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## **The Cinnabar Foundation Selects 2015 Grantees**

Awards \$369,000 to 62 Organizations

MISSOULA, MONT – The Cinnabar Foundation's board of directors recently met to review applications from 143 environmental nonprofit organizations for its 2015 grant-making cycle. "This is the most applications the Foundation has ever received," said Foundation President Robin Tawney Nichols. "The decision-making process was difficult, with many worthwhile organizations and special projects competing for a limited amount of funds."

After two days of meetings, The Cinnabar Foundation's board selected 62 organizations as recipients of the Foundation's 2015 Challenge Grants. Grants ranged from \$2,000 to \$15,000 and require grantees to secure at least a 1:1 match to Cinnabar's grant from other funding sources. According to Foundation Executive Director Gary Wolfe, "Grantees represent a broad spectrum of Montana's environmental and conservation community; and include land trusts, environmental education institutions, sportsman-conservation organizations, and groups dedicated to sustainable agriculture, public lands, and responsible environmental policies."

"We truly appreciate The Cinnabar Foundation's support," said Gavin Ricklefs, executive director of the Bitter Root Land Trust." Cinnabar has been an integral partner to BRLT's organizational growth and our increased on-the-ground impact over the past decade."

"This summer is a critical time for us," said Community Food & Agriculture Coalition Executive Director Bonnie Buckingham, "so The Cinnabar Foundation's support is very timely. We are honored to have Cinnabar as a partner in this important work to conserve agricultural land in the Missoula Valley."

For a complete list of The Cinnabar Foundation's 2015 grantees, and to learn more about the Foundation's grant program, go to <u>www.thecinnabarfoundation.org</u>.

The Cinnabar Foundation was established in 1983 by philanthropists Len and Sandy Sargent to support the constitutional right of Montanans to a clean and healthful environment. Since its creation, the Foundation has awarded 1,659 grants totaling more than \$7 million dollars.

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