

## JIM POSEWITZ PROFESSIONAL CONSERVATIONIST AWARD

2022

Bruce Farling

The Board of Directors of the Cinnabar Foundation selected Bruce Farling to receive the seventh *Jim Posewitz Professional Conservationist Award* for his tireless work with landowners, citizens, agencies, courts and the Montana legislature to protect, enhance and promote Montana's fish, wildlife, and waters.

From the 1980s on, Bruce proved his mettle again and again as a Wilderness Ranger in the Selway-Bitterroot, as a High Country News intern, as conservation director for the Clark Fork Coalition, and as the first executive director of Montana Trout Unlimited, a position he held for close to 24 years.

Leading up to his well-deserved retirement in 2017, Bruce helped pave the way for many significant environmental accomplishments like the removal of Milltown Dam along with millions of tons of toxic sediments from the Clark Fork River floodplain, which resulted in the restoration of habitat for westslope cutthroat trout. That work led to partnering with private landowners in the Blackfoot River Valley to allow bull trout to resume their historic migration to the Blackfoot's headwaters. Bruce helped launch the Big Hole Watershed Committee to manage the incredible ecosystem in that watershed. When Avista's two dams were relicensed in the late 1990s, Bruce helped come up with more than \$30 million dedicated to restoring native trout populations. He played an important role in successfully banning cyanide heap leach mines through I-137, and in stopping Canyon Resources from trying to push through I-147, a measure that would have allowed cyanide mining next to the Blackfoot.

Bruce's induction in the 2020 class of the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame was well-deserved, and Cinnabar is delighted to add our accolades as a shining example of the conservation professionals we honor in the name of our friend and conservation hero, Jim Posewitz. This award is accompanied by a special grant of \$5,000, which Bruce chose to be divided among three conservation organizations: Montana Environmental Information Center, Montana Trout Unlimited, and Public Land Water Access Association.



Bruce Farling receives his award from Cinnabar Board President Robin Tawney Nichols.