

LEN & SANDY SARGENT STEWARDSHIP RECIPIENT

2009

Robyn King

In the midst of a cultural environment strongly influenced by a history of natural resource exploitation, leading a nonprofit conservation organization is not a job for the faint of heart. The eleventh Len and Sandy Sargent Stewardship Award recognized the courage and tenacity of one such leader, Robyn King, executive director of the Yaak Valley Forest Council.

Robyn and her Council have charted a tough course in a tough place as they seek to preserve Montana's last rainforest and bring stewardship to the Yaak Valley. Undeterred by hate mail and pipe bombs, Robyn has embraced the Yaak community by participating in a number of diverse service organizations and, within just a decade, helped create a new culture in which collaboration for the good of all became real.

Along the way, Robyn put an end to accusations of elite urban environmentalism and other harsh words, and preserved the Yaak River and Valley through the region's first stewardship project. By doing so, she also preserved the community of people who know the river and the valley as paradise.

Robyn's recognition for outstanding environmental achievement included a \$5,000 Special Award grant to the Yaak Valley Forest Council.



Robin King and Cinnabar
Foundation Chairperson
Robin Tawney Nichols