Dear Friends,

For 30 years, the Cinnabar Foundation has seeded and nurtured more than 1,600 conservation projects and initiatives throughout Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The payback for Cinnabar comes from knowing our money is well spent because, with more than 200 collective years of conservation experience, our board of directors and staff know the issues, organizations and leaders of this region. We celebrate the cooperative solutions reached and the battles won by our conservation partner grantees.

The year 2014 began with the creation of the Cinnabar Foundation Conservation Endowment within the Montana Community Foundation. In June, Cinnabar was honored as “Foundation of the Year” by the Western Montana Fund Raisers Association. In September, we helped make connections that enabled one of our partner organizations, the Western Sustainability Exchange, to receive a distinguished award from a western coalition. The following month we feted our 2014 Sargent Stewardship Awardees, artists Monte Dolack and Mary Beth Pervical, with a special reception attended by more than 100 friends and conservationists.

Year’s end finds our board recruiting for a replacement for our consummate executive director Steve Thompson as he leaves us to launch a new social venture to combat climate change. His willingness to stay on for several months to effect a smooth transition says volumes about his character and devotion to conservation.

Through challenge grants, operating funds and special monetary awards, Montana’s conservation fund will continue to help, in perpetuity, nonprofit conservation organizations meet the challenges of a fast-changing world.

Stay tuned to see what 2015 will bring!

Robin Tawney Nichols
Chair, The Cinnabar Foundation
CINNABAR RECOGNIZED AS “FOUNDATION OF THE YEAR”

An inspiration and model for the giving community

Philanthropic organizations are in it for results, not accolades, but that doesn’t mean they don’t appreciate a little praise once in a while. The Cinnabar Foundation felt the love in Missoula on June 13 when we were honored as Foundation of the Year by the Western Montana Fundraisers Association.

Nominated by several Montana conservation nonprofits, the Cinnabar Foundation was recognized for philanthropic leadership in Montana, giving over $6.4 million in grants over the past 30 years. Chair Robin Tawney Nichols accepted the award on behalf of the Foundation.

Bruce Farling of Montana Trout Unlimited presented the award, noting that Montana’s Conservation Fund “has encouraged and motivated others to take leadership roles towards philanthropy via its robust challenge grant program.” Further, Farling said, the Cinnabar Foundation “offers the elusive ‘operational support’ to organizations that have received funding from them in the past.” He emphasized that “in order for future, great projects to be imagined and realized, at some point, the general operating demands must be met, and Cinnabar generously recognizes and supports this lynchpin need.”

Other groups helped by the Cinnabar Foundation over the years also expressed appreciation. “We cannot speak highly enough of the Cinnabar Foundation,” wrote Stephen Hoffman of Montana Audubon in his nomination letter. “They work every day, year-after-year, to accomplish their conservation mission faithfully, consistently, and innovatively.”

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— Stephen Hoffman, Montana Audubon Society

Photo: Robin Tawney Nichols, Cinnabar chair (center front), Steve Thompson, executive director (center middle) and Grant Parker (Cinnabar board member) surrounded by representatives from conservation organizations that have partnered with the Cinnabar Foundation over the years.

CHANGES IN 2015 GRANT PROCESS

Applications available on Cinnabar website

The Cinnabar Foundation has made several changes to our 2015 grant process, partly as a result of a recent survey sent to current and former Cinnabar Foundation grantees:
1. Grant applications are available at the Cinnabar Foundation’s redesigned website (www.cinnabarfoundation.org) and may be submitted online from January 6 through March 31.
2. There is no longer a requirement to post stories on ConserveMontana.org as part of the application process.
3. Only organizations that have previously received a General Operating Grant from the Cinnabar Foundation are eligible to apply for one in 2015.
4. The range of funding for General Operating Grants has increased to $15,000 to more closely reflect economic realities. However, grants may not exceed 10% of an organization’s annual operating budget.
5. Organizations seeking grants for multi-year projects, such as land trust purchases, must disclose that in their initial application along with the number of years they will seek funding for that particular project.
6. Schools and university programs may only submit Special Project Grant applications.

Full application instructions are available on the Cinnabar Foundation website. A list of all current grantees with links to their organizational websites can be found at the “Conservation Partners” tab.

We are most appreciative of those who responded to our survey. Rest assured, the Cinnabar Foundation is fully committed to continuing to be responsive to the needs of our conservation partners.
GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: WESTERN SUSTAINABILITY EXCHANGE

Leveraging resources to create solutions

At the Cinnabar Foundation, we know that being a good conservation partner means that we don’t need to be constrained by the size of our giving ability alone.

Case in point: After learning about New Mexico-based Quivira Coalition and its focus on collaborative land stewardship, Cinnabar board member Judi Stauffer encouraged the Western Sustainability Exchange to apply for Quivira’s Clarence Burch Award. “It just seemed like a perfect fit,” Stauffer notes.

According to board chair Robin Tawney Nichols, “Steve will remain on staff until a new executive director is found and has promised to help us make a smooth transition.”

During Thompson’s tenure, the Cinnabar Foundation branded itself as “Montana’s Conservation Fund,” created the interactive conservation atlas known as ConserveMontana.org, instituted a Conservation Legacy Society for planned giving, and expanded close working relationships with our conservation partners.

“The opportunity to carry forward the Sargent legacy has enriched my life in many ways,” he says.

“Steve certainly enriched the Cinnabar Foundation.” notes Nichols. “We will miss his energy, professionalism and undying commitment to conservation. He has been a joy to work with, and we wish him the best as he pursues his new venture.”

2014 an auspicious year for WSE

WSE turned 20 years old this year and hit several significant milestones including securing 1 million acres under sustainable management, and, in 2014 alone, over $1 million in annual sales for WSE Certified ranchers and farmers.

Photo: Quivira Coalition’s Avery Anderson Sponholtz, executive director, and Courtney White, founder and creative director, honor WSE executive director Lill Erickson (center).

“The Cinnabar Foundation is so very proud of all Lill Erickson and WSE have accomplished in the past 20 years,” exclaims Stauffer, who joined in honoring Erickson at the Quivira Coalition’s Awards Dinner.
HONORING OUR NATURAL HERITAGE

In October, Missoula artists Monte Dolack and Mary Beth Percival received the 16th Sargent Stewardship Award for their long-time contributions to conservation in Montana.

Presenting the award, Cinnabar chair Robin Tawney Nichols said, “for more than 30 years, you have thoughtfully rendered the intangible tangible, sometimes poking fun to make us think, sometimes subtly reminding us of our precious natural heritage through beautiful landscapes and wildlife, sometimes not so subtly laying bare the consequences of our First World lifestyle, always nudging our consciences.”

“Your commitment to preserving Montana’s environment is matched by your generosity,” Nichols said. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised for conservation nonprofits through the sale of commissioned prints, posters, postcards and license plates.

In 2014, Dolack collaborated with Wilderness Watch on the official poster for the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

The Sargent Stewardship Award comes with a $5,000 grant that Dolack and Percival directed to: Bitter Root Land Trust, Five Valleys Land Trust, Great Bear Foundation, Montana Environmental Information Center, Montana Natural History Center, and Montana Trout Unlimited.

Joining more than 100 guests at a reception honoring Dolack and Percival were several past Stewardship Award winners including Gary Wolfe (2000), Ellen Knight (2001), and Tom Roy (2007) of Missoula; Melanie Parker (2011) of Condon; and Gayle Joslin (2013) of Helena.

Leaving a legacy for the future

“This is a great way to leave a conservation legacy beyond your lifetime,” encourages Lynda Saul. Since 1985, the Cinnabar Foundation has awarded more than 1,600 grants to support conservation advocacy, community-based projects and nature education. A list of 2014 grantees for general operations and special projects can be found at on page 5.
SUSTAINING CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS

2014 Conservation Partners

Each year the Cinnabar Foundation partners with scores of nonprofit organizations and educational institutions to financially support conservation work in Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. This year, we are proud to announce our 2014 conservation partners:

- Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation
- Adapt: Missoula’s Climate Collaborative
- Alternative Energy Resources Organization
- American Lung Association
- Artemis Common Ground
- Bitter Root Land Trust
- Bitter Root Water Forum
- Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation
- Center for Large Landscape Conservation
- Citizens for a Better Flathead
- Clark Fork Coalition
- Community Food & Agriculture Coalition
- Conservation Hawks
- Craighead Beringia South
- EcoCheyenne
- Elkhorns Working Group
- Five Valleys Land Trust
- Flathead Audubon Society
- Flathead Land Trust
- Foy’s to Blacktail Trails
- Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument
- Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness
- Gallatin Valley Land Trust
- Glacier Two Medicine Alliance
- Great Bear Foundation
- Great Burn Study Group
- Invasive Species Action Network
- Jack Creek Preserve Foundation
- Kaniksu Land Trust
- Montana Association of Land Trusts
- Montana Audubon Council
- Montana Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- Montana Conservation Corps
- Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund
- Montana Environmental Information Center
- Montana Forest Restoration Committee
- Montana Land Reliance
- Montana Natural History Center
- Montana Outdoor Science School
- Montana Raptor Conservation Center
- Montana Renewable Energy Association
- Montana Trout Unlimited
- Montana Watershed Coordination Council
- Montana Water Stewards
- Montana Wilderness Association
- Montana Wildlife Federation
- National Center for Appropriate Technology
- National Parks Conservation Association — Yellowstone Office
- National Wildlife Federation
- Northern Plains Resource Council
- Northwest Connections
- Northwest Energy Coalition
- Our Montana
- Owl Research Institute
- Park County Environmental Council
- Prickly Pear Land Trust
- Raptors of the Rockies
- Rocky Mountain College
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Rocky Mountain Front Weed Roundtable
- Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent
- Student Advocates Valuing the Environment (SAVE)
- Sun River Watershed Group
- Swan Ecosystem Center
- Swan View Coalition
- Teller Wildlife Refuge
- Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
- Trout Unlimited, National — Montana Water Project Trust for Public Lands
- University of Montana — Environmental Studies Program
- Vital Ground Foundation
- Watershed Education Network
- Western Organization of Resource Councils
- Western Sustainability Exchange
- Whitefish Lake Institute
- Whitefish Legacy Partners
- Wyoming Outdoor Council
- Wyoming Wildlife Federation
- Yaak Valley Forest Council
CINNABAR FOUNDATION
BY THE NUMBERS: 2014

GRANTS AND AWARDS
$385,000

NUMBER OF GRANTS
90

PERCENTAGE SPENT ON GRANTS & PROGRAM INITIATIVES including CONSERVEMONTANA.ORG
96.7% *

* 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.

CONSERVATION PORTFOLIO

FARMLAND, RANCH & OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION 19%
ENERGY & CLIMATE 15%
WATERSHED PARTNERSHIPS, WATER QUALITY & FISHERIES 15%
EDUCATION & YOUTH 14%
PUBLIC WILDLANDS & ECOSYSTEMS 13%
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION & HABITAT 12%
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES & LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS 7%
TRAILS, PARKS & PUBLIC ACCESS 5%

MORE THAN
1,600 GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1985
TOTALING MORE THAN $6.8M

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