

LEN & SANDY SARGENT STEWARDSHIP RECIPIENT

2016

Susan and Jack Heyneman

The 17th Sargent Stewardship Award was given to Susan Heyneman and her late husband, Jack, who were friends of Len and Sandy Sargent, and like them devoted a large part of their lives to conserving the Montana and Greater Yellowstone landscapes. All four served, and in the case of Susan still serve, as role models of informed and effective grass-roots environmentalism and of great generosity of financial and personal support. For the Heynemens 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 groundbreaking 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 easements. 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 fund it, and 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.

Susan and Jack Heyneman’s recognition for outstanding achievements in conservation was accompanied by a special grant of \$5,000 from the Cinnabar Foundation, which they designated to be shared equally by Montana Land Reliance and Northern Plains Resource Council.