

LEN & SANDY SARGENT STEWARDSHIP RECIPIENT

2000

Ron Marcoux and Gary Wolfe

Ron Marcoux and Gary Wolfe of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation were the co-recipients of the second Len and Sandy Sargent Stewardship Award.

Ron and Gary were recognized for extending permanent conservation protection over the Church Universal and Triumphant (CUT) land that is situated north of Yellowstone National Park. This action was probably the most significant wildlife conservation achievement in the vicinity of Yellowstone since the creation of the park itself.



Gary Wolfe, Jim Posewitz and Ron Marcoux

The project protected 7,850 acres of critical habitat along the northern boundary of Yellowstone Park through direct acquisition and conservation easement. The protracted negotiations were complicated throughout by bison management ideology, political agendas, and competing offers of considerably more money.

Both the difficulty and the heroics involved in these negotiations were summed up well in a statement CUT spokesperson Murray Steinman made to the High Country News: "Not only did this deal have some near-death experiences; at times it actually died," Steinman said. He credits Ron Marcoux of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation with keeping negotiations alive for 15 months. Marcoux would "raise the deal from the dead, breathe life into it and get it to walk and talk again," Steinman said.

Ron Marcoux worked a near miracle. We also know that the decision to persist had top level support from within the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Thus, Gary Wolfe, RMEF's top operating officer, is recognized and honored as the co-recipient.

Ron and Gary's recognition for outstanding environmental achievement included a \$5,000 Special Award grant to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.