

Objectives

- ❑ Overview general post-processing (editing) workflow for serious photographers
- ❑ Focus on processes more than software
 - Examples using Adobe Lightroom® and Photoshop®
- ❑ Emphasis on efficiency of processing
- ❑ General discussion / practicality

Repeat after me...

- ❑ There is no one, single workflow
- ❑ My workflow is not the only way
- ❑ Workflow changes with images / outputs
- ❑ There are lots of ways to skin a cat
- ❑ Find what is best for you

Always have a workflow in mind

LightRoom vs PhotoShop

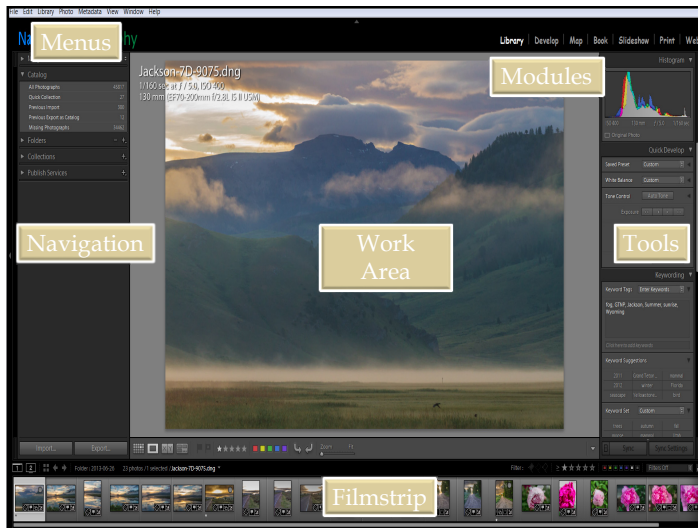
LightRoom

- ❑ Synchronized editing
- ❑ Image storage system
- ❑ Database / search engine
- ❑ Adobe Camera Raw
- ❑ Image-level editing
- ❑ Non-destructive edits
- ❑ Limited local edits

PhotoShop

- ❑ Single image editing
- ❑ Bridge is viewer
- ❑ Adobe Camera Raw
- ❑ Pixel-level editing
- ❑ Destructive edits
 - Smart objects
- ❑ Layers & overlays
- ❑ Masks
- ❑ Content-aware fill

The programs are different but complementary.



LightRoom Modules

- ❑ Library – organize your images
 - Import, export, publish images
- ❑ Develop – process your images
- ❑ Map – geo-tag your images
- ❑ Book – create a photo book
- ❑ Slide show – create a slideshows
- ❑ Print – print your images
- ❑ Web – create a web objects

Workflow...



Library Module

- ❑ Import; convert (to DNG); apply presets
- ❑ Folders and files (images)
 - Browser and file manager / finder
 - Physical location of images
- ❑ **Catalog** (virtual)
 - Work spaces with all adjustments and previews
 - Key word tags
 - Rate, label, comment, title, EXIF, metadata
 - Geo-tags
 - Links to physical images (.XMP side car or .DNG)
- ❑ **Collections** (virtual)
 - Powerful organizational tools
 - Virtual links to catalog
 - Static collections
 - Smart (dynamic) collections
- ❑ Export images and Publish services

Database
Adobe Bridge
CameRAW (ACR)

Automate your imports

- ❑ Set source and destination default locations
- ❑ Create import presets for your 'style'
- ❑ Convert to DNG (if desired)
- ❑ Create smart previews
- ❑ Create meta-data presets for owner and copyright information
- ❑ Add "core" key words
- ❑ Rename images during import
- ❑ Apply lens corrections and remove chromatic aberration

Special Identification

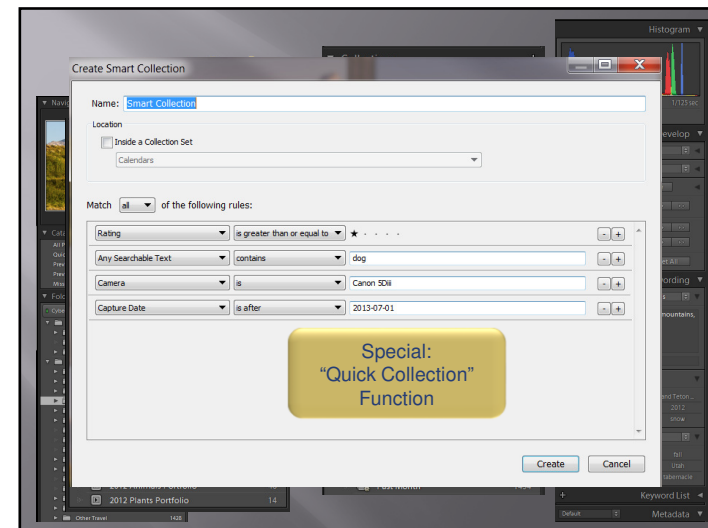
- ▣ **Flags**
 - None (U), delete (X), pick for return (P)
- ▣ **Star rating** (short cut 0 – 5)
 - None through 5 stars
 - * = top 10% want to share / possible website
 - ** = top 1% excellent add to portfolio
 - *** = special needs
 - **** = outstanding for submission
 - ***** = National Geographic
- ▣ **Color coding** (short cut 6 – 9)
 - None, red, yellow, green, blue, purple
 - Blue – social media, Green – slide show, Yellow – return
- ▣ **Stacking** like images – HDR, Panorama, etc.

Key Words

- ▣ Database & search power of Lightroom
- ▣ Key word groups (moose–ungulate–mammal–fauna)
- ▣ What to use for key words?
 - State, region, city, country, continent, other location info
 - Seasonal info (i.e., snow in October = winter)
 - Genre – landscape, portrait, wildlife, street, etc.
 - Technique – panorama, HDR, focus-stacking, macro
 - General subject, person, name, category, taxonomy
 - Other – shoot name, job, studio, contract, etc.
 - The more, the better – helps specificity of search
- ▣ Don't use EXIF data or metadata, it's already there

Folders / Physical Location

- ▣ One master “Photos” folder; one drive ideal
 - Large volumes may require multiple drives by year, etc.
- ▣ Multiple named or dated subfolders
- ▣ Depends upon your **style** of shooting
 - Commercial / event – job name
 - Travel – location name
 - Wildlife – species name
 - Daily shooter – year/date
- ▣ Hybrid systems
- ▣ **Most important – be consistent**



Post-processing (Editing) Goals

- Optimize white balance and tint
- Optimize contrast and contrast
- Correct color
- Enhance
 - Dodge
- Crop to
- Eliminate dust
- Create vignette
- Merge images: HDR, panorama, stitching
- Other local adjustments, filters, etc.

✓ Usable image?
 ✓ Greatest issue or problem?
 ✓ Fixable?
 ✓ Worth the time?

Develop Module

- White and black points; highlights, shadows
 - Exposure, contrast
- Color temperature, white balance, and tint
- Presence (pop) - clarity, vibrance, saturation
- Crop, level, clean-up, filters, local adjustments
- Tone curve, HSL, split-tone
- Lens corrections and perspective control
- Sharpness & luminance & color noise reduction
- Special effects – post crop vignette, grain

Workflow...

Learn Keyboard Shortcuts

- Instant access to common tools or views
- Need help? Ctrl + / (Cmd + / on Mac)
- **E** - loopE view; **G** - Grid view; **D** - Develop module; **** - before/after toggle
- **X** - delete; **P** - Pick (flag), **U** - Unpick
- **Z** - toggle Zoom
- **F** - Full screen
- **I** - image Information overlay
- **Tab** - view side panels toggle

Many more!

My Workflow



Three Pass Approach

- ❑ Import with presets, convert to DNG, add core key words and metadata
- ❑ First pass edits (all images)
 - Scan, additional key words, delete tech issues
 - Fine tune exposure & contrast, synchronize clusters, when possible
- ❑ Second pass edits (all images)
 - Delete duplicates
 - Geotag
 - Fine tune exposure, local edits, crop & straighten
- ❑ Third pass – special edits (0.5 - 2%)
- ❑ Close and back-up before re-formatting card

Develop Module Panels

- ❑ Local adjustment tools – gradient, radial, brush, clone
- ❑ Basic – exposure & color correction
- ❑ Tone curve – contrast and dynamic range
- ❑ HSL – Hue, Saturation, Luminance, (B&W)
- ❑ Split Toning*
- ❑ Detail – noise reduction and sharpening
- ❑ Lens Corrections – aspect error, chromatic aberration
- ❑ Effects – vignette and grain
- ❑ Camera Calibration*

* = very low use

Exposure & Contrast

am!

to shift curve right or left

black points

and highlights

segment

details

ance - if exposure is

on tones; acts only on

ue

ra - if exposure is

me care

if needed)

contrast adjust

5

Tone Curve

Detail Panel

- ❑ View image at 100% at high contrast interface
- ❑ Look for color noise – correct
- ❑ Look for luminance noise – correct
- ❑ Sharpen but “mask” when needed to avoid over-sharpening in uniform contrast areas (sky)
- ❑ Detail rule:
 - Luminance noise reduction + sharpening = 100
 - Luminance noise reduction + sharpening = 80
- ❑ Don't forget noise reduction and sharpening in import presets
 - Noise reduction: 15-25% (low ISO)
 - Sharpening: 20-40% (very sharp)

Summary

Lightroom:

- ▣ Powerful database for
- ▣ Non-destructive
- ▣ Seamless integration with Photoshop and many other applications

Photoshop:

- ▣ Advanced editing tools for fine editing

**Defined workflow
= greater efficiency**

