

LEN & SANDY SARGENT STEWARDSHIP RECIPIENT

2013

Gayle Joslin

Charting new paths and breaking boundaries are never easy — especially in academia and in state government. But that is exactly what Gayle Joslin, the 2013 recipient of the Cinnabar Foundation’s Sargent Stewardship Award, has done time and again.

Gayle became the first woman to earn a degree in wildlife management, followed by a master’s in zoology, from Montana State University and became a wildlife professional long before it was a common career path for women.



In presenting the award, Cinnabar Foundation President Robin Tawney Nichols noted:

“As a professional, you seemed to gravitate to the tough assignments. Few people launch a career in wildlife conservation by taking on live grizzly bears. However, that was your opening act as part of the Border Grizzly Project: snaring, collaring and tracking that icon of wilderness. From there you moved on to mountain goat research, protecting that unique high country animal from hard rock miners in the Cabinet Mountains and from the oil and gas industry along Montana’s Rocky Mountain Front.

Gayle concluded this research by writing the environmental assessment that protected the Sun River Wildlife Management Area from oil drillers and later co-authoring the first Wildlife Conservation Plan for the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.

Her 32-year professional career with Montana’s Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks concluded with service as the wildlife management biologist for the Helena area, although her contributions as a conservation crusader and wildlife advocate continued without even a moment’s interruption. Having worked with a number of government agencies and their complex planning processes, Gayle generously shares that experience with a variety of non-governmental wildlife conservation groups, advocates and litigators.

Since her retirement in 2007, Gayle has organized and trained the volunteers now monitoring grizzly bear distribution along the Continental Divide; provided the expertise needed to terminate plans to build a military training area on the Continental Divide west of Helena; helped citizens respond to numerous attempts to alter public land travel plans, timber sales, and wildlife security standards; and kept Helena's local rod and gun club operational and effective."

Gayle Joslin's recognition for outstanding achievements in conservation was accompanied by a special grant of \$5,000 from the Cinnabar Foundation, which she chose to donate in equal parts to Helena Hunters & Anglers, Montana Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Montana Environmental Information Center, Montana Wilderness Association, and Northern Plains Resource Council.