

ARCHIVED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

June 2012

The Cinnabar Foundation invests in people. We also invest in wild places and local farms, grizzly bears and clean water, renewable energy and outdoor education and watershed restoration. But at the root of what we do, the Cinnabar Foundation invests our philanthropic resources in thousands of special people around Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

As Montana's Conservation Fund since 1983, the Cinnabar Foundation is pleased to announce our 2012 Cinnabar Grantees to 92 organizations, schools and university programs. These grants reflect a broad spectrum of conservation activities, but the common denominator is the presence of dedicated people who care enough Montana's natural heritage to get involved and make a difference.

Our 2012 grantees include well-established conservation leaders as well as fresh-faced young people. We like to invest in groups and projects with enthusiastic volunteers and active memberships. We look for projects that collaboratively engage diverse citizens to work together to protect Montana's special outdoor heritage and way of life. And year after year we support people with a proven track record of successful conservation accomplishments.

Ultimately, we invest in the future of today's children and their children's children so that they, too, may enjoy the natural bounty of Montana and the greater Yellowstone region.

Behind each of Cinnabar's 2012 grants is a treasure trove of personal stories. Virtually every conservation group in Montana has applied for a grant from Montana's Conservation Fund, and the Cinnabar Foundation Board of Directors has long enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing these stories. But now that experience is no longer a rare privilege.

This year the Cinnabar Foundation invited grant applicants to share their real-life experiences, passions and motivations with the whole wide world. The result is a new user-generated website, www.ConserveMontana.org an interactive atlas of hundreds of

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Montana conservation stories. In addition to non-profit conservation groups, story tellers on the website include families, businesses, students and volunteers.

The Cinnabar Foundation invites you to share your conservation stories on ConserveMontana.org.

— Steve Thompson

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