

Teresa Erickson and Patrick Sweeney named 2010 Sargent Stewardship recipients



L to R: Patrick Sweeney, Robin Tawney Nichols (Cinnabar Foundation executive director), **and Teresa Erickson**

Teresa Erickson and Patrick Sweeney were presented the twelfth Len and Sandy Sargent Stewardship Award for their driving force behind the establishment of a nested system of local, state and regional resource councils to represent the collective voice of rural citizens.

Individually and together, both Teresa and Pat have inspired legions of grassroots voices for conservation, family agriculture, and sustainable communities in Montana and the High Plains. Many whom they have mentored have become prominent community leaders and elected public officials. And they walk the talk with their organizations' — Northern Plains Resource Council and Western Organizations of Resource Councils — new LEED-certified Home on the Range.

Under Teresa's long-time leadership NPRC and its local affiliates celebrated, in 2010, the 10th anniversary of the groundbreaking Good Neighbor Agreement with Stillwater Mining Company. This landmark agreement is emblematic of her approach to uniting neighbors to protect waters, communities, and quality of life. NPRC remains at the forefront of Montana's cutting issues, including the Otter Creek coal tracts, the Keystone Tar Sands Pipeline, and coal ash pollution.

Pat has created a successful model for community organizing and has trained hundreds of emerging activists over four decades. He has helped incubate and lead numerous organizations, in addition to NPRC and WORC, including the Montana Conservation Voters and the Western Mining Action Network. He has also helped articulate a progressive and viable vision for the future of agriculture, conservation, politics and energy in our region, while nurturing diverse messengers who tell compelling, forward-looking stories.

Teresa and Pat's recognition for outstanding environmental achievement included a \$2,500 Special Award grant to both the Northern Plains Resource Council and the Western Organizations of Resource Councils.