

CINNABAR FOUNDATION

2015 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.



Kate Davis, Photograph, *Bitterroot Eagle Pair* © 2015

Dear Friends,

The Cinnabar Foundation was founded to forever actively safeguard Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. For more than 30 years, the Foundation has invested in organizations and projects that are dedicated to preserving and conserving Montana's clean waters, wildlife and wild lands.

In 2015, we welcomed a state and national conservation leader, Gary Wolfe, as our new executive director. And we celebrated the long overdue recognition of Jim Posewitz, Cinnabar Foundation co-founder, first executive director, long-time board member, and now director emeritus. Jim was honored with the National Wildlife Federation's prestigious Conservationist of the Year Award (Connie) for his lifetime of devotion to conservation.

After a run of more than two years, the Cinnabar Foundation's Board of Directors closed down our inter-active conservation atlas, ConserveMontana.org, freeing our half-time executive director to focus on the Foundation's mission and plan for its future.

The challenges ahead reinforce the Cinnabar Foundation's commitment to do our part in giving strength to organizations that honor, preserve and protect our environment for future generations.

We are Montana's conservation fund.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Tawney Nichols". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robin Tawney Nichols
President, Cinnabar Foundation

CINNABAR NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gary J. Wolfe

“I’ve admired Cinnabar’s philanthropic commitment for many years,” says Gary J. Wolfe, who became the Cinnabar Foundation’s third executive director earlier this year. “Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem continue to face many conservation challenges — including climate change, habitat fragmentation, and threats to our public land heritage — and Cinnabar is poised to continue providing invaluable funding to help our many partners address these crucial issues.”

“Gary is absolutely the best person for the job right now,” says Foundation president Robin Tawney Nichols.

Wolfe has brought with him 40 years of conservation and natural resource management experience in the public,

private, and nonprofit sectors. For the past 10 years, he served as executive director of Vital Ground Foundation, a nonprofit land trust, and Cinnabar Foundation conservation partner. Prior to his work with Vital Ground, Wolfe worked 15 years for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the final 3-1/2 years as its president and CEO. During his tenure with RMEF he was named a co-recipient of the Cinnabar Foundation’s second *Len and Sandy Sargent Stewardship Award* for his work in extending permanent conservation protection over 7,850 acres of critical habitat along the northern boundary of Yellowstone National Park.

“Recognizing the growing need for private conservation funding, I look forward to working with the Foundation’s board and supporters to increase Cinnabar’s endowment so we can be even more effective in helping our conservation partners find innovative solutions to safeguard the beauty and resiliency of our landscapes, waters, and wildlife.



The Cinnabar Foundation’s new executive director, Gary J. Wolfe, holds a PhD in wildlife biology and also serves as District 1 Commissioner on the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Photo: Rita Wolfe



Leaving a Legacy for the Future

Gary and Mary Sloan joined the Conservation Legacy Society because of the Cinnabar Foundation’s commitment to protecting and conserving Montana’s natural heritage for the long haul.

The Society recognizes individuals and families who include the Foundation in their estate plans or establish memorial funds in honor of loved ones.

For more information contact Gary Wolfe at gwolfe@cinnabarfoundation.org or call him at 406.240.7323.

Photo: Nancy Woodruff

JOIN CINNABAR’S CONSERVATION LEGACY SOCIETY

Gary and Mary Sloan joined . . . here’s why:

Educators by profession, Gary and Mary Sloan decided to become conservation funding partners with Cinnabar after a lifetime of experience. That, and a close friendship with former Cinnabar executive director Steve Thompson, who introduced them to Montana’s conservation fund.

Gary explains it this way, “I grew up during the Great Depression on a stump farm near Troy, Montana. I learned to hunt on the western slope of the Cabinet Mountains so our family had food to eat. Later, while working as a logger, I came to value wilderness areas and keeping existing roadless areas that way. After retiring from teaching, both Mary and I have given more than 30 years of volunteer service to agencies such as the USFS, Montana Fish,

Wildlife & Parks, the Whitefish Library, and organizations ranging from The Nature Conservancy to Montana Native Plant Society. We believe in giving back and paying forward.”

Through Steve, the Sloans came to understand what Cinnabar does and found a lot of overlapping interests. “We are concerned society is unwilling to face growing environmental challenges such as climate change,” Gary continues, “which makes organizations like Cinnabar so important.”

The Cinnabar Foundation keeps a close eye on the opportunities as well as the challenges facing Montana’s conservation heritage and invests in grassroots efforts that have the greatest capacity to affect change or ensure preservation.

“The Sloans’ charitable gift to Cinnabar from the eventual proceeds from their estate will help Cinnabar, in perpetuity, conserve Montana’s conservation legacy,” says Gary Wolfe, current executive director. “We greatly appreciate the trust the Sloans have put in Cinnabar and welcome them to our conservation family.”

Conservation Partner Spotlight:

Raptors of the Rockies

Kate Davis, founder and executive director of Raptors of the Rockies, is a powerhouse.

In August, Cinnabar Foundation president Robin Tawney Nichols, board member Judi Stauffer, and executive director Gary Wolfe headed to Raptor Ranch for a site visit with Kate and her birds in Florence, Montana. Raptors is an educational nonprofit that houses 18 non-releasable and falconry birds, and has been a conservation partner with the Cinnabar Foundation since 1999.

Since 1988, Kate has been providing quality care to permanently disabled birds of prey and educating the public about eagles, hawks, falcons and owls. “Since the beginning,” she says, “I have presented nearly 1,600 educational and wildlife art programs to more than 127,000 people of all ages.” Impressive!

Equally impressive is her love and commitment to her birds which involves, she tells us, “Securing, packaging, butchering and cleaning up 15,000 mice a year, a few thousand quail and hundreds of pounds of meat. It is a 365 days of the year job.” Plus cleaning and upkeep of 11 buildings and structures that house the birds. And, there is the

bureaucracy of running this type of a nonprofit, including maintaining four federal permits and annual federal and state reports, not to mention more typical fundraising, grant writing, publishing newsletters, maintaining two websites and a social media presence on Facebook and a blog.

A wizard in time-management, Kate is also an accomplished artist, photographer and writer, having published five books about raptors

including “*Raptors of the West*,” which won the National Outdoor Book Award for design and artistic merit, and grand prize for the Montana Book Award in 2011. Her most recent book is “*American Kestrel: Pint-sized Predator*.”

When asked what is the greatest challenge facing birds of prey in the wild, Kate quickly answered, “Preservation of habitat, for which the Cinnabar Foundation is the powerhouse to make it happen!”



Kate Davis with *Sonora*, an Aplomado Falcon gifted by The Peregrine Fund.

Photo: JM Stauffer

TWO GRANTEES FOCUS ON SMITH RIVER MINE

Montana TU and MEIC collaborate on campaigns to keep public informed

Renowned for its spectacular scenery, towering canyons, and blue-ribbon trout fishery, Montana’s Smith River is a threatened gem. Montana Trout Unlimited and the Montana Environmental Information Center are keeping a close watch on a small Canadian mining start-up. Tintina Resources, which has partnered with Australian mining company Sandfire

Resources, to scope the feasibility of a massive underground copper mine — the *Black Butte Copper Project*. The proposed mine is located just 20 miles north of White Sulphur Springs near Sheep Creek a major tributary of the Smith River that contributes half its flows.

To find out first-hand about the mining project, members of the Cinnabar Foundation board — Corky Brittan and his wife Vanessa, Robin Tawney Nichols and Judi Stauffer — joined executive director Gary Wolfe and MTU executive director Bruce Farling for a meeting at Tintina’s headquarters in White Sulphur Springs with Jerry Zieg, vice president of exploration, and Nancy Schlepp, public relations director. Following a multimedia presentation and

discussion, we toured the proposed mining site.

Zieg, a White Sulphur Springs native, maintains that Tintina Resources can protect the environment while providing economic development in the area.

Our takeaway: Since Tintina Resources has formally applied for an operating permit from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, their plans warrant very careful scrutiny as there is a genuine risk to more than 50 percent of the Smith’s spawning trout.

Cinnabar is committed to helping ensure that the State of Montana holds Tintina Resources and Sandfire Resources to the highest environmental protection standards to safeguard one of our state’s premier river systems.

FULFILLING OUR MISSION

2015 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.

Our approach to grant-making is to identify those areas and habitats in Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem that are critical to sustaining viable wildlife populations, clear waters and wild lands.

We invest in efforts where the opportunities for success are supported by well-founded science, strategic planning, strong leadership, effective and collaborative actions, and community-based constituencies.

We partner with organizations using advocacy, capacity-building, communications, economics, law, policy, research, and science/technology to find long-lasting conservation solutions in a world constantly changing. Further, we continue to actively support new, emerging and experienced leaders in conservation.

We are proud to announce our 2015 conservation partners:

CLIMATE ACTION — natural resource extraction, renewable energy, reduction of greenhouse gases, adaptation strategies **\$35,000**

EcoCheyenne/National Wildlife Federation	\$3,000	Northern Plains Resource Council	\$15,000
Montana Renewable Energy Association	\$5,000	Northwest Energy Coalition	\$2,000
Northern Plains Resource Council (Sargent Legacy Grant)	\$5,000	Western Organization of Resource Councils	\$5,000

EDUCATION & RESEARCH — conservation, environmental, species **\$71,000**

Artemis Common Ground	\$3,000	Northwest Connections	\$5,000
Center for Large Landscape Conservation	\$2,000	Northwest Connections (Tawney Opportunity Grant)	\$5,000
Ecology Project International	\$3,000	Owl Research Institute	\$2,000
Glacier Institute	\$7,000	Raptors of the Rockies	\$4,000
Leadership Montana	\$2,000	Rocky Mountain College:	\$3,000
Madison Farm 2 Fork	\$3,000	Yellowstone River Research Center	
Montana Conservation Corps	\$5,000	Teller Wildlife Refuge	\$3,000
Montana Natural History Center	\$10,000	Watershed Education Network	\$2,000
Montana Outdoor Science School	\$5,000		
Montana Raptor Conservation Center	\$2,000		
Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation	\$5,000		

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY — diverse statewide environmental issues **\$45,000**

Montana Audubon Council	\$10,000	Montana Environmental Information Center	\$15,000
Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund	\$10,000	Montana Environmental Information Center (Sargent Legacy Grant)	\$5,000
Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund (Sargent Legacy Grant)	\$5,000		

PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION — wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, open space **\$94,000**

Bitter Root Land Trust	\$10,000	Montana Association of Land Trusts	\$3,000
Community Food & Agricultural Coalition	\$3,000	Prickly Pear Land Trust	\$10,000
Five Valleys Land Trust	\$15,000	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$10,000
Flathead Land Trust	\$10,000	The Wilderness Land Trust	\$3,000
Gallatin Valley Land Trust	\$10,000	Vital Ground	\$10,000
Kaniksu Land Trust	\$5,000	Vital Ground (Sargent Legacy Grant)	\$5,000



JM Stauffer, Photograph, *Missouri River National Monument* © 2015

PUBLIC LANDS — access, advocacy, stewardship, wildlife habitat **\$99,500**

Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Association	\$3,000	Montana Wildlife Federation	\$10,000
Backcountry Hunter & Anglers: MT Chapter	\$3,000	Montana Wildlife Federation	\$5,000
Backcountry Hunter & Anglers: MT Chapter (Tawney Opportunity Grant)	\$5,000	(Sargent Legacy Grant)	
Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation	\$3,000	National Parks Conservation Association: Yellowstone Office	\$3,000
Friends of Missouri Breaks Monument	\$5,000	National Wildlife Federation	\$8,000
Friends of Scotchman Peak Wilderness	\$5,000	Swan View Coalition	\$4,500
Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance	\$4,000	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	\$3,000
Great Burn Study Group	\$6,000	University of Montana: Wilderness Institute	\$2,000
Great Burn Study Group (Sargent Legacy Grant)	\$5,000	Wyoming Outdoor Council	\$3,000
Montana Wilderness Association	\$15,000	Yaak Valley Forest Council	\$7,000

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES & AGRICULTURE — community-based conservation initiatives, rangeland stewardship, watershed partnerships **\$36,000**

Blackfoot Challenge	\$5,000	Swan Ecosystem Center	\$5,000
Citizens for a Better Flathead	\$5,000	Swan Ecosystem Center	\$5,000
Park County Environmental Council (Tawney Opportunity Grant)	\$5,000	(Sargent Legacy Grant)	
Rocky Mountain Front Weed Roundtable	\$3,000	Western Sustainability Exchange	\$8,000

WATER QUALITY & FISHERIES — **\$43,000**

Bitter Root Water Forum	\$5,000	Rocky Mountain College: Environmental Science Center	\$3,000
Clark Fork Coalition	\$15,000	Trout Unlimited: Montana Water Project	\$5,000
Montana Trout Unlimited	\$10,000		
Montana Trout Unlimited (Sargent Legacy Grant)	\$5,000		

THE CINNABAR FOUNDATION BY THE NUMBERS: 2015

GRANTS AND AWARDS

\$423,500



NUMBER OF GRANTS

73



PERCENTAGE SPENT ON GRANTS & PROGRAM INITIATIVES

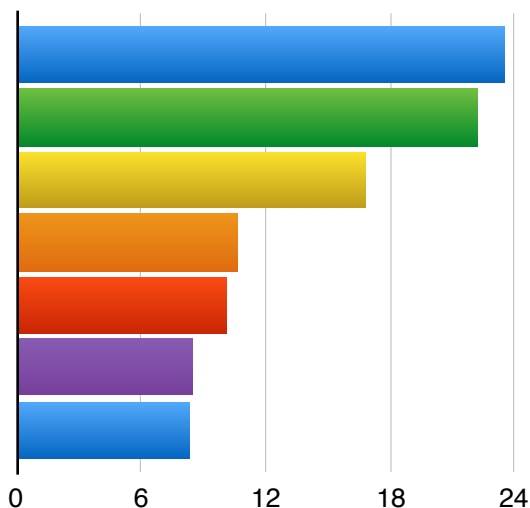
97.15% *



♦ The Cinnabar Foundation's administrative expenses are very low (less than 3%) due to the active engagement of the volunteer Board of Directors. The primary administrative expense is salary for a part-time executive director. The Cinnabar Foundation's most recent IRS Form 990-PF is available on our website.

CONSERVATION PORTFOLIO

- Public Lands: 23.5%
- Private Land Conservation: 22.2%
- Education & Research: 16.8%
- Environmental Advocacy: 10.6%
- Water Quality & Fisheries: 10.1%
- Sustainable Communities & Agriculture: 8.5%
- Climate Action: 8.3%



1,670

**GRANTS AWARDED
SINCE**

1985

**TOTALING
MORE THAN**

\$7.12M

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 Gary J. Wolfe

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