

CINNABAR

FOUNDATION

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The Cinnabar Foundation hires new executive director

The Cinnabar Foundation welcomes Gary J. Wolfe of Missoula as its new executive director.

A wildlife biologist, Wolfe comes to the Foundation with 40 years of conservation and natural resource management experience in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. He will lead Montana's conservation fund as the Foundation enters its 31st year of making grants to nonprofit organizations for conservation advocacy, education, land and wildlife preservation, and sustainability in Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

"Gary Wolfe is absolutely the best person for the job right now," said Foundation president Robin Tanney Nichols. "His passion for Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem will help ensure sound wildlife and natural resource conservation programs and policies for decades to come."

"Wolfe already has established professional working relationships with many of our conservation partners," Nichols continued. For the past 10 years, Wolfe has served as executive director and chief executive officer of Vital Ground Foundation, a nonprofit land trust focused on the protection and restoration of grizzly bear habitat on private lands. Wolfe will continue to lead Vital Ground on a part-time basis until his replacement is hired. Additionally, Wolfe represents District 1 on the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Prior to his work at Vital Ground, Wolfe served as president and CEO of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, capping a 15-year career with that organization. In 2000, the Cinnabar Foundation named Wolfe a co-recipient of its second Len and Sandy Sargent Stewardship Award for his work at RMEF in extending permanent conservation protection over 7,850 acres of critical habitat along the northern boundary of Yellowstone National Park.

The Foundation board of directors unanimously selected Wolfe from among 38 applicants for the part-time leadership position. According to Grant Parker, Cinnabar Foundation board member and search committee chair, "We couldn't be more delighted with our decision."

Cinnabar Foundation's third executive director since its founding in 1983, Wolfe takes the reins from Steve Thompson, who is leaving after five years to pursue private business. Preceding Thompson for 25 years was Jim Posewitz, also a founder and current board member emeritus.

The Foundation will move from Whitefish to Missoula on March 1, 2015, when Wolfe assumes his new position. Contact information will be announced at that time. For more information about the Foundation and its 2015 grant program, go to www.thecinnabarfoundation.org.