

CINNABAR

FOUNDATION

GRANT PARKER TAKES CINNABAR FOUNDATION'S HELM

Grant Parker took the helm of the Cinnabar Foundation Board of Directors during its June meeting in Missoula. Grant succeeds Robin Tawney Nichols, who held the post for 25 of the



Grant Parker

28 years she served on Cinnabar's Board. He has served on the board since 2012. Like his predecessors, Grant and his wife Molly, knew Cinnabar's founders, Len and Sandy Sargent, and its other founding directors Phil Tawney and Jim Posewitz.

Grant has a long history of non-profit, natural resource charitable work, and has been involved in protecting hundreds of thousands of acres through various land acquisition and conservation easement projects. "What distinguishes Cinnabar is that it's homegrown, exclusively funds conservation in Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE), and has made a significant positive impact in this region's landscape for decades.

Our board of director's resolute commitment to Cinnabar's vision, and our nimble ability to adjust funding as challenges and opportunities arise continues to benefit the land, water, wildlife and people of Montana and the GYE" says Grant.

Grant was born and raised in Missoula. As a child, he fell in love with nature and the outdoors while hiking and canoeing throughout Western Montana. Another early influence were Salish family friends Agnes and Jerome Vanderburg, who inspired in Grant a respect and curiosity for nature and the earth. Growing up near the University of Montana, Grant also found inspiration in the wildlife work that John and Frank Craighead and others were doing, including the mews that the Craigheads had set up on campus. In contrast to these conservation efforts, Grant also witnessed the direct impact of living downstream from the mining and smelting wastewater generated, in Butte and Anaconda, by powerful corporations that took the money and left, as well as increasing land development that encroached on wildlife habitat. These experiences made a big, early impression. A later influence was the Montana Constitutional Convention (1972) that recognized Montanan's right to a clean and healthy environment.

A graduate of Williams College with B.A. and B.S. degrees, Grant received a J.D. from the University of Washington, and is licensed to practice law in both Montana and Washington. After graduating and practicing in Washington for several years, he returned to Montana to practice law with Phil Tawney, and permanently settled with his wife and two sons in Missoula.

Since 1996, Grant has served as general counsel to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. He also serves on several non-profit boards including the Liz Claiborne & Art Ortenberg Foundation Advisory Board, the Upper Pergatoire Foundation, and as an Emeritus Trustee of the Teller Wildlife Refuge.

Cinnabar vice president Judi Stauffer remarked, “Since 2012 Grant has brought to Cinnabar a wealth of conservation and land protection knowledge and experience along with a sharp mind. Our board and staff look forward to working with him in his new leadership capacity as we continue to advance Cinnabar’s mission.”

The Cinnabar Foundation, established in 1983 by philanthropists Len and Sandy Sargent, annually awards organizational capacity and program grants to environmental and conservation organizations. At the board’s most recent meeting, the Foundation’s trustees awarded 64 competitive grants and awards totaling \$430,000. Since its creation, the Foundation has awarded more than 2,300 grants exceeding \$10.5 million dollars.

“The conservation and environmental laws enacted in the 60s and 70s with bipartisan support left a lasting legacy that I am committed to protecting and building on.”

— Grant Parker

15 August 2023