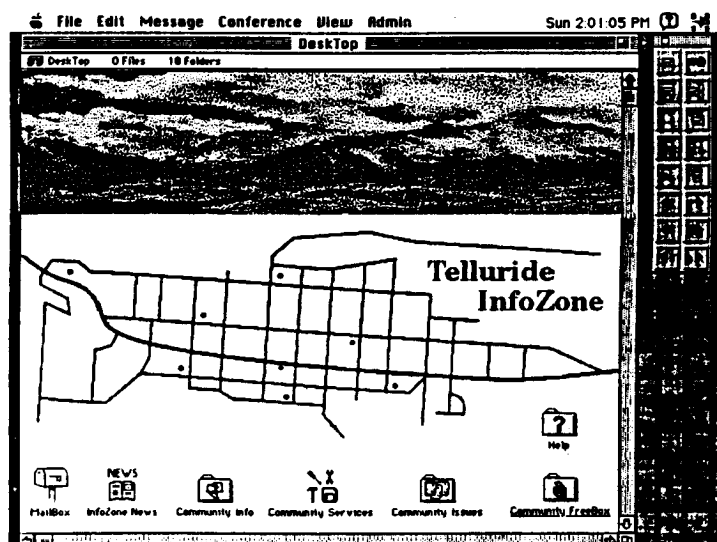
Colorado Healthy Communities Initiative: To produce an online community health database and publication.

Telluride Regional Master Planning and Rideboard Programs: Contracted projects.

Telluride Institute Programs: Composer to Composer; Ecosystems Mapping; Native American Education; and Information Economics.

Tele/Comm/Unity: (online) Arts projects.

The InfoZone intends to be a site specifically pragmatic response to this regional community's needs and desires, and an intelligently creative model that may be learned from by other communities. It is a long-term research and testbed project that by example, hopes to promote an 'ecology of the information society'.



Richard Lowenberg is media artist, environmental designer and tele-community planner. He is the founding director of the Telluride Institute's InfoZone program. His exhibitions, installations and performances have been presented at the Kitchen, and the Whitney Museum, NYC; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Kunstmuseum, Dusseldorf; Venice Biennale; and Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Fe. The project: Tele/Comm/Unity has been funded by the Colorado Council for the Arts, and a Regional Initiatives: New Forms Grant. It will be presented as part of the University of Maryland Art Gallery's Digital Village exhibition in late 1995.

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