

2015 CONSERVATION PARTNERS

CINNABAR FOUNDATION

GENERAL OPERATING GRANTEES

\$277,500 – 39 Grants

Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation Red Lodge, MT \$3,000

Mission: Support stewardship of the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness and to foster appreciation of wild lands. [Read more.](#)

Bitter Root Land Trust Hamilton, MT \$10,000

Mission: Assist landowners with a variety of tools through which they can achieve their goals for the preservation and stewardship of their land. [Read more.](#)

Bitter Root Water Forum Hamilton, MT \$5,000

Mission: Support the traditions of agriculture, community and recreation by protecting, enhancing and restoring the Bitterroot watershed through on the ground restoration projects and watershed education. [Read more.](#)

Blackfoot Challenge Ovando, MT \$5,000

Mission: Coordinate efforts to conserve and enhance the natural resources and rural way of life in the Blackfoot Watershed for present and future generations. [Read more.](#)

Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation Hungry Horse, MT \$3,000

Mission: Connecting Americans with their wilderness heritage by providing access to and stewardship of one of the world's most spectacular places –Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, the crown jewel of the Wilderness System. Helping hundreds of hard-working volunteers, including youth, develop a land ethic and give back to the wilderness by opening trails, restoring heavily used areas, maintaining historic structures and fighting weeds.Active wilderness stewardship is our mission. [Read more.](#)

Citizens for a Better Flathead Kalispell, MT \$5,000

Mission: To foster informed and active citizen participation in the decisions shaping the Flathead's future, and to champion the democratic principles, sustainable solutions, and shared vision necessary to keep the Flathead Special Forever. [Read more.](#)

Clark Fork Coalition Missoula, MT \$15,000

Mission: Protecting and restoring the Clark Fork River Basin. [Read more.](#)

Community Food & Agriculture Coalition Missoula, MT \$3,000

Mission: Develop and strengthen Missoula County's food system and that of the surrounding region by: promoting sustainable agriculture;building regional self-reliance; assuring equal access to nutritious, affordable, and culturally appropriate food; advocating for local, state and national policies that promote local food systems. [Read more.](#)

Five Valleys Land Trust Missoula, MT \$15,000

Mission: Protect and preserve western Montana's natural legacy — our river corridors, wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, and scenic open spaces. [Read more.](#)

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GENERAL OPERATING GRANTEES con't

Flathead Land Trust	Kalispell, MT	\$10,000
Mission: To pass on cherished lands legacy to our children and grandchildren so generations to come will have opportunities similar to ours to live, work and play on this rich land. Read more.		
Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument	Lewistown, MT	\$5,000
Mission: Protect and preserve the Monument by educating the public, advocating for responsible access and environmentally responsible uses, and to support groups and agencies that protect and restore the Monument. Read more.		
Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness	Sandpoint, ID	\$5,000
Mission: To preserve the rugged, scenic and biologically diverse 88,000 acre Scotchman Peaks Roadless Area, which is one of the last, and largest, wild areas in our region, through education, outreach and stewardship activities. We believe the Scotchman Peaks deserve congressional designation as Wilderness for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations. Read more.		
Gallatin Valley Land Trust	Bozeman, MT	\$10,000
Mission: Connecting people, communities, and open lands through conservation of working farms and ranches, healthy rivers, wildlife habitat, and the creation of trails in the Montana headwaters of the Missouri and Upper Yellowstone Rivers. Read more.		
Glacier Institute	Kalispell, MT	\$7,000
Mission: To provide adults and children with an objective and science-based understanding of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem's ecology, and its interaction with people, so they are better prepared to make informed and constructive decisions that impact this and other ecosystems. Read more.		
Glacier Two Medicine Alliance	Browning, MT	\$4,000
Mission: To work towards a common, well-managed Badger-Two Medicine ecosystem. Read more.		
Great Burn Study Group	Missoula, MT	\$6,000
Mission: To protect wild lands in the northern Bitterroot Mountains in western Montana and northern Idaho through advocacy and on-the-ground stewardship. Read more.		
Kaniksu Land Trust	Sandpoint, ID	\$5,000
Mission: To protect, maintain, and enhance natural resources and recreational values that contribute to our quality of life by working with interested landowners and organizations in north Idaho and northwest Montana. Read more.		

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Montana Association of Land Trusts	Helena, MT	\$3,000
<p>Mission: To promote and support excellence in private voluntary land conservation in Montana through leadership, collaboration, education and outreach. MALT is a group of 12 separate nonprofit land trust organizations that work with private landowners to obtain conservation easements that maintain working farms and ranches, protect water quality, protect wildlife habitat, preserve open lands, and retain the values that make Montana such an attractive place to live, work and recreate. Read more.</p>		
Montana Audubon Council	Helena, MT	\$10,000
<p>Mission: To safeguard biological diversity for current and future generations by promoting appreciation, knowledge and conservation of Montana's native birds, other wildlife, and natural ecosystems. Read more.</p>		
Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund	Billings, MT	\$10,000
<p>Mission: To build the capacity of Montana's conservation and environmental community to advance conservation issues within the state's democratic process in order to preserve and enhance Montana's air and water, open spaces, forests, and wildlife for future generations. MCVEF does this by: coordinating and fostering cooperation among Montana's environmental groups; arming them with the tools to inform, expand and mobilize their members as a more potent force in Montana's political landscape; and building leadership and involvement in government. Read more.</p>		
Montana Environmental Information Center	Helena, MT	\$15,000
<p>Mission: To advocate for the protection and restoration of Montana's natural environment. Read more.</p>		
Montana Natural History Center	Missoula, MT	\$10,000
<p>Mission: To promote and cultivate the appreciation, understanding and stewardship of nature through education. Read more.</p>		
Montana Outdoor Science School	Bozeman, MT	\$5,000
<p>Mission: To promote an awareness, understanding and appreciation of the natural world through quality educational experiences. Read more.</p>		
Montana Raptor Conservation Center	Bozeman, MT	\$2,000
<p>Mission: To improve the welfare of raptors across Montana through rehabilitation of injured birds, community education, and partnerships for raptor conservation and research. Read more.</p>		
Montana Renewable Energy Association	Missoula, MT	\$5,000
<p>Mission: To expand the use of renewable energy in Montana, affect public policy in favor of renewable energy, and to educate and inform residents of Montana of the benefits and uses of renewable energy. Our focus is on-site and community-scale renewable energy such as solar electricity, solar hot water, and small wind generation. Read more.</p>		
Montana Wilderness Association	Helena, MT	\$15,000
<p>Mission: To protect Montana's wilderness heritage, quiet beauty and outdoor traditions, now and for future generations. Read more.</p>		

2015 CONSERVATION PARTNERS

GENERAL OPERATING GRANTEES con't

Montana Wildlife Federation	Helena, MT	\$10,000
Mission: To involve conservation-minded people in protecting and enhancing Montana's public wildlife, lands, waters and fair-chase hunting and fishing heritage. Read more.		
National Wildlife Federation – Northern Rockies Office	Missoula, MT	\$ 8,000
Mission: To inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. Read more.		
Northern Plains Resource Council	Billings, MT	\$15,000
Mission: To protect Montana's greatest assets: the quality of our natural resources, the character and viability of family-based agriculture, and the ability of citizens to shape the public policies that affect our land, our water, and our lives so that we may pass them on, unimpaired, to future generations. Read more.		
Northwest Connections	Swan Valley, MT	\$5,000
Mission: To cultivate a new brand of conservation that strengthens the relationship between people and landscapes, and develops the next generation of conservation leaders through on-the-ground collaborative conservation and unique experiential learning opportunities. Read more.		
Prickly Pear Land Trust	Helena, MT	\$10,000
Mission: To protect the natural diversity and rural character of the Prickly Pear Valley and surrounding lands in Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, Broadwater and Powell counties through voluntary and cooperative means. PPLT is dedicated to perpetuating the recreational, wildlife, scenic, agricultural, and historic values of the land. Read more.		
Raptors of the Rockies	Florence, MT	\$4,000
Mission: To provide lifetime quality care to permanently disabled birds of prey; to educate schools and the public through the use of live birds such as eagles, hawks, falcons and owls in raptor education and wildlife art programs; to instill a sense of respect and admiration for these skilled hunters; and to promote wildlife conservation and habitat preservation for our wild bird populations. Read more.		
Rocky Mountain Front Weed Roundtable	Choteau, MT	\$3,000
Mission: To conduct strategic, collaborative noxious weed management while partnering with local stakeholders to benefit the economic, biological, and social well-being of the Rocky Mountain Front. Read more.		
Swan Ecosystem Center	Condon, MT	\$5,000
Mission: To maintain the Swan Valley's unique natural resources and ensure that a vibrant human community can sustain itself through stewardship, education, economic viability, and conservation on public and private lands. Read more.		

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GENERAL OPERATING GRANTEES con't

Swan View Coalition	Kalispell, MT	<u>\$4,500</u>
Mission: To conserve the peace and quiet essential to public health and the health of our native ecosystems; to ensure timber sale programs on public lands truly sustain water quality, fish and wildlife; and to pursue these goals through public education and public involvement whenever possible, and through administrative appeals and litigation when necessary. Read more.		
Watershed Education Network	Missoula, MT	<u>\$2,000</u>
Mission: To foster knowledge, appreciation and awareness of watershed health through science and outreach. Read more.		
Western Organization of Resource Councils	Billings, MT	<u>\$5,000</u>
Mission: To advance the vision of a democratic, sustainable, and just society through community action. WORC is committed to building sustainable environmental and economic communities that balance economic growth with the health of people and stewardship of their land, water, and air resources. Read more.		
Western Sustainability Exchange	Livingston, MT	<u>\$8,000</u>
Mission: To conserve what's best about the West — open space, wildlife habitat, and our farming and ranching heritage — while strengthening rural economies. Read more.		
Yaak Valley Forest Council	Troy, MT	<u>\$7,000</u>
Mission: To protect the last roadless areas in the Yaak Valley and the Kootenai National Forest; to maintain and restore the ecological integrity of our geographical zone by conserving and improving habitat for native and sensitive species; to encourage and support the development of local economies based on stewardship principles, value-added forest products, habitat conservation and ecological restoration; and to educate local residents on the value of protected and restored landscapes for community and economic development, while committing to cultivating and encouraging meaningful dialogue between historically polarized groups — locally and regionally — bringing these groups to the same table to find common ground on ecosystem-based forest management practices. Read more.		

2015 CONSERVATION PARTNERS

SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTEES

\$91,000 – 23 Grants

Artemis Common Ground Helena, MT \$3,000

“Home Ground Radio”

“Home Ground Radio” exists to inspire conversations about the region’s past, present, and future. The thirty-minute Montana Public Radio program aims to aid in citizens in and developed informed views that will influence decisions regarding topics such as Montana history, literature and art in the education system, ecology and the economy, and the broader world of globalization. [Read more.](#)

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, MT Chapter Missoula, MT \$3,000

“Montana Sportsmen Education and Outreach”

This project is intended to grow the Chapter’s membership and spread its message across the state on key issues of importance to Montana sportsmen and –women. In expanding their outreach, the Montana BHA Chapter will equip hunters and anglers with information needed to protect the traditions and places they love. [Read more.](#)

Center for Large Landscape Conservation Bozeman, MT \$2,000

“Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent”

The Center for Large Landscape Conservation connects people, organizations, and resources to foster powerful solutions — key connections between landscapes, climate adaptation initiatives, strategies to help nature remain resilient on a grand scale — that respect diverse stakeholders. An essential element of the Center for Large Landscape Conservation’s work is the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent, a forum of leaders and citizens who provide the linkage for collaboration, community engagement, and sustainable landscape connectivity. [Read more.](#)

EcoCheyenne / National Wildlife Federation Billings, MT \$3,000

“Increasing Tribal Public Involvement in the Tongue River Railroad and Otter Creek Coal Mine Projects”

In working to prevent construction of the Otter Creek coal mine and the Tongue River Railroad, EcoCheyenne and the National Wildlife Federation are working to increase tribal citizen involvement by recruiting volunteers to go door-to-door educating people on the Reservation and gathering signatures along the way. EcoCheyenne will hold events to also raise community awareness and support. [Read more.](#)

Ecology Project International Missoula, MT \$3,000

“Educational Hands-on Field Experience in Conservation for Youth in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem”

This project will deepen teenage students’ knowledge of conservation and science by providing them with 25 hours of coursework in biology, ecology, the scientific process, and exposing them to hands-on service opportunities in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Experiences such as this gives teens an understanding and appreciation for the natural world and the necessary knowledge and experience to form their own opinions about science and conservation. [Read more.](#)

2015 CONSERVATION PARTNERS

SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTEES con't

Leadership Montana Billings, MT \$2,000

"Leadership Montana Scholarships for Two Montana Conservationists"

Leadership Montana provides education to young professionals and public officials by cultivating conversation rooted in developing solutions to some of the most pressing issues facing Montana. The eight-month program develops leadership and critical thinking skills necessary to effectively tackle challenges. This project ensures scholarship support for two members of Montana's conservation community to participate in the 2015 program. [Read more.](#)

Madison Farm 2 Fork Ennis, MT \$3,000

"GROWW Education Coordinator Position"

This project provides funding for Madison Farm to Fork's GROWW Coordinator, who provides support for education programs in partnership with the Ennis School district. The Coordinator manages place-based education by working with teachers and their students in classrooms and in the school's garden; provides teacher workshops; and oversees MF2F's *Good Thymes Summer Camp* with field trips to local farms, rivers, forests and National Parks. [Read more.](#)

Montana Conservation Corp Bozeman, MT \$5,000

"Habitat Enhancement in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument"

This project ensures thirty youth will participate in eight weeks of fieldwork in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument to improve habitat for birds and wildlife. Crew members will learn about threatened species, local wildlife habitat, and conservation strategies. The Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument is one of the few areas that remains as untouched and as wild as it did in the days of Lewis and Clark, making education and outreach concerning conservation pertinent. [Read more.](#)

Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation Columbia Falls, MT \$5,000

"Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame"

This project aims to raise awareness within the conservation communities of Montana by honoring individuals who've made significant contributions to restoration and conservation of Montana's fauna and the wild places that sustain them. During 2015 and 2016, organizers will be broaden the nomination pool, market and manage the alternate year nomination process, expand the volunteer involvement, and evaluate nominees for induction in 2016. [Read more.](#)

Montana Trout Unlimited Missoula, MT \$10,000

"Safeguarding Montana's Smith River"

"Safeguarding Montana's Smith River" is a multi-year campaign to halt a proposed large underground copper mine by Tintina, a Canadian mining company, that would be adjacent to Sheep Creek, an important tributary of the famed Smith River. The potential risks to the Smith River are considerable. Key project objectives include: educating the public about the risks the proposed mine presents; monitoring risks to water quality, stream flows, and fisheries; and analyzing the mining company's data and permit applications. [Read more.](#)

2015 CONSERVATION PARTNERS

SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTEES con't

National Parks Conservation Association Bozeman, MT \$3,000

*"Protecting and Restoring Yellowstone Pronghorn Habitat
in the Paradise and Madison Valleys"*

This project aims to increase available winter habitat, restore migration routes for Yellowstone's pronghorn antelope, and engage students in on-the-ground-projects by removing and/or modifying 3.5 miles of fencing in the north and west regions of Yellowstone through relationships with local volunteers. [Read more.](#)

Northwest Energy Coalition Seattle, WA \$2,000

"Clean and Affordable Energy Future for Montana"

This project aims to attain maximum carbon reduction, in Montana, by working with allies and members to retire the Colstrip plant, influencing energy efficiency acquisitions, and working with the Governor's office. [Read more.](#)

Owl Research Institute Charlo, MT \$2,000

"Short-Eared Owl Migration Project"

The Short Eared Owl has experienced range-wide population decline in North America since 1966. Improved research and conservation methods are critical. This project will focus on breeding and nesting habits coupled with examining dispersal, migration and survival of the owl. The project's findings will help improve resource management practices among academic researchers, wildlife managers, and the public. [Read more.](#)

Rocky Mountain College, Billings, MT \$3,000

Environmental Science Project

*"Water Quality Monitoring on the Yellowstone and Musselshell Rivers —
Using Species of Concern to Assess Water Quality Contaminant Loads"*

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has listed soft-shell and snapping turtles as Tier 1 Level S3 Species of Concern and a number of studies have shown a correlation in their decline due to heavy metal contaminants. This undergraduate student research project intends to establish baseline of heavy metal contaminant levels in the Musselshell and Yellowstone Rivers and in soft-shell and snapping turtles. [Read more.](#)

Rocky Mountain College, Yellowstone River Project Billings, MT \$3,000

*"Distribution of Carnivores in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area —
Engaging Citizen Scientists"*

This project will study common and elusive carnivores of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness by increasing public involvement in conservation through participatory science. Citizen scientists will use camera-trapping stations to collect data that will improve research, and promote environmental education and action. Results will provide insight for the Forest Service managers regarding summer carnivore distribution. [Read more.](#)

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Missoula, MT \$10,000

"Cow Island Trail Public Access Acquisition in Blaine County, Montana"

Acquisition of the 93-acre Cow Island Trail property will provide improved public access to nearly 6,000 acres of BLM and state lands. The public will have improved hunting access to bighorn sheep, antelope and elk; and public safety will be improved by allowing the public to park on the project land versus the Cow Trail Road shoulder. [Read more.](#)

2015 CONSERVATION PARTNERS

SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTEES con't

Teller Wildlife Refuge Corvallis, MT \$3,000

"Conservation Education Programs for Youth 2015"

This project helps implement three major conservation education programs: The Youth Conservation and Education Expo, Nature Connections Summer Day Camp, and Teller Wildlife Refuge's Walk for Wildlife. These programs will showcase healthy habitat and farming practices so that youth and adults will understand the importance of habitat and farming practices in conservation. [Read more.](#)

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Missoula, MT \$3,000

"Sportsmen for the Conservation of Backcountry Lands" campaign

This project intends to grow support for the Bureau of Land Management's Backcountry Conservation Areas, which keeps backcountry lands intact and undeveloped, by building relationships with outdoorsmen, researchers, county commissioners, and the Montana Governor's office. [Read more.](#)

The Wilderness Land Trust Carbondale, CO \$3,000

"Mining Claim Acquisition from Northwest Citizens for Wilderness Mining"

Northwest Citizens for Wilderness Mining is a group of conservation-minded citizens that came together to purchase "inholding" mining claims in the Star Gulch and Scotchman Peaks areas of northwest Montana. This project assists the Wilderness Land Trust in acquiring these claims from Northwest Citizens for Wilderness Mining and continue to preserve the Star Gulch and Scotchman peaks from mining threats. [Read more.](#)

Trout Unlimited, National Bozeman, MT \$5,000

"Montana Water Project: Greater Yellowstone Streamflow Restoration Project"

Over the next three years Trout Unlimited will build collaborative partnerships that restore native and wild trout populations, enhance riparian habitats, and restore resilience in southwestern Montana watersheds. To promote healthy and resilient trout and aquatic life will work with agriculture agencies and local watershed organizations to identify, design, and implement streamflow restoration. [Read more.](#)

University of Montana, Wilderness Institute Missoula, MT \$2,000

"Citizen-based Monitoring and Stewardship in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness"

This project enlists citizen scientists to continue trail condition assessments in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area, begin monitoring 1,300 sites, test a new trail condition assessment tool, and continue to provide opportunities for wide-scale civic engagement in wildlands conservation. [Read more.](#)

Vital Ground Missoula, MT \$10,000

Land Acquisition: "Alvord Lake Community Forest Project"

This project prevents undesirable subdivision and development on a key 142-acre parcel along the shore of Alvord Lake in northwest Montana. Acquisition and conservation of this parcel will protect important habitat for grizzly bears, wolverine, lynx, loons and other wildlife; while maintaining traditional, productive uses of the property. Vital Ground will own the property long-term and manage it under a Community Forest Plan advised by a volunteer stakeholder committee comprised of project partners, forest management professionals, educators, and interested members of the local community. [Read more.](#)

2015 CONSERVATION PARTNERS

SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTEES con't

Wyoming Outdoor Council Lander, WY \$3,000

"Protecting the Landscapes of the Southern Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem"

This project seeks to influence land-management in ways that promote conservation of public lands and wildlife habitat in the southern Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The Council will: secure strong protections in the Bureau of Land Management's Rock Springs deer migration corridor; work to ensure agencies make science-based decisions that promote connectivity and conservation; continue the campaign to protect a 150-mile mule deer migration corridor; continue to push for land protections in the Absaroka-Beartooth Front by designating balanced leasing plans; and will finish their campaign to permanently protect 41,500 acres of wildlife habitat in the Bridger-Teton Nation Forest from oil and gas development. [Read more.](#)

SARGENT LEGACY GRANTS

\$40,000 — 8 Grants

Great Burn Study Group	Missoula, MT	\$5,000
Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund	Billings, MT	\$5,000
Montana Environmental Information Center	Helena, MT	\$5,000
Montana Trout Unlimited	Missoula, MT	\$5,000
Montana Wildlife Federation	Helena, MT	\$5,000
Northern Plains Resource Council	Billings, MT	\$5,000
Swan Ecosystem Center	Condon, MT	\$5,000
Vital Ground	Missoula, MT	\$5,000

TAWNEY OPPORTUNITY GRANTS

\$15,000 — 3 Grants

Backcounty Hunters & Anglers, MT Chapter	Missoula, MT	\$5,000
<i>Montana Quiet Waters Campaign</i>		
Northwest Connections	Swan Valley, MT	\$5,000
<i>"Merger Logistics with Swan Ecosystem Center"</i>		
Park County Environmental Council	Livingston, MT	\$5,000
<i>"Opposition to Emigrant Gulch Gold Mine"</i>		

2015 SUMMARY

Grant Total — \$423,500

Number of Grants Awarded — 73