

The Cinnabar Foundation was established in 1983 by four conservation leaders after a day hunting elk in a mountain cirque above Cinnabar Creek — north of Yellowstone National Park. Just as those clean, clear waters feed the free-flowing Yellowstone River, the Foundation helps sustain Montana's conservation traditions and the people who carry them into the future.



*Hush of the Land* by Monte Dolack

## Dear Friends,

For 30 years, the Cinnabar Foundation has seeded and nurtured more than 1,600 conservation projects and initiatives throughout Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The payback for Cinnabar comes from knowing our money is well spent because, with more than 200 collective years of conservation experience, our board of directors and staff know the issues, organizations and leaders of this region. We celebrate the cooperative solutions reached and the battles won by our conservation partner grantees.

The year 2014 began with the creation of the *Cinnabar Foundation Conservation Endowment* within the Montana Community Foundation. In June, Cinnabar was honored as “Foundation of the Year” by the Western Montana Fund Raisers Association. In September, we helped make connections that enabled one of our partner organizations, the Western Sustainability Exchange, to receive a distinguished award from a western coalition. The following month we feted our 2014 Sargent Stewardship Awardees, artists Monte Dolack and Mary Beth Pervical, with a special reception attended by more than 100 friends and conservationists.

Year's end finds our board recruiting for a replacement for our consummate executive director Steve Thompson as he leaves us to launch a new social venture to combat climate change. His willingness to stay on for several months to effect a smooth transition says volumes about his character and devotion to conservation.

Through challenge grants, operating funds and special monetary awards, Montana's conservation fund will continue to help, in perpetuity, nonprofit conservation organizations meet the challenges of a fast-changing world.

Stay tuned to see what 2015 will bring!

*Robin Tawney Nichols*

Robin Tawney Nichols  
Chair, The Cinnabar Foundation

## CINNABAR RECOGNIZED AS “FOUNDATION OF THE YEAR”

An inspiration and model  
for the giving community

Philanthropic organizations are in it for results, not accolades, but that doesn't mean they don't appreciate a little praise once in a while. The Cinnabar Foundation felt the love in Missoula on June 13 when we were honored as Foundation of the Year by the Western Montana Fundraisers Association.

Nominated by several Montana conservation nonprofits, the Cinnabar Foundation was recognized for philanthropic leadership in Montana, giving over \$6.4 million in grants over the past 30 years. Chair Robin Tawney Nichols accepted the award on behalf of the Foundation.

Bruce Farling of Montana Trout Unlimited presented the award, noting that Montana's Conservation Fund “has encouraged and motivated others to take leadership roles towards philanthropy via its robust challenge grant program.” Further, Farling said, the Cinnabar Foundation “offers the elusive ‘operational support’ to



**“We cannot speak highly enough of the Cinnabar Foundation. They work every day, year-after-year, to accomplish their conservation mission faithfully, consistently, and innovatively.”**

— Stephen Hoffman, Montana Audubon Society

Photo: Robin Tawney Nichols, Cinnabar chair (center front), Steve Thompson, executive director (center middle) and Grant Parker (Cinnabar board member) surrounded by representatives from conservation organizations that have partnered with the Cinnabar Foundation over the years.

organizations that have received funding from them in the past.” He emphasized that “in order for future, great projects to be imagined and realized, at some point, the general operating demands must be met, and Cinnabar generously recognizes and supports this lynchpin need.”

Other groups helped by the Cinnabar Foundation over the years also expressed appreciation. “We cannot speak highly enough of the Cinnabar Foundation,” wrote Stephen

Hoffman of Montana Audubon in his nomination letter. “They work every day, year-after-year, to accomplish their conservation mission faithfully, consistently, and innovatively.”

Steve Woodruff of the National Wildlife Federation applauded Cinnabar's role as an inspiration for other funders. “They are a tremendous model for the entire giving community. You couldn't find a better candidate organization for your Outstanding Foundation Award.”

## CHANGES IN 2015 GRANT PROCESS

Applications available on  
Cinnabar website

The Cinnabar Foundation has made several changes to our 2015 grant process, partly as a result of a recent survey sent to current and former Cinnabar Foundation grantees:

- Grant applications are available at the Cinnabar Foundation's redesigned website ([www.cinnabarfoundation.org](http://www.cinnabarfoundation.org)) and may be submitted online from January 6 through March 31.
- There is no longer a requirement to post stories on *ConserveMontana.org* as part of the application process.
- Only organizations that have previously received a General Operating Grant from the Cinnabar Foundation are eligible to apply for one in 2015.
- The range of funding for General Operating Grants has increased to \$15,000 to more closely reflect economic realities. However, grants may not exceed 10% of an organization's annual operating budget.
- Organizations seeking grants for multi-year projects, such as land trust purchases, must disclose that
- Schools and university programs may only submit Special Project Grant applications. Full application instructions are available on the Cinnabar Foundation website. A list of all current grantees with links to their organizational websites can be found at the “Conservation Partners” tab.

We are most appreciative of those who responded to our survey. Rest assured, the Cinnabar Foundation is fully committed to continuing to be responsive to the needs of our conservation partners.

## THOMPSON'S LEGACY AT CINNABAR

Steve Thompson reaches for new challenges



Steve Thompson and wife Nancy Woodruff in Yellowstone National Park.

## GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: WESTERN SUSTAINABILITY EXCHANGE

Leveraging resources to create solutions

At the Cinnabar Foundation, we know that being a good conservation partner means that we don't need to be constrained by the size of our giving ability alone.

Case in point: After learning about New Mexico-based Quivira Coalition and its focus on collaborative land stewardship, Cinnabar board member Judi Stauffer encouraged the Western Sustainability Exchange to apply for Quivira's *Clarence Burch Award*. "It just seemed like a perfect fit," Stauffer notes.

With only four days to meet the application deadline, WSE staff jumped on board and pulled together an impressive proposal.

"We all agree that sustainable and holistic agriculture techniques have an overwhelmingly positive effect on the health of our land and water resources," stated the proposal. "The

After five years as executive director of the Cinnabar Foundation, Steve Thompson is leaving to follow his passion for tackling climate change.

"I'm taking a new approach to a wicked problem" says Steve Thompson, who has been Cinnabar's second executive director. "Our team of climate experts at my new start-up business, Climate Realty, will help Americans understand that the impacts of climate disruption are personal, financial, immediate, and resolvable."

According to board chair Robin Tawney Nichols, "Steve will remain on staff until a new executive director is found and has promised to help us make a smooth transition."

During Thompson's tenure, the Cinnabar Foundation branded itself as

question is, how do we get ranchers who control over 60 million acres of fish and wildlife habitat in Montana alone, to adopt these techniques? WSE's programs are based on a simple answer: help them meet their economic needs through the use of sustainable/holistic practices."

Like Len and Sandy Sargent, the founders of the Cinnabar Foundation, Clarence Burch is described by Quivira as a remarkable man, a rancher, teacher, conservationist and activist, "who was of his time and yet miles ahead as well." So it is not hard to understand why the Quivira Coalition was impressed with WSE's proposal, which sought support for on-going programs such as training workshops for ranchers, a legally binding sustainability certification program, market connections and *Farm to Restaurant* and *Steer-to-Steak* initiatives. WSE's new focus on finding innovative ways to conserve contiguous areas of high wildlife value also was of special interest.

On November 14, WSE founder and executive director Lill Erickson received the *Clarence Burch Award* and its \$20,000 prize. In presenting the award, Avery Anderson Sponholtz said, "Your work and that of your organization exemplifies and models perfectly Quivira's mission."

"Montana's Conservation Fund," created the interactive conservation atlas known as [ConserveMontana.org](http://ConserveMontana.org), instituted a Conservation Legacy Society for planned giving, and expanded close working relationships with our conservation partners.

"The opportunity to carry forward the Sargent legacy has enriched my life in many ways," he says.

"Steve certainly enriched the Cinnabar Foundation," notes Nichols. "We will miss his energy, professionalism and undying commitment to conservation. He has been a joy to work with, and we wish him the best as he pursues his new venture."



### 2014 an auspicious year for WSE

WSE turned 20 years old this year and hit several significant milestones including securing 1 million acres under sustainable management, and, in 2014 alone, over \$1 million in annual sales for WSE Certified ranchers and farmers.

Photo: Quivira Coalition's Avery Anderson Sponholtz, executive director, and Courtney White, founder and creative director, honor WSE executive director Lill Erickson (center).

"The Cinnabar Foundation is so very proud of all Lill Erickson and WSE have accomplished in the past 20 years," exclaims Stauffer, who joined in honoring Erickson at the Quivira Coalition's Awards Dinner.



Cinnabar Foundation's most recent recipients of the Len and Sandy Sargent Stewardship Award are Missoula artists Mary Beth Percival and Monte Dolack.

## HONORING OUR NATURAL HERITAGE

### Percival and Dolack honored

In October, Missoula artists Monte Dolack and Mary Beth Percival received the 16th Sargent Stewardship Award for their long-time contributions to conservation in Montana.

Presenting the award, Cinnabar chair Robin Tawney Nichols said, “for more than 30 years, you have thoughtfully rendered the intangible tangible, sometimes poking fun to make us think, sometimes subtly reminding us of our precious natural heritage through beautiful landscapes and wildlife, sometimes not so subtly laying bare the consequences of our First World lifestyle, always nudging our consciences.”

“Your commitment to preserving Montana’s environment is matched by

your generosity,” Nichols said. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised for conservation nonprofits through the sale of commissioned prints, posters, postcards and license plates.

In 2014, Dolack collaborated with Wilderness Watch on the official poster for the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

The Sargent Stewardship Award comes with a \$5,000 grant that Dolack and Percival directed to: Bitter Root Land Trust, Five Valleys Land Trust, Great Bear Foundation, Montana Environmental Information Center, Montana Natural History Center, and Montana Trout Unlimited.

Joining more than 100 guests at a reception honoring Dolack and Percival were several past Stewardship Award winners including Gary Wolfe (2000), Ellen Knight (2001), and Tom Roy (2007) of Missoula; Melanie Parker (2011) of Condon; and Gayle Joslin (2013) of Helena.

## MONTANA TAX CREDIT MAKES PLANNED GIVING A “NO BRAINER”

### Lynda Saul explains how

With a friendly nudge from a Helena conservationist, the *Cinnabar Foundation Conservation Endowment* now accepts planned gifts that qualify for the Montana Endowment Tax Credit through a cooperative agreement with the Montana Community Foundation. The Cinnabar-MCF partnership began in January 2014.

Lynda Saul says the Cinnabar Foundation was an obvious choice for her planned gift. “Cinnabar supports the grassroots environmental movement in Montana, which is very important to me. I like that the Cinnabar Foundation is nimble and able to respond to changing environmental priorities.”

Saul says the Montana Endowment Tax Credit allows donors to pay less in Montana state income tax when they make a qualifying planned gift to a

qualified Montana charitable endowment. Planned gifts, such as gift annuities and charitable trusts, allow donors to maintain access to income during their lifetimes while building permanent wealth for Montana nonprofit organizations.

“With annual contributions,” Saul explains, “you don’t need buckets of money to start an endowment and grow it each year. Between the Montana state tax credit and the federal tax deduction, giving \$5,000 only feels like \$2,500 to my annual budget.”

The Montana Endowment Tax Credit allows an individual donor to claim 40 percent of a gift’s federal charitable deduction, up to a \$10,000 tax credit. A qualified business may make a direct gift of up to \$10,000 and claim a tax credit of 20 percent.

As a member of the Cinnabar Foundation’s Conservation Legacy Society, Saul encourages Montana conservationists to follow her example: “The Montana tax credit makes planned giving a no-brainer for philanthropy-minded folks. It’s a great way to leave a conservation legacy beyond your lifetime.”



### Leaving a legacy for the future

“This is a great way to leave a conservation legacy beyond your lifetime,” encourages Lynda Saul. Since 1985, the Cinnabar Foundation has awarded more than 1,600 grants to support conservation advocacy, community-based projects and nature education. A list of 2014 grantees for general operations and special projects can be found at on page 5.

# SUSTAINING CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS

## 2014 Conservation Partners

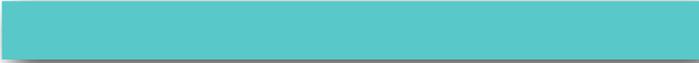
Each year the Cinnabar Foundation partners with scores of nonprofit organizations and educational institutions to financially support conservation work in Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. This year, we are proud to announce our 2014 conservation partners:

Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation	Montana Renewable Energy Association
Adapt: Missoula's Climate Collaborative	Montana Trout Unlimited
Alternative Energy Resources Organization	Montana Watershed Coordination Council
American Lung Association	Montana Water Stewards
Artemis Common Ground	Montana Wilderness Association
Bitter Root Land Trust	Montana Wildlife Federation
Bitter Root Water Forum	National Center for Appropriate Technology
Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation	National Parks Conservation Association — Yellowstone Office
Center for Large Landscape Conservation	National Wildlife Federation
Citizens for a Better Flathead	Northern Plains Resource Council
Clark Fork Coalition	Northwest Connections
Community Food & Agriculture Coalition	Northwest Energy Coalition
Conservation Hawks	Our Montana
Craighead Beringia South	Owl Research Institute
EcoCheyenne	Park County Environmental Council
Elkhorns Working Group	Prickly Pear Land Trust
Five Valleys Land Trust	Raptors of the Rockies
Flathead Audubon Society	Rocky Mountain College
Flathead Land Trust	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Foy's to Blacktail Trails	Rocky Mountain Front Weed Roundtable
Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument	Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent
Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness	Student Advocates Valuing the Environment (SAVE)
Gallatin Valley Land Trust	Sun River Watershed Group
Glacier Two Medicine Alliance	Swan Ecosystem Center
Great Bear Foundation	Swan View Coalition
Great Burn Study Group	Teller Wildlife Refuge
Invasive Species Action Network	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Jack Creek Preserve Foundation	Trout Unlimited, National — Montana Water Project
Kaniksu Land Trust	Trust for Public Lands
Montana Association of Land Trusts	University of Montana — Environmental Studies Program
Montana Audubon Council	Vital Ground Foundation
Montana Backcountry Hunters and Anglers	Watershed Education Network
Montana Conservation Corps	Western Organization of Resource Councils
Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund	Western Sustainability Exchange
Montana Environmental Information Center	Whitefish Lake Institute
Montana Forest Restoration Committee	Whitefish Legacy Partners
Montana Land Reliance	Wyoming Outdoor Council
Montana Natural History Center	Wyoming Wildlife Federation
Montana Outdoor Science School	Yaak Valley Forest Council
Montana Raptor Conservation Center	

# CINNABAR FOUNDATION BY THE NUMBERS: 2014

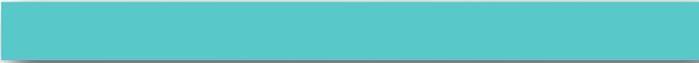
## GRANTS AND AWARDS

**\$385,000**



## NUMBER OF GRANTS

**90**



## PERCENTAGE SPENT ON GRANTS & PROGRAM INITIATIVES including CONSERVEMONTANA.ORG

**96.7% \***



\* The Cinnabar Foundation's administrative expenses are very low (3.5%) due to the active engagement of the volunteer Board of Directors. The primary administrative expense is salary for a part-time executive director.

MORE THAN

**1,600**

GRANTS AWARDED SINCE

**1985**

TOTALING MORE THAN

**\$6.8M**

# CONSERVATION PORTFOLIO

FARMLAND, RANCH & OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION	<b>19%</b>
ENERGY & CLIMATE	<b>15%</b>
WATERSHED PARTNERSHIPS, WATER QUALITY & FISHERIES	<b>15%</b>
EDUCATION & YOUTH	<b>14%</b>
PUBLIC WILDLANDS & ECOSYSTEMS	<b>13%</b>
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION & HABITAT	<b>12%</b>
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES & LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS	<b>7%</b>
TRAILS, PARKS & PUBLIC ACCESS	<b>5%</b>

## WHO WE ARE

PRESIDENT	Robin Tawney Nichols
VICE PRESIDENT	Gordon "Corky" Brittan
SECRETARY	Judi Stauffer
TREASURER	Ernie Turner
AT LARGE	Grant Parker
DIRECTOR EMERITUS	Jim Posewitz
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Steve Thompson