

# CINNABAR FOUNDATION

## 2016 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.



photo: Park County Environmental Council

## Executive Director's Message

How quickly things change . . .

As the close of the Obama Administration neared, we were jubilant over two U.S. Department of the Interior actions: cancelling the last two oil and gas leases in the Badger-Two Medicine area along the Rocky Mountain Front near Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness; and temporarily prohibiting new mining claims on approximately 30,000 acres of national forest land near Yellowstone National Park's northern entrance. Although the mineral withdrawal is scheduled to be in effect for two years, while the Departments of Interior and Agriculture evaluate whether to extend the withdrawal for an additional 20 years, victories such as these may be short-lived given the anti-environmental philosophy of the new Administration.

We now face unprecedented attacks on the environment and our cherished way of life. President Trump claims that climate change is a hoax, vows to repeal many existing environmental regulations, and has already begun working with the Republican-controlled Congress to roll back key environmental protections such as the Stream Protection Rule. This rule protects streams, fish, wildlife and related environmental values from the adverse impacts of surface coal mining operations. His nominee to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt, has a record of suing the EPA on multiple occasions and is no friend of the environment. And, at the state level, several western state legislatures are considering legislation promoting the divestiture of millions of acres of our public lands to the states.

The environmental and conservation community will be facing many challenges in the coming years. More than ever, we need to pull together to support the nonprofit organizations that are working to protect our air, waters, wildlife and landscapes. And be assured, the Cinnabar Foundation will continue to build upon our tradition of environmental philanthropy.

continued on page 7

## Cinnabar Honors 2016 Stewardship Awardees:

### Susan and Jack Heyneman

Susan and Jack Heyneman were friends of Len and Sandy Sargent, and like them devoted a large part of their lives to conserving Montana and the Greater Yellowstone landscapes. All four served, and in the case of Susan still serves, as role models of informed and effective grass-roots environmentalism and of great generosity of financial and personal support. For the Heynemans to receive the Sargent Stewardship Award is particularly fitting.

Jack Heyneman was a founding member of the Northern Plains Resource Council and served as its Chair for a number of years. In that capacity, he worked to find solutions to local land-use conflicts and forge agreements among the parties to them, a genuine “peacemaker.”

Among many such efforts, he worked tirelessly with representatives of the Stillwater Mining Company to create a ground breaking Good Neighbor agreement, and with it to help design and install a facility that protects the water of the Stillwater River and substantially limits impacts on the surrounding area. He was rightly proud of this achievement; it set a new standard in Montana and elsewhere for extensive and extractive development.

Susan Heyneman has matched wide-ranging philanthropy with engaged involvement on a scale virtually unique in Montana. Like Jack, her focus has been on helping communities reach balanced agreements on land-use and natural resource issues, and where appropriate to encourage the preservation of valuable privately-owned properties with conservation easement. Perhaps Susan’s most important legacy, thus far, is the Wallace Stegner Chair of Western American Studies at Montana State University in Bozeman. She named the Chair, led the effort to find it, and



Susan Heyneman and her late husband Jack were honored as the 2016 Sargent Stewardship Awardees.

provided the vision that guides the selection of its occupants: to inspire and train new generations of students to grapple with land-use problems as they arise and to inform the larger public about their historical context and present importance.

## Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame

### Jim Posewitz Inducted



Jim Posewitz was all smiles, with his wife Gayle Joslin, after his induction into the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame’s second inductee class.

photo: Kenton Rowe

In his opening remarks, Thomas Baumeister, chairman of the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame selection committee, asked everyone to “Look around at what Montana has become — we’re celebrating something done collectively, something we did right.”

Selecting Jim Posewitz was indeed “doing something right.” With a mission to honor the history of conservation and serve as inspiration for future generations, Jim Posewitz was a perfect choice.

A noted author, conservation historian, and a founding Cinnabar board member, Jim is quick to remind anyone within earshot that the land, water and wildlife that make Montana the “Last Best Place” did not happen by mistake.

In its darkest days of exploitation, as game herds dwindled and pollution threatened the state’s great rivers and streams, conservation giants like Theodore Roosevelt and Bob Marshall recognized that without action the best of the state might be lost forever.

Following their call to action, Jim had a 30-year career with Montana Fish,

Wildlife and Parks, started Orion: The Hunters Institute, and helped his friend Len Sargent launch the Cinnabar Foundation, serving as its first executive director, board member, and now director emeritus. Through each of these impressive roles, Jim has encouraged conservation ethics.

“Most history you study is the history of how people exploit a place,” Jim remarked upon accepting his award. “And yet, you talk to a Montana person at random, and chances are good that what they want to talk about is not what we exploited, but when we nurtured, conserved and preserved.”

“The Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame was created to honor individuals who, like Jim, have made significant and lasting contributions to the restoration and conservation of Montana’s wildlife and wild places,” said Gary Wolfe, current Cinnabar Foundation executive director. “Jim is truly a conservation legend in his own time.”

In 2015, Jim was honored as the National Wildlife Federation’s Conservationist of the Year.



## Conservation Partner Spotlight:

### Park County Environmental Council



View into Absaroka Mountains where the proposed Lucky Mineral gold mine was proposed (above). Yellowstone River running through the Paradise Valley (right).

The Park County Environmental Council (PCEC) runs lean and strong. Led by executive director Michelle Uberuaga, there are only two other staff members, Max Hjortsberg, conservation director and Erica Lighthiser, program director, along with a very active board.

In September, Cinnabar Foundation board members and executive director spent an exhaustive day learning about key issues PCEC is working on.

First up was a hike up Emigrant Gulch to see the proposed site of the Lucky Minerals gold mine with Michelle, Max, Robb Krehbiel, Yellowstone Wildlife Fellow at the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), Brian Wells, business owner and Yellowstone Gateway Business Coalition member. Enroute we learned about the historic small-scale mining that went on in these mountains without much monetary return as well as the overwhelming support PCEC has received from local residents and the business community in opposing the mine, which is just north of Yellowstone National Park in the Paradise Valley.

It is not hard to imagine the impacts such a mine would have on the wild lands

of the Absaroka Mountain Range and the creeks that drain into the Yellowstone River not to mention the impacts of large equipment and trucks moving day and night through this peaceful ranching valley.

We also learned from Robb about another project Cinnabar has funded that restores ancient migration routes used by the Yellowstone Pronghorn. “Unlike deer and elk,” he told us, “pronghorns have difficulty negotiating fences that keep them from accessing winter forage and isolate herds.” NPCA has pioneered a collaborative community engagement program to remove or alter fences to make them pronghorn-friendly. This approach allows pronghorn to access winter habitat that was once unavailable, while still assuring that the needs of private landowners and ranchers are met. Thus far the project has been focused along the Yellowstone River from Gardiner to the Paradise Valley.

Our next stop was Chico Hot Springs to meet with owner Colin Davis, who shared a remarkable story of how 200 local businesses united together to form the Yellowstone Gateway Business Coalition to protect their communities from the proposed gold mine. He also described how he and Brian joined Michelle and staff from the Greater Yellowstone Coalition in Washington, DC to meet with legislators and others about the significant impacts the proposed mine would have on their communities, the wildlife, and the Yellowstone River.

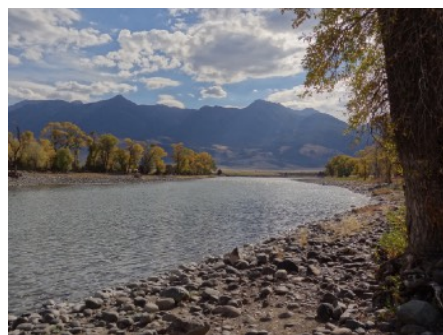
Running late, we headed to the Yellowstone River near Emigrant to meet with Dan Vermillion, chair of the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission. A colleague of Cinnabar’s executive director Gary Wolfe, who also is a Montana F&W commissioner, Dan discussed the recent closure of the Yellowstone River due to an outbreak of Proliferative kidney disease (PKD), a serious parasitic disease of salmonid populations, that resulted in the death of thousands of Mountain Whitefish, but fortunately, relatively few trout were affected. The parasite (*Tetracaula bryosalmonae*) is often present in low numbers, but “the hot summer coupled with the historically low streamflow

caused stressful conditions that made ripe this deadly disease outbreak,” he said. This resulted in the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks imposing an unprecedented emergency recreational closure on a 180-mile stretch of the Yellowstone River to reduce stress on the fish until water conditions improved.

Dan stressed that aquatic invasive species introductions is one of the greatest threats to Montana’s freshwater ecosystems. As a result, MFWP has set up check stations for boats and has made educating anglers and boaters to vigilantly clean and inspect their boats, fishing boots and waders a top priority.

Our last stop was up Tom Miner Basin to meet with PCEC board member Dr. Jesse Logan and observe two groups of grizzlies and their cubs feeding on a high-protein diet of caraway root in preparation for hibernation. “At times,” Dr. Logan told us, “as many as 20 adult grizzly bears and their cubs have been spotted eating alongside each other with no signs of conflict.”

Summing up the day, Michelle said, “I think of Cinnabar as more than a funder, but a barometer for our organization.”



#### Postscript: In November 2016, US

Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell traveled to Montana’s Paradise Valley where she announced a two-year time-out on public lands gold exploration near Yellowstone National Park. Although federal mining leases are on hold, this does not prevent the issuing of mining permits on private land, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. DEQ is currently reviewing the Draft Environmental Assessment associated with Lucky Minerals’ application to proceed with mineral exploration activities on private land in Emigrant Gulch.

## FULFILLING OUR MISSION

### 2016 Conservation Partners

Each year the Cinnabar Foundation partners with scores of nonprofit organizations and educational institutions who are working in areas and habitats within 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.

Our partner grantees use advocacy, capacity-building, communications,

economics, law, policy, research, and science/technology to find long-lasting conservation solutions. Further, we continue to actively support new, emerging as well as experienced leaders in conservation.

We are proud to report that in 2016, the Cinnabar Foundation awarded 85 grants and awards totaling \$409,000 to our following conservation partners:

### CLIMATE ACTION — natural resource extraction, renewable energy, reduction of greenhouse gases, adaptation strategies **\$42,500**

Missoula Community Foundation	\$3,000	Northern Plains Resource Council <sup>3</sup>	\$2,500
Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund	\$10,000	Northwest Energy Coalition	\$4,000
Montana Renewable Energy Association	\$3,000	Western Sustainability Exchange <sup>1</sup>	\$5,000
Northern Plains Resource Council	\$15,000		

### EDUCATION & RESEARCH — conservation, environmental, species **\$71,500**

Artemis Common Ground	\$3,000	Montana Raptor Conservation Center	\$2,000
Braided River <sup>1</sup>	\$1,500	Raptors of the Rockies	\$4,000
Ecology Project International	\$3,000	Rocky Mountain College:	\$3,000
Glacier Institute	\$5,000	Yellowstone River Research Center	
Invasive Species Action Network	\$3,000	Swan Valley Connections	\$10,000
Montana Forest Collaboratives Network <sup>1</sup>	\$2,000	Swan Valley Connections <sup>2</sup>	\$2,000
Montana Natural History Center	\$10,000	Teller Wildlife Refuge	\$4,000
Montana Natural History Center <sup>2</sup>	\$2,000	University of Montana:	\$5,000
Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation	\$5,000	Environmental Studies Program	
Montana Outdoor Science School	\$4,000	Wildlife Management Institute	\$3,000

### ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY — diverse statewide environmental issues **\$61,000**

Friends of Missouri Breaks Monument	\$5,000	National Wildlife Federation	\$3,000
Montana Audubon Council	\$5,000	Park County Environmental Council <sup>2</sup>	\$5,000
Montana Audubon Council <sup>2</sup>	\$3,000	Western Organization of Resource Councils	\$5,000
Montana Environmental Information Center	\$15,000	Wyoming Wildlife Federation	\$2,000
Montana Environmental Information Center <sup>2</sup>	\$3,000	Yaak Valley Forest Council	\$5,000
Montana Wildlife Federation	\$10,000		

### PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION — wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, open space **\$93,500**

Bitter Root Land Trust	\$10,000	Montana Land Reliance <sup>3</sup>	\$2,500
Five Valleys Land Trust	\$10,000	National Parks Conservation Association	\$1,000
Flathead Land Trust	\$10,000	Prickly Pear Land Trust	\$10,000
Gallatin Valley Land Trust	\$10,000	Prickly Pear Land Trust <sup>4</sup>	\$2,000
Kaniksu Land Trust	\$3,000	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$10,000
Montana Association of Land Trusts	\$5,000	Vital Ground	\$10,000
Montana Land Reliance	\$8,000	Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative	\$2,000

<sup>1</sup> **Tawney Opportunity Grant:** helps organizations meet unpredictable challenges or seize opportunities outside the Foundation's regular granting cycle.

<sup>2</sup> **Sargent Legacy Grant:** rewards outstanding conservation work over the course of years.

<sup>3</sup> **Sargent Stewardship Awards:** a special monetary grant designated by the award recipient to an nonprofit environmental organization that benefits from the recipient's efforts and whose mission is in keeping with the purpose of the Cinnabar Foundation.

<sup>4</sup> **Jim Posewitz Professional Conservationist Award:** a special monetary grant designated by the award recipient to an nonprofit environmental organization that benefits from the recipient's efforts and whose mission is in keeping with the purpose of the Cinnabar Foundation.



JM Stauffer, photograph, Madison Valley © 2016

## PUBLIC LANDS — access, advocacy, stewardship, wildlife habitat **\$61,000**

Backcountry Hunter & Anglers	\$5,000	Montana Wilderness Association <sup>4</sup>	\$2,000
EcoFlight	\$1,000	Public Land/Water Access Association <sup>1</sup>	\$5,000
Friends of Scotchman Peak Wilderness	\$4,000	Swan View Coalition	\$2,000
Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance	\$4,000	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	\$5,000
Great Burn Study Group	\$6,000	University of Montana: Wilderness Institute	\$2,000
Hellgate Hunters & Anglers	\$2,000	Western Environmental Law Center	\$5,000
Montana Conservation Corps	\$5,000	Wyoming Outdoor Council	\$3,000
Montana Wilderness Association	\$10,000		

## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES & AGRICULTURE — community-based conservation initiatives, rangeland stewardship, watershed partnerships **\$35,000**

Alternative Energy Resources Organization	\$3,000	Montana Watershed Coordination Council	\$3,000
Big Hole Watershed Committee	\$2,000	Park Co. Cooperative Weed Management Group	\$5,000
Blackfoot Challenge	\$5,000	Roundtable on Crown of the Continent	\$2,000
Blackfoot Challenge <sup>2</sup>	\$2,000	Sun River Watershed Group	\$2,000
Citizens for a Better Flathead	\$5,000	Western Sustainability Exchange	\$3,000
Madison Farm 2 Fork	\$3,000		

## WATER QUALITY & FISHERIES — **\$44,500**

Bitter Root Water Forum	\$3,000	Montana Trout Unlimited <sup>2</sup>	\$3,000
Clark Fork Coalition	\$15,000	Montana Trout Unlimited <sup>4</sup>	\$1,000
Clark Fork Coalition <sup>2</sup>	\$2,500	Rocky Mountain College:	\$3,000
Lolo Watershed Group	\$2,000	Environmental Science Center	
Montana Trout Unlimited	\$10,000	Trout Unlimited	\$5,000

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## Cinnabar Creates New Named Award

### Jim Posewitz Professional Conservationist Award



Larry Peterman, retired chief of field operations for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, with his award.

In 2016, the Cinnabar board voted to establish a new award in honor of Jim Posewitz, the Foundation's first executive director and a founding board member.

Presented from time to time, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, the Jim Posewitz Professional Conservationist Award recognizes natural resource management and conservation professionals, who, like its namesake, have made a significant contribution to Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

The first recipient of this award is Larry Peterman, whose long and distinguished career with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) often found him at the cutting edge of what was possible. He stood up in the 1970s when the Yellowstone River was threatened with massive water diversion and depletion to cool 42 proposed power plants in southeastern Montana and northeastern Wyoming, and water law had no provision to protect stream flows. As the battle raged in a broad political and social forum — Larry Peterman gathered and provided an unprecedented level of field competence to provide the unequivocal information. By the end of that decade, water law was changed, stream flows were reserved for fish and wildlife, and the Yellowstone River remained free-flowing from end to end.

Again and again, Larry stood up — helping to stop construction of a re-

regulating dam downstream from Libby Dam; negotiating with the Montana Power Company to prevent peak operations at Holter Dam; helping to develop and implement the highly controversial water leasing program; and securing staff and funding to manage whirling disease and protect the water supplies of the state's trout hatchery. His leadership ramped up FWP's emphasis on the restoration and protection of native fish species, including Arctic grayling, bull trout and Westslope cutthroat trout.

Over the years, Larry moved up the hierarchy within FWP as Research Projects Chief to Fisheries Division Administrator, and ultimately to Chief of Field Operations.

Today, working in the private sector, Larry continues to fight for the health of the Yellowstone River recently securing significant compensation for and mitigation of fish and wildlife damage caused by contamination from a ruptured oil pipeline.

Larry directed the award's accompanying \$5,000 grant to be divided between three conservation organizations: Trout Unlimited, Montana Wilderness Association and Prickly Pear Land Trust.

## Cinnabar Mourns Stewardship Awardee:

### Mary Beth Percival

Beloved Missoula artist and Cinnabar Foundation Sargent Stewardship Awardee Mary Beth Percival passed away peacefully in December 2016 after a years-long bout with Alzheimer's disease.

Best known for her watercolor paintings, she was a prolific artist who found inspiration in nature and Montana's northern Rockies where she grew up.

Mary Beth and her artist husband, Monte Dolack, were co-recipients of the 2014 Len and Sandy Sargent Stewardship Award in recognition of

their commitment to protecting Montana's wild lands, waters, and wildlife. Both Mary Beth and Monte were extremely generous in donating their art for charitable fundraising activities; and sales of their art prints, posters, and postcards have raised tens of thousands of dollars over the years for conservation nonprofits.

Upon bestowing Mary Beth's Stewardship Award, Cinnabar president Robin Tawney Nichols said, "Your childhood meanderings in the Big Hole and Boulder river valleys, where your father was a ranger for the U.S. Forest Service, led to a strong bond to this big country. Your observations record the unity between artist and beloved landscape and help us see what is often overlooked.

Mary Beth is survived by her devoted and loving husband, Monte.



Mary Beth Percival with husband Monte Dolack upon receiving the 2014 Sargent Stewardship Award.

## Conservation Roundtable Honors Gary Wolfe

In October, the Missoula Area Conservation Roundtable presented Cinnabar Executive Director Gary Wolfe with its *Arnold Bolle Conservation Professional Award*. The award is named in honor of the late Dr. Arnold Bolle, “whose life demonstrated an unparalleled commitment as a professional and as an individual in conservation” It is presented

annually to a national resource management or environmental protection professional working in the public, private, or academic sectors; and can recognize someone for either lifetime achievement or their contribution in any given year.

Gary has spent more than 40 years working in natural resource management and conservation. He joined Cinnabar, in 2014, after leading nonprofit wildlife habitat conservation organizations such as Vital Ground and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.



Cinnabar Foundation executive director, Gary J. Wolfe, holds a Ph.D. in wildlife biology and just completed a 4-year term serving as District 1 Commissioner on the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Photo: Rita Wolfe

### Executive Director Message

continued from page 1

One of the best ways to ensure the most effective organizations receive the funding they need — now and into the future — is by supporting the Cinnabar Foundation. Each year, Cinnabar evaluates the most critical environmental issues facing Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and prioritizes its grant-

making to support those organizations best positioned and equipped to protect and conserve this “last best place.”

Since our founding, in 1983, we have deployed more than \$7.4 million through almost 1,800 grants to “support the constitutional right of Montanans to a clean and healthful environment.”

Please consider a donation this year, or a legacy gift through your will

or trust, to the Cinnabar Foundation. Together we can make a positive difference!

Gary J. Wolfe, Executive Director



### Leaving a Legacy for the Future

Gretchen Rupp wanted to leave a portion of her estate to a highly effective environmental organization. She chose the Cinnabar Foundation.

If you, like Gretchen, would like to include the Cinnabar Foundation in your estate plan, or want to establish a memorial funds in honor of loved ones, please let us know so we can thank you and welcome you to the Conservation Legacy Society.

For more information contact Gary Wolfe at [gwolfe@cinnabarfoundation.org](mailto:gwolfe@cinnabarfoundation.org) or call him at 406.240.7323.

## Join Cinnabar's Conservation Legacy Society

Gretchen Rupp joined . . . here's why:

An educator and water resource expert by profession, Gretchen Rupp didn't set out to join Cinnabar's Conservation Legacy Society. After a career as an environmental engineer and later an Extension specialist and instructor at Montana State University and the director of the Montana Water Center, she began to develop her estate plan. Gretchen describes it this way:

*“I came to Montana in 1984 to work on the investigation of the nation's largest hazardous-waste site, from Butte downstream to Milltown. But of course, the other side of Montana — the wild and beautiful side — quickly claimed by heart. I met Len and Sandy Sargent and knew of their commitment to conserving and preserving Montana's natural*

*resources, as well as the legacy they left behind in the form of the Cinnabar Foundation. So, recently, as I began easing into retirement and developing my estate plan, I chose to name the Cinnabar Foundation as the primary beneficiary of my annuity because it is a highly effective environmental organization.”*

Through Cinnabar Foundation executive director Gary Wolfe, Rupp learned that the Foundation keeps a close eye on the opportunities as well as the challenges facing Montana's conservation heritage and invests in efforts that have the greatest capacity to affect change and ensure long-term conservation outcomes. “I especially like,” Gretchen says, “that Cinnabar understands and values the work being done by small, local and grassroots organizations, and supports these organizations with grants for general operating expenses.”

“We greatly appreciate the trust Gretchen has put in Cinnabar, and are committed to helping her fulfill her conservation legacy,” says Wolfe.

## THE CINNABAR FOUNDATION BY THE NUMBERS: 2016

### GRANTS AND AWARDS

**\$409,000**



### NUMBER OF GRANTS

**85**



### PERCENTAGE SPENT ON GRANTS & PROGRAM INITIATIVES

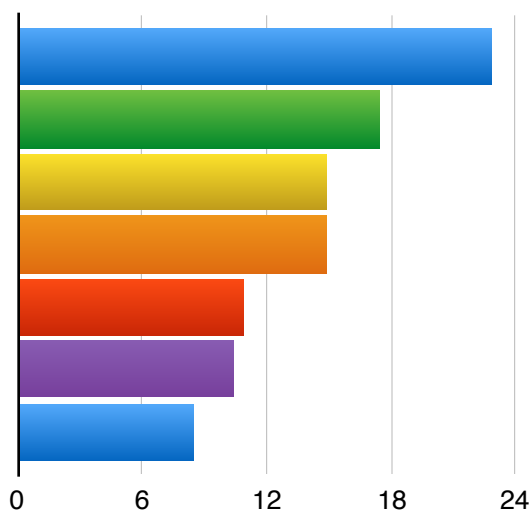
**98.02% \***



♦ The Cinnabar Foundation's administrative expenses are very low (less than 2%) due to the active engagement of the volunteer Board of Directors. The primary administrative expense is salary and operational support for a part-time executive director. The Cinnabar Foundation's most recent IRS Form 990-PF is available on our website.

## CONSERVATION PORTFOLIO

- Private Land Conservation: 22.9%
- Education & Research: 17.5%
- Environmental Advocacy: 14.9%
- Public Lands: 14.9%
- Water Quality & Fisheries: 10.9%
- Climate Action: 10.4%
- Sustainable Communities & Agriculture: 8.5%



**1,790**

**GRANTS AWARDED  
SINCE**

**1985**

**TOTALING  
MORE THAN**

**\$7.47M**

### 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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