



The Cinnabar Foundation

First Quarter-Century Report
1983 - 2008



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The Cinnabar Foundation's Origin



As The Cinnabar Foundation passes the silver milestone of 25 years, we pause to reflect on our origin, our mission, and our progress. In 1962, ninety-years after the creation of Yellowstone National Park, a distant relative of Nathaniel P. Langford purchased 2,000 acres of ranchland along Cinnabar Creek just below the north rim of the park. Langford played a key role in the establishment of the park in 1872. The distant relative, Leonard Sargent, was destined to leave a legacy of conservation activism that included protecting the park, along with free-flowing rivers, wild lands, and a livable human environment.

Following a teaching career at Taft School in Connecticut, blended around military service during World War II, Leonard began settling into Cinnabar Basin. The new ranch remained operational, primarily to secure water and grazing rights, that in the west are part of *the place*. In 1969, Len was joined by his new bride Sandy, just as the budding Montana environmental movement began to bloom. The

compatibility of the new couple included a powerful conservation ethic and a strong sense of social responsibility. At the time, Montana confronted the energy crisis of the 1970s which included a federal/corporate proposal to turn a substantial portion of the state into a coal-fired, water-cooled, boiler room. Meanwhile, on the people's side, Montana celebrated the first "Earth Day" and the Sargent marriage—it was a match made in heaven, and it was about to collide with a challenge that might have crippled *the last best place*.

From the beginning, Montana's fledgling environmental movement found the Sargents eager participants and generous supporters. Traffic flowed steadily up the rutted road leading to the ranch where Len and Sandy supplied both advice and support. As the "Earth Decade" of the 1970s passed, it became obvious that sustaining the progress of those "green" years required a longer view and staying power. On February 23, 1983, Leonard Sargent affixed his signature to the foundation's Articles of Incorporation and brought Cinnabar to life.

Objectives of The Cinnabar Foundation



The goals and objectives of The Cinnabar Foundation are articulated in those 1983 Articles of Incorporation and remain unmodified:

- Promote environmental protection and conservation in the state of Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem;
- Promote optimum wildlife populations and habitat;
- Promote appropriate recreational use of lands and water compatible with the capabilities of the basic resources;
- Promote ecologically sound management of lands and water; and,
- To...use the funds of this corporation...in furtherance of the specific and primary purposes set forth above.

The Cinnabar Philosophy

The Cinnabar Foundation's first annual report covered the period from 1983 through 1986. In that document, Leonard Sargent's message laid out the Cinnabar philosophy. Looking back on that message we find it hard to improve upon. We hope you will come to appreciate the vision of our founder. His message crosses the quarter-century mark with crystal clarity:

"To the south of my window on this world I can see a National Park that was created well over a century ago, with help from a relative of mine, Nathaniel P. Langford. The vision and wisdom that created it was the collective achievement of people who saw the consequences of unrestrained exploitation on a gorgeous and virgin land."

"We have learned in the last 115 years that designating lands and placing them under the government's custodial care is never really enough to preserve their values. Repeatedly in the history of this grand park, the people had to arouse themselves to action to see to its preservation. The same is true for our forests, our rivers, our wilderness and our wildlife."

"Conservation and preservation of our most precious amenities was and will always be the people's business, the people's battle. The competition won't be fair; those of exploitive persuasion will have and take advantage. Cinnabar Foundation was created to help balance the struggle and offer hope to those who rise in defense of our great American commons."

"While each of us is mortal the horizon of Cinnabar is perpetuity. Sandy and I take great joy in the thought that a century from now some young crusader with help from this foundation will stand defiantly in defense of this land...and the grizzly and wolf will salute him from the north rim."

When Leonard wrote those words there were no wolves on the north rim—there are now.

The Cinnabar Foundation Granting Programs

The Standard Granting Program

When The Cinnabar Foundation began its grants in 1985 the program basically offered two types of grants. Grants were offered for “Special Projects” focused on issues or problems needing attention; “Operating Fund” grants were offered to support the day-to-day operational needs of nonprofit organizations. The Sargents had considerable experience with Montana’s nonprofit community and both realized and appreciated the need to sustain the basic operational needs of the various organizations.

Through the years four additional granting categories evolved in association with The Cinnabar Foundation: the Tawney Bonus Program; Sargent Stewardship Award; Sargent Legacy Grants; and Len and Sandy Sargent Fellowships.



Tawney Bonus Program

Without question Phil Tawney was one of Montana’s most dedicated conservation activists; and, a founding board member of The Cinnabar Foundation. If anything characterized Phil, it was an eagerness to take on any evil no matter how daunting the challenge. When the issue had to do with trout streams,

wildlife habitat, wild land protection, or environmental quality, Phil would never focus on the problem—only the possibility buried in its solution. Montana and the cause of conservation suffered a severe set back when leukemia claimed Phil in 1995. The Tawney Bonus Program was initiated in 1996 to honor Phil’s service and sustain his memory.

Each year, Cinnabar sets aside funds to be utilized when a challenge or opportunity presents itself that could not have been anticipated during the regular granting cycle. Funds are held in reserve to provide a needed boost of energy, to prevent a disaster, or seize an unanticipated opportunity—just like Phil did.

Since 1996, Tawney Bonuses were allocated to address a variety of challenges faced by Montanans. Scattered through the list we find: arguments before the Montana Supreme Court protecting the initiative process and our right to a clean environment; challenges to prospecting for gold on our beloved Blackfoot River; defending withdrawal of the Rocky Mountain Front from oil and gas leasing; protecting roadless wild lands; and more. The list is already 36 challenges long. Now, with a quarter-century of experience, Cinnabar has experienced the joy of being able to help and the excitement of knowing more opportunities await.

Sargent Stewardship Award

For The Cinnabar Foundation, 1997 qualified as our worst hard time. Len and Sandy were dealing with health problems that claimed them both before that dark year ended. To aid our own emotional recovery and to keep the memory of Len and Sandy alive, the foundation established the Len and Sandy Sargent Stewardship Award Program. Awards are made whenever the Cinnabar Board determines that an individual exhibits outstanding achievement in the environmental arena. The award includes a framed letter recognizing the recipient and a special monetary grant to the nonprofit organization associated with his or her work. The list of awardees follows.

1999 – Jim Jensen, executive director of the Montana Environmental Information Center. Jim was recognized for his influence on Montana's regulatory process, defending our constitutional guarantees, requiring mined land reclamation, and prohibiting failed technologies.

2000 – Ron Marcoux and Gary Wolfe, of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Ron and Gary were honored for protecting wildlife habitat and migration corridors north of Yellowstone National Park through land acquisition, exchanges, and conservation easements.

2001 – Ellen Knight, executive director of the Rock Creek Trust. Ellen was selected for her work in securing protection of 13.5 miles of stream frontage and more than 10,000 acres of land in this vital Montana watershed.

2002 – Land Lindbergh, leader and community activist in the Blackfoot River watershed. Land was recognized for his tireless advocacy for clean water, open space, and wildlife, and for his unique ability to bring consensus to conservation advocacy.

2003 – Dale Harris, founder and leader of the Great Burn Study Group. Through the years Dale ensured that the wild character of the Great Burn was not compromised so that wilderness classification can eventually be realized.

2004 – Cesar Hernandez, founder, leader, and sustaining member of the Cabinet Resources Group. Under Cesar's leadership this group became and remains a tireless advocate for northwestern Montana wild lands and vigilant protector of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness.

2005 – Gene and Linda Sentz, demonstrating the importance of coupling conservation advocacy with community service. Gene and Linda share an advocacy embracing Montana's most wild places while also touching their community's most basic human needs.

2006 – Keith Hammer, founder of the Swan View Coalition. Keith has three decades of dedication to land, the life of the forest, and the quality of wild waters. When conservation's adversaries turned "hard right," Keith stood firm against the peddlers of hate, threat, and intimidation showing people the way to a better place.

2007 – Tom Roy, retired director of the Environmental Studies at the University of Montana. Tom worked to integrate social sciences with environmental advocacy. In the face of a legislative proposal to terminate Environmental Studies, Tom and his students moved to the legislator's ranch, took on the daily chores, and wore down barriers that stood between their program and its critics.



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Sargent Legacy Grants

On several occasions The Cinnabar Foundation found itself in the position to do some additional granting as year-end approached. To maximize the foundation's granting potential, some additional funds were occasionally granted to qualifying nonprofits. Sargent Legacy Grants were awarded in 2005 and 2007.

When this circumstance first arose, the Cinnabar Board reflected on a classic comment often made by Len and Sandy when they were thanked for their generosity. They would often remark, "I only wish I could have done more." In that spirit, and with this memory, these grants are made to support organizations to meet current needs and challenges.

Len and Sandy Sargent Fellowships

In 1992 Rick Sargent and his wife Judith Stauffer presented Leonard and Sandy Sargent a unique gift on Leonard's 80th birthday. They created the ***Sargent Graduate Fellowship Endowment Fund*** within the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Montana as a birthday gift. The purpose of the Fellowships was and remains, "... to provide support to students with a demonstrated record of activism."

In March 2007, the National Wildlife Federation honored a young advocate for leading the resistance to a devastating form of coal mining known as "mountain top removal." She was the executive director of Appalachian Voices,

a citizen advocacy group formed to protect the people and their landscape. When the Federation read the resume of the award winner, Mary Anne Peine-Hitt, it included receiving the Sargent Graduate Fellowship in 2002. It is impossible to express, or exaggerate, the level of joy, emotion, and pride The Cinnabar Foundation experienced at that moment. The "birthday gift" was still giving, as it will in perpetuity.

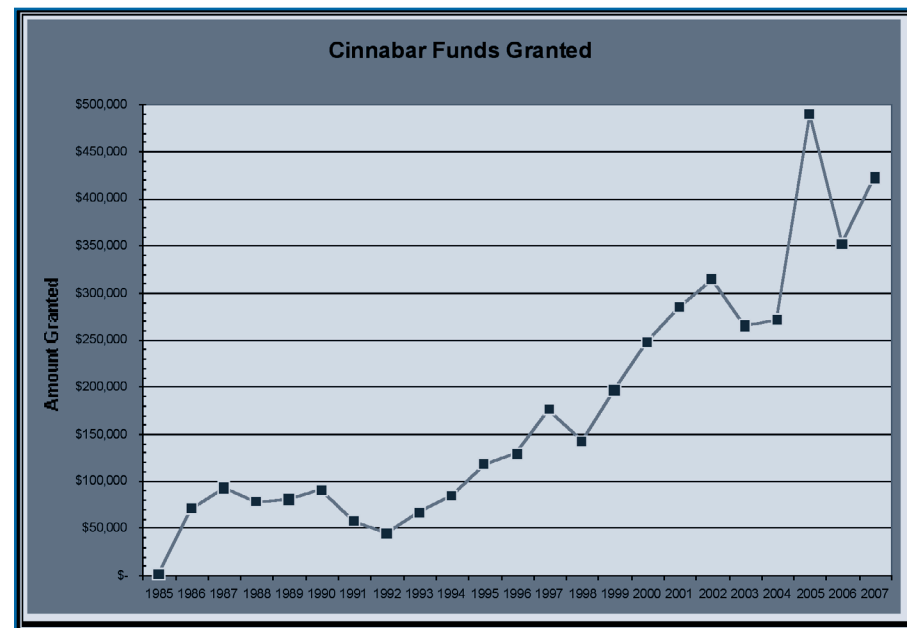
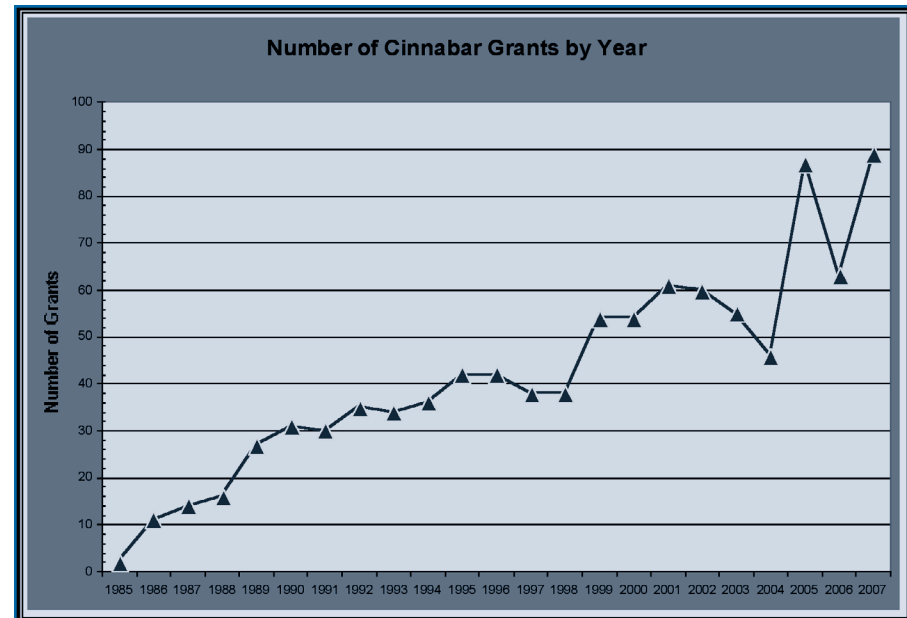
There have been 26 Fellowship recipients since the program began making grants in 1995. Many of them are now professionally engaged in environmental advocacy, all of them remain dedicated to environmental protection. Their names and the year of graduation follow: Jim McGrath, 1995; Rob Parks, 1996; Tom Platt, 1996; Carla Abrams, 1997; Olga Maiboroda, 1997; Bryony Schwan, 1997; Seth Wilson, 1997; John Adams, 1998; Kira Sherwood-Jewett, 1998; Keith Stockmann, 1999; Amy Stix, 2001; Kristen Sykes, 2001; Dan Brister, 2002; Mary Anne Peine-Hitt, 2002; Gary Hughes, 2002; Pamela Uihlein, 2002; Amy Barry, 2003; Josh Burnim, 2004; Derek Goldman, 2004; Carolina McCready, 2004; Joellen Shannon, 2004; Melissa Matthewson, 2005; Higgins Margot, 2005; John Senn, 2006; Jason Brininstool; and, Cassidy Randall.



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The Granting Record

When Leonard Sargent incorporated The Cinnabar Foundation it was his intent to continue philanthropy on a personal basis. In the meantime the foundation was to be an organization in waiting to be seriously endowed when the ranch would eventually have to be sold. Thus, in 1985 the three-person board of directors met to allocate a relatively small amount of money. The whole process revolved around three days of elk hunting and an hour or two of Cinnabar board business. In 1985 two grants were made, totaling \$1,123. It didn't take long for Leonard to conclude that there was no point to, in his words, "...have all the fun after I am dead!" As the two charts demonstrate, the Sargents quickly built the endowment, and, The Cinnabar Foundation's capacity to contribute in support of their environmental values has grown through the years.



Special Events and Projects



Through the years The Cinnabar Foundation has addressed some challenges with a number of special events and projects including symposia, seminars, conferences, and publications.

Cinnabar Symposia From 1988 through 1995 a series of symposia was conducted in collaboration with the History and Philosophy Department at Montana State University. The objective of this series was to probe historical and philosophical aspects of conservation and environmental issues that were generally addressed in the context of biological sciences. Subjects of the symposia were:

Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic, 1988

Fee-based Hunting and the Public Trust, 1989

Biological Diversity and the Reintroduction of Wolves, 1990

Fish, Fowl, and Farms: Demands on the Water Resource, 1991

Bison Boundaries: Managing Yellowstone's Bison Herd, 1992

Endangered Species in Timber Country, 1993

Sustaining the Wild in Wilderness, 1994

Living with the Great Bear, 1995

Rocky Mountain Front Publication Since the first energy crisis of the 1970s, Montana conservationists have been engaged in numerous efforts to preserve the wild land resources found along the state's Rocky Mountain Front and the wild lands to the west. Believing that the historical aspects of the restoration and conservation heritage of that special place were important, The Cinnabar Foundation commissioned a research and writing project to capture that history. A book on the conservation history of Montana's Rocky Mountain Front was published in cooperation with the Boone and Crockett Club in 2001. Titled *"The Making of a Masterpiece,"* the publication has become an educational tool for contemporary advocates now protecting the area as they deal with the first energy crisis of the 21st century.

Encouraging the Sharing of Conserved Amenities Through the years Cinnabar has consistently supported land trusts that work with private landowners through conservation easements and other measures. At the same time, the foundation has remained sensitive to the need to preserve democratic principles at the core of conservation in America. To encourage sharing of the resources being protected, Cinnabar sponsored a conference in 2002 titled *"Sharing the Heritage."* The foundation's land-oriented grantees assembled and addressed the subject at length and from varying perspectives. The conference's agenda included the following quote from President Theodore Roosevelt: "The movement for the conservation of wildlife, and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources, are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose and method." The minutes from that conference carried a second TR statement: "Our aim is to preserve our natural resources ... for the average

man and the average woman who make up the body of the American people."

A Celebration of Stream Conservation The Cinnabar Foundation noted that the 40th anniversary of the Montana Stream Preservation Act and the 25th anniversary of the Yellowstone River in-stream flow reservation passed in 2003 without public notice. Likewise, contemporary stream protection advocates didn't seem aware of these milestones. Given Cinnabar's belief that history matters, a conference was sponsored in 2004 to review the legacy of Montana's stream conservation efforts that delivered this remarkable resource to our contemporary custody.

National Forest Management As the 25th Anniversary of The Cinnabar Foundation approached, it was impossible not to take note of the persistent conflict over management of America's national forests. Working with the University of Montana O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West, Cinnabar initiated an examination of issues associated with management of national forest lands. Late in 2006 a Forest Management Symposium was conducted to address the capacity of the U.S. Forest Service to meet today's management challenges. This effort is continuing with a focus on developing the policy changes necessary to ensure that the custodian of our public estate will have the resources needed to manage the land consistent with the philosophy and vision of Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot. With resolution of this significant challenge still before it, The Cinnabar Foundation eagerly enters its next quarter-century.



A Family Observation and Message

Looking back over the past 25 years, I know my parents, Len and Sandy Sargent, would be both amused and delighted by the long list of accomplishments that have been made by the many and varied environmental organizations that are working to preserve and protect the land they so loved. So too, would be their joy in knowing how much The Cinnabar Foundation has helped make this possible by keeping faith with their values and their vision.

Rick Sargent and Judith Stauffer

The Cinnabar Foundation Board and Staff

The Cinnabar Foundation Board of Directors consists of five members: **Rick Sargent** (Santa Barbara, California), an artist/designer, sustains the Sargent family's environmental ethic and board representation. Rick's wife, **Judith Stauffer**, generously contributes to board deliberations and activities just as Sandy Sargent did through the years. Thus, that part of the family's tradition is also sustained. **Robin Tawney Nichols** (Missoula, Montana), a writer and community activist, chairs the Foundation Board; **Jim Posewitz** (Helena, Montana), a conservationists, educator and founding Cinnabar Foundation board member, serves as vice chairman and executive director; **Ernest Turner** (Bozeman, Montana), a partner in the accounting firm of Holmes & Turner, serves as treasurer and manages the Foundation's assets; and, **Bill Madden** (Bozeman, Montana), an attorney in private practice, serves as a board member and legal advisor.



Designed by Laurie "gigette" McGrath
Drawings by Jim Stevens

To Begin Again

Earlier in this report we included Leonard Sargent's message from Cinnabar's first annual report as an articulation of the foundation's philosophy. We conclude this 25th anniversary report with an "overview," also taken from that initial report. Like our chairman and founder's message, it just seems to apply. We hope you might draw inspiration and determination from the message and get some sense of the timelessness of the task we share with you.

"It is perhaps our destiny to live in times of constant change spiced with bits of turmoil. Like the wind that both whispers and screams over the Yellowstone's north rim, our state is constantly in change and turmoil. Preservation of our precious amenities, be they recreational or life style, require that we stand in the gales that assail us just as we delight in the comfort of the gentle breezes of our success. Today the winds are strong across the face of our place. The agrarian harmony of families is threatened, exploitive interests seek to prey upon difficult times, our fish and wildlife are being viewed again as potential commodities for various market places. The permanency of our progress is once again under assault as difficult times stimulate short-range solutions to problems that are understood poorly if at all. These moods and realities can and do require that all Montana conservationists rededicate themselves to both preserving our progress and contributing to Montana's general well being. This challenge is surely worth our best effort. The Cinnabar Foundation looks forward to working with the Montana conservation community as together we sample and fashion our future and the future of our land."

The challenge remains – perpetuity is like that.