

# CINNABAR FOUNDATION

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

The Cinnabar Foundation was established in 1983 by four conservation leaders after a day hunting elk in a mountain cirque above Cinnabar Creek — north of Yellowstone National Park. Just as those clean, clear waters feed the free-flowing Yellowstone River, the Foundation helps sustain Montana's conservation traditions and the people who carry them into the future.



## Dear Friends,

We sincerely appreciate your investment in the Cinnabar Foundation. This annual report is designed to keep you informed about the impact of your gifts.

The generosity of our visionary founders — Len and Sandy Sargent — and friends such as you make this *Montana's conservation fund*. For the past 30 years, the Cinnabar Foundation has been seeding and nurturing more than 1,500 conservation projects and initiatives throughout Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

As someone who cares about Montana and knows the importance of safeguarding this landscape, wildlife, wild lands, and epic national parks alongside sustainable communities — we encourage you to continue to partner with us so together we can do more to protect and preserve this “last best place.”

We invite you to learn more about all of our programs at [thecinnabarfoundation.org](http://thecinnabarfoundation.org). Explore the personal stories and community efforts behind each of the 227 grants we offered in 2012 and 2013 — plus hundreds more Montana conservation stories — at our new online atlas: [ConserveMontana.org](http://ConserveMontana.org).

With warmest regards,

Robin Tawney Nichols  
President, The Cinnabar Foundation

# LEADERSHIP. PARTNERSHIP. INNOVATION.

## Montana's Conservation Fund Turns 30

Since 1983, the Cinnabar Foundation has embodied the principle of “activist philanthropy.” In addition to their service to the Foundation, our board and staff have collectively provided more than 200 years of leadership to conserve Montana’s natural heritage. We are proud to have provided “seed money” for many community-based projects, educational programs, and conservation groups that thrive today.

To mark the Foundation’s 30th anniversary, the board of directors met in October to double down on our commitment to help Montanans create solutions to the most challenging conservation issues. In 2014, the Foundation will expand outreach to new donors to grow our Fund for Conservation beginning with the launch of the Conservation Legacy Society for individuals and families who make provisions for the Cinnabar Foundation in their estate planning.



**“Over the past 30 years, the Cinnabar Foundation has invested in more than 1,500 conservation projects — implemented by effective leaders, hardworking staff, motivated volunteers, and youth — throughout Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.”**

**Robin Tawney Nichols,  
President**

Photo: Montana Conservation Corps is one of Cinnabar’s 2013 grantees

Meanwhile, we continue to invest our philanthropic resources in a diverse and balanced portfolio of conservation programs, ensuring that our grants are well leveraged through 1:1 matching requirements. Through our monitoring program, field visits and active engagement in the issues, we fine-tune

Foundation priorities to meet shifting needs and opportunities across the state.

In 2012, we established a new Innovation Award to support and recognize breakthrough approaches to environmental conservation.



Cinnabar Foundation President Robin Tawney Nichols awards the Len and Sandy Sargent Stewardship Award to local ranchers Mark Fix and Jeanie Alderson, and to NPRC’s super volunteer Beth Kaeding for their work to conserve the Tongue River Valley.

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE ISSUES

### Cinnabar Gets A Taste of the Tongue River

Perhaps the biggest conservation issue facing Montana is a proposal by Arch Coal to dig a new open-pit coal mine in Otter Creek and seize the land of private ranchers to build the Tongue River Railroad. It’s a plan fought by local ranchers and many members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. But it would also affect the entire state because Arch Coal wants to ship that coal through Montana communities to Asia through several proposed coal export terminals on the West Coast.

So, in May the Foundation’s board of directors headed to the remote southeastern corner of Montana to

investigate coal, railroads and ranches. For two days we met with local ranchers, tribal elders, and business leaders to get an up-close look at this beautiful agricultural valley.

Our conclusion: The coal export proposal would harm private property rights, water quality, and wildlife habitat in the Tongue River. It would degrade air quality and congest traffic from Billings to Missoula. And it would ratchet up climate pollution at a time when Montana should be investing in its abundant wind and solar potential.

The Cinnabar Foundation is fully committed to helping local ranchers, tribal members and groups like Northern Plains Resource Council win this battle for the soul of Montana.



# DEVELOPING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

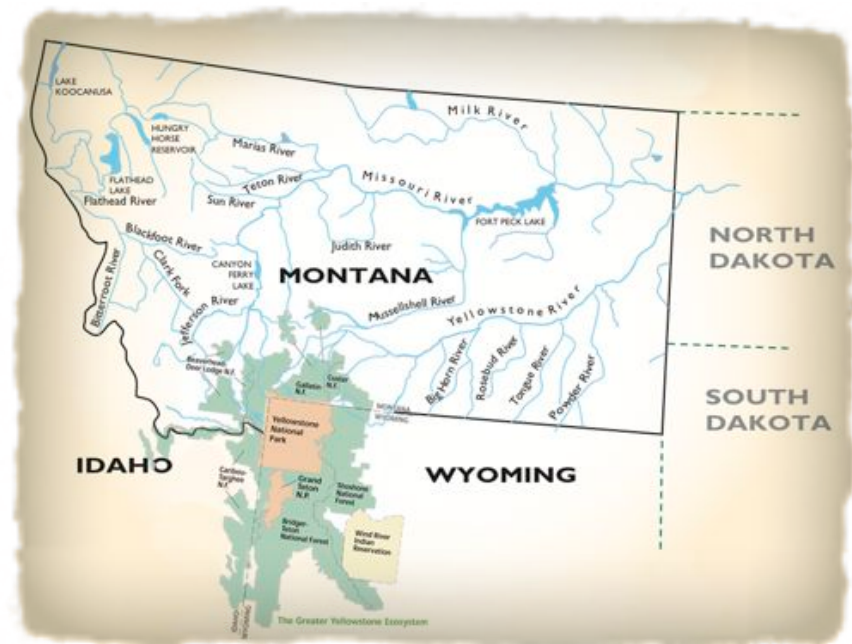
## Leveraging resources to create solutions

The Cinnabar Foundation emerged in 1983 from a vision to support grassroots groups with inspired ideas and limited funds. From our humble beginnings, we've become Montana's homegrown conservation fund whose mission is to support innovative small and mid-size groups working to safeguard our environment and natural resources.

Our approach has always been to form vision-driven partnerships to address conservation issues and challenges. Up to now, our partnerships have been almost exclusively with the grassroots organizations we support through our grant-making program.

However, beginning in 2014, the Cinnabar Foundation will be expanding these efforts by bringing together diverse funders and stakeholders to create even more fertile ground in which to address today's challenging economic and policy landscapes.

To this end, the Cinnabar Foundation will host roundtable



discussions along with field trips for those who support conservation efforts in Montana. These gatherings are intended to foster collaboration among experts and principal stakeholders to create unique alliances that can make a difference and affect tangible solutions.

In cooperation with grantee organizations and hundreds of individual contributors, we have established [ConserveMontana.org](http://ConserveMontana.org) as an interactive atlas of stories about Montanans working

with their neighbors to conserve Montana's natural heritage. The website features nearly 500 conservation stories and continues to grow.

The Foundation also is leading a partnership with state agencies and conservation groups in establishing the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame to remember the accomplishments of state conservation leaders.



### Leaving a Legacy for the Future

Bert Lindler and Kristi DuBois joined the Conservation Legacy Society because of the Cinnabar Foundation's history of responsive philanthropy. In 2012 and 2013, the Foundation awarded more than 200 grants to support conservation advocacy, community-based projects and nature education. A complete list of grants for general operations and special projects can be found at the Foundation's website: [thecinnabarfoundation.org](http://thecinnabarfoundation.org).

## JOIN CINNABAR'S CONSERVATION LEGACY SOCIETY

Bert Lindler & Kristi DuBois have . . . here's why:

The Cinnabar Foundation is pleased to announce the creation of its Conservation Legacy Society. The Society recognizes individuals and families who include the Foundation in their estate plans or establish memorial funds in honor of a loved ones.

New members of the Conservation Legacy Society Bert Lindler and Kristi DuBois explain why they've joined:

*There comes a time in the lives of all good people when they die. Kristi and I figure it's going to happen to us, too. We've spent our lifetimes caring for Montana's environment in a*

*number of ways and we figure we might as well continue doing so after our deaths.*

*We are making a significant bequest to the Cinnabar Foundation. We've both seen the good that the Cinnabar Foundation has done during our lives and we have every reason to believe it will continue doing so far many decades to come. We also appreciate that the Cinnabar Foundation's grants can shift annually as Montana's environmental needs shift. Individual nonprofits may not be as free to make those shifts.*

*Money in big piles can do things it can't do in little piles. So by contributing our little pile of money to the Cinnabar Foundation's big pile, our money will help accomplish tasks that would otherwise be out of reach for us.*

You, too, can leave a legacy for conservation by making a bequest. If you already have included the Cinnabar Foundation in your will, please let us know so we can thank you and welcome you to the Conservation Legacy Society. Contact Steve for more information.

# THE CINNABAR FOUNDATION BY THE NUMBERS, 2012-2013

GRANTS AND AWARDS  
**\$725,000**

NUMBER OF GRANTS  
**227**

PERCENTAGE SPENT ON GRANTS & PROGRAM  
INITIATIVES including CONSERVEMONTANA.ORG & THE  
MONTANA OUTDOOR HALL OF FAME  
**96.5% \***

\* The Cinnabar Foundation's administrative expenses are very low (3.5%) due to the active engagement of the volunteer Board of Directors. The primary administrative expense is salary for a part-time executive director.

MORE THAN

**1,500**

GRANTS AWARDED  
SINCE **1985**

TOTALING  
MORE THAN

**\$6.4M**

## CONSERVATION PORTFOLIO

FARMLAND, RANCH & OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION	<b>17%</b>
PUBLIC WILDLANDS & ECOSYSTEMS	<b>17%</b>
WATERSHED PARTNERSHIPS, WATER QUALITY & FISHERIES	<b>15%</b>
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION & HABITAT	<b>14%</b>
EDUCATION & YOUTH	<b>14%</b>
ENERGY & CLIMATE	<b>10%</b>
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES & LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS	<b>7%</b>
TRAILS, PARKS & PUBLIC ACCESS	<b>6%</b>

## WHO WE ARE

PRESIDENT	Robin Tawney Nichols
VICE PRESIDENT	Gordon "Corky" Brittan
SECRETARY	Judi Stauffer
TREASURER	Ernie Turner
AT LARGE	Grant Parker
DIRECTOR EMERITUS	Jim Posewitz
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Steve Thompson