

ARCHIVED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

December 2010

When I accepted the position of executive director at the Cinnabar Foundation last May, it was much more than a job for me. It was akin to a calling that ideally blended my personal and professional passions. My wife, Kerrie, shared my enthusiasm, especially for the Board of Directors' recent decision to cultivate new donors to grow the foundation's permanent fund. Over the summer, Kerrie and I changed our personal wills to designate Cinnabar as a primary beneficiary.

Montana and the greater ecosystem across our borders are richly endowed with nature's greatness. Yet the financial resources committed to conserving these treasures forever are much more modest. As Montana's homegrown conservation fund, since 1983, the Cinnabar Foundation is eager to close that gap.

In 2010, we offered general operating and special project grants to 80 conservation and educational organizations. Yet we were unable to fund more than 50 others. And we wish the grants we did provide were larger. Given the looming challenges ahead, especially the natural and social hardships that will be caused by rapid climate change, the need for dedicated investments in conservation is greater than ever.

For those who wish to create a personal legacy in this land we love, the Cinnabar Foundation is an ideal investment strategy. We offer a diverse conservation portfolio



Kerrie and Steve in southern Utah

that annually reallocates earnings to provide grants to the best organizations and people doing the most critical work in Montana and the Yellowstone ecosystem. With nearly 150 years of cumulative conservation experience embedded in our small board and staff, we are a reliable and knowledgeable management team for your conservation legacy.

This fall, Kerrie was admitted to hospice after a long illness. On a sunny day in early October,

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she gathered her strength for a final journey to Two Medicine Valley, where she dearly loved to watch grizzly bears on the slopes of Rising Wolf Mountain. It is a wild valley of beauty protected forever in Glacier National Park by the courageous advocacy of far-sighted conservationists. The day was golden, quiet, and full of grace. Sixteen days later, Kerrie died peacefully in our home in Whitefish. In her honor, dozens of Kerrie's friends and family have established the *Kerrie Byrne Fund for Wildlife Conservation* at the Cinnabar Foundation.

All who cherish Montana can invest in this region's future with a donation, bequest, or memorial fund to honor loved ones. The Cinnabar Foundation will be here when you and I no longer are, carrying on a legacy of conservation for future generations.

— Steve Thompson



Kerrie Byrne watches grizzlies in Two Medicine Valley