

## JIM POSEWITZ PROFESSIONAL CONSERVATIONIST AWARD

2020

GLORIA FLORA

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Gloria Flora was presented with the fifth *Jim Posewitz Professional Conservationist Award*, for her work across a broad spectrum of issues — wise forest management, endangered species protection, public lands, social equity, and climate change among them — and, in the spirit of the Award's namesake, for two great occasions on which she stood particularly tall in defense of our incomparable western native landscape and life forms.

The first was her decision as Supervisor of the Lewis and Clark National Forest to prohibit oil and natural gas leasing along the 356,000-acre Rocky Mountain Front near the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The controversial decision was appealed by the oil and gas industry all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. The court's decision to prohibit leasing and thereby drilling has endured, and we are all in her debt as a result.

The second was Gloria's decision, made while she served as Supervisor of the largest National Forest in the lower 48 states — the Humboldt-Toiyabe in Nevada — that was even more contentious. When fisheries biologists warned that reopening a washed-out road along the Jarbidge River could harm threatened bull trout, you decided to keep the road closed. This led to a full-throated backlash that included threats against Forest Service employees and buildings bombed. Gloria resigned her two-year tenure as Supervisor at the very end of 1999 to draw attention to the campaign of harassment and intimidation against those who worked for her and the American public.



Over the years, Gloria has received numerous prestigious awards for her efforts. In his congratulatory letter, Gordon “Corky” Brittan, Cinnabar Board President, said: “Perhaps our favorite was having a toad named in your honor by the African Rainforest Community for your lifelong work on conservation. Many of us hope for, very few achieve, having a species named for us!”

In making the presentation, Gary Wolfe, Cinnabar Executive Director, said: “Gloria, like previous recipients of the Posewitz Award, you have advanced an admirable conservation agenda in the face of adversity. The Board of the Cinnabar Foundation and your colleagues are proud of you, your stewardship, and the example you’ve set.”

Gloria Flora’s recognition was accompanied by a special grant of \$5,000 from the Cinnabar Foundation, which she recommended be awarded to Sustainable Obtainable Solutions for its continued conservation work on Montana’s Rocky Mountain Front.