

CINNABAR FOUNDATION

Media Release

Cinnabar Foundation Announces 2011 Grants

Montana's Conservation Fund Features Climate Challenge Projects

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WHITEFISH - A small Montana school district, a renewable energy association, and a grassroots conservation and family agriculture group are among 86 non-profit organizations named today to receive grants from the Cinnabar Foundation, Montana's Conservation Fund. This marks the 26th year that the private grant-making charity has invested earnings from its permanent fund back into conservation of Montana's natural and human environment.

The Foundation also named long-time Swan Valley naturalists, educators and community conservation leaders, Melanie and Tom Parker, as recipients of the 2011 Len and Sandy Sargent Stewardship Award. The annual award, established in honor of two of Cinnabar's co-founders, honors outstanding achievement in environmental advocacy, preservation, and education within Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Seventy-one of the Foundation's 2011 competitive grants were awarded under Cinnabar's Climate Challenge, which supports projects to promote renewable energy and sustainable communities, reduce greenhouse gas pollution, strengthen adaptation strategies for human and natural systems, and expand education and public outreach related to climate change.

"Human-induced climate change already is happening, but it is not too late to rein in the worst of the anticipated impacts," said Executive Director Steve Thompson. "Scientists tell us Montana will likely experience more intense drought, heat waves, and extreme weather events causing floods and forest fires. Fortunately, the response to our 2011 Climate Challenge demonstrates that Montana is producing a bonanza of good ideas and practical solutions to make a difference."

The Cinnabar Foundation was conceived in 1983 by several Montana conservation leaders swapping stories and dreams around the campfire at a remote elk hunting camp in the Cinnabar Basin. Perched above the northern boundary of Yellowstone National Park, Cinnabar Creek delivers pristine spring waters and melting snowfields to the Yellowstone River, running wild and free through the heart of Montana.

Like the headwater tributary of its name, the Cinnabar Foundation nourishes the lifeblood of this great state by supporting conservation of clean and abundant water, free-roaming wildlife, open lands, sustainable communities, and recreational access to the great outdoors. Since 1985, the foundation has awarded 1,300 grants and nearly \$6 million to non-profit groups, land trusts, and schools across Montana and portions of Wyoming and Idaho.

Editors: Please find attached:

- *Montana Stories, Montana Voices: Three featured grantees are making a positive difference for Montana's future today, including Montana Renewable Energy Association, Townsend School District, and the Northern Plains Resource Council.*
- *Len and Sandy Sargent Stewardship Award: Melanie and Tom Parker, Swan Valley, Montana*

A full list of 2011 grantees can be found at www.thecinnabarfoundation.org. Photos are available upon request.