

CINNABAR FOUNDATION

2017 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: Mission Range north of Arlee, Montana

Dear Friends,

As predicted, the year 2017 saw a plethora of threats as the new Administration took aim at federal natural resource agencies and their policies. On his first day in office, with glib words and the stroke of a pen, President Trump gave his approval to the Keystone XL pipeline, which would cross northeastern Montana. Over the ensuing months, he began to unravel hallmark national policies designed to protect our clean air and clean water in the face of climate change. Further, the Administration launched a full-on attack against several national monuments.

In Montana, the state legislature mimicked the national scene as it continued its biennial assault to dismantle laws that protect our constitutional right to a “clean and healthful environment.” Conservationists — led by several of our grantees — successfully killed unwanted bills or attained their vetoes by Governor Steve Bullock, who stood up for Montana’s conservation values by vetoing or amending every piece of bad legislation that came before him.

While U.S. Senator Jon Tester has introduced a collaboratively crafted bill that would add 79,000 acres to existing wilderness areas in Montana, Senator Steve Daines has taken an opposite approach. The state’s junior senator is championing a bill that would remove a half-million acres from five wilderness study areas in Montana and change their management

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Cinnabar Honors 2017 Stewardship Awardee

Tim Aldrich

Cinnabar Foundation's 18th Sargent Stewardship awardee Tim Aldrich always has been ready to jump into a fire, whether as a standout University of Montana Grizzly basketball player, a longtime smokejumper, a dedicated Forest Service administrator, or an enthusiastic all-around outdoorsman. Tim's parents taught him to never doubt that he could do something — a lesson he obviously took to heart.

After a long and distinguished career with the U.S. Forest Service, Tim "retired" to embrace his family's legacy of conservation and went right back to work as a volunteer. Like his father, the legendary Don Aldrich, Tim has never been bashful about speaking up and sharing his perspective on myriad conservation issues. At the same time, he built a reputation as a good listener and

dependable team player.

From an early age, Tim realized that success is not about the individual — it's about the team — and modeled that philosophy as president of the Montana Wildlife Federation, as a founder and president of Hellgate Hunters and Anglers, and as the chair of Missoula's Open Space Committee. His common sense and ability to puzzle through complex problems informed his service to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Region 2 Citizen Advisory Council, as well as membership in the department's Finding Common Ground Working Group and its Licensing and Funding Advisory Council. Tim's ability to identify commonalities and work through differences earned him a 2017 gubernatorial appointment to the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission. Earlier, Missoula's Conservation Roundtable recognized his leadership with an award named in his father's honor: the Don Aldrich Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Award.

Tim Aldrich's recognition for outstanding environmental achievement within Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem was accompanied



Cinnabar Foundation chair Robin Tawney Nichols presenting Tim Aldrich with the 2016 Sargent Stewardship Award.

by a special grant of \$5,000 from the Cinnabar Foundation, which he designated to be shared by the Montana Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation.



Conservation Legacy Society Field Trip

A day spent with the Blackfoot Challenge

Last June, Legacy Society members joined Cinnabar Foundation board members on a day-long field trip with the Blackfoot Challenge (BC), one of our longtime conservative partners. Since 1993, the Challenge has coordinated efforts to conserve and enhance the natural resources and rural way of life in the Blackfoot Watershed of western Montana.

Our outing began at the confluence of the Blackfoot and Clearwater Rivers where we met up with Blackfoot Challenge executive director Gary Burnett and members of his board and staff as well as Erin Farris-Olsen, executive director of the Montana Watershed Coordination Council, and Scott Gordon, president of

the Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

We learned that the Blackfoot Watershed encompasses 1.5 million acres beginning atop the Continental Divide and spilling westward to the confluence of the Blackfoot and Clark Fork rivers. The watershed ecosystem includes prairie grasslands, sagebrush steppe, coniferous forest and wetland and riparian areas that are home to the full complement of wildlife that has inhabited the area since Meriwether Lewis passed this way in 1806.

Gary Burnett explained that the Challenge follows a consensus-based model including all watershed landowners, managers and local officials to coordinate partnerships and resources that benefit the Blackfoot Watershed. Through this approach, they find where roughly 80 percent of the stakeholders agree and respond to consensus to implement programs and projects. This organizing principle has greatly reduced

Leaving a Legacy for the Future

If you would like to include the Cinnabar Foundation in your estate plan, or want to establish 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 or call him at 406.240.7323.

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Ernie Turner Steps Down

Assumes Emeritus Position

Leonard Sargent knew what he was doing in 1986 when he recruited the Sargents' savvy accountant and investment advisor, Ernie Turner, to serve on the Cinnabar Foundation's board of directors. In 2017, after three decades as Foundation treasurer, Ernie "retired" and assumed a new role as emeritus board member. He remains Foundation treasurer for the foreseeable future.

"Cinnabar will be forever grateful to Ernie Turner," said Foundation chair Robin Tawney Nichols. "His careful investment strategy and money management over many, many years put the Foundation on the firmest ground possible, poised for continued growth."

Besides his formal role as Foundation treasurer, Ernie, a cattleman, brought a rancher's perspective to the board's deliberations. We will miss his thoughtful input as we move forward, "Thank you, Ernie, for all you've done to make the Cinnabar Foundation what it is today," Robin concluded.



Cinnabar Legacy Society Field Trip continued from page 2



Our day started at the confluence of the Blackfoot and Clearwater Rivers.

conflicts. According to Gary, "The process must be respectful. We don't always agree with each other, but we do respect each other and the process."

BC board member Denny Iverson stressed the "need to transfer this willingness to cooperate to our children, and to continue to share the 'cool work' we are doing, as well as our challenges, with our neighbors."

Water Use and Healthy Fisheries

The Blackfoot Drought Response Plan illustrates how the Challenge approach works. Jennifer Schoonen, BC water steward, explained that the plan is based on the premise of shared sacrifice

with the goal that all Blackfoot water users (agricultural, irrigators, outfitters, recreational users, government agencies, homeowners, business groups, conservation organizations and others) will voluntarily agree to take action that will result in water savings and/or the reduction of stress to fisheries resources during critical low-flow periods, which have occurred in 11 of the last 17 years. Jennifer told us that flexibility and adaptability are key. The Challenge helps water users create individual water conservation plans that improve efficiency in irrigation systems and stewardship practices that enable ranchers to maintain their bottom lines while minimizing the impact on fisheries resources.

Founding BC board chair Land Lindbergh said that the watershed's fishing outfitters are very much a part of this cooperative effort. "They bring in another perspective," he said. "Just like in the old days, there are lots of disagreements, but now we have a process to work through them."

Scott Gordon said the Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU) is focusing on "restoration work to bring the tributaries back into their original channels with healthy riverbanks." He also wholeheartedly agreed about the importance of bringing public and private stakeholders to the table to create partnerships and ensure his group is not operating at cross-purposes. Though only half-way through TU's restoration project, cutthroat and bull trout spawning

has increased as the river's health improves. "Fishing outfitters have been important in making the Blackfoot healthier and they are even calling for more restrictions," Scott said.

Denny Iverson briefly described the challenge of transitioning water rights and the importance of working with the State of Montana and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) on cooperative water management planning. Denny told us that, according to the CSKT Water Compact, "a senior in-stream flow water right to protect native fish habitat will get an earlier priority date and be co-owned by the state and the Tribes."

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Land Lindbergh describes the early days leading up to the founding of the Blackfoot Challenge while Legacy Society member Lynda Saul looks on.

Cinnabar Legacy Society Field Trip

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“When that right goes into effect,” Denny continued, “many local ranches will see their water rights become junior in relation to drought plan requirements. Most ranchers want to participate in voluntary water conservation to help them know where they stand water-wise in a drought year.”

Other challenges facing the Blackfoot Watershed include aquatic invasive species, weeds, and soil health. To address these as well as water policy, the Blackfoot Challenge collaborates with other area conservation organizations like the Clearwater Resource Council and Swan Valley Connections.

Community Conservation

Next we drove northeast of Ovando to the Blackfoot Community Conservation Area (BCCA), an innovative effort involving community forest ownership and cooperative ecosystem management across public and private lands. The BCCA project involves two distinct phases. The first phase (the Core) is a working landscape of 5,609 acres of former Plum Creek Timber Company lands that were transferred from The Nature Conservancy to the Blackfoot Challenge in 2008. The second phase involves joint management of the Core with the larger BCCA itself — the surrounding public and private lands that comprise a 41,000-acre multiple-use



Erin Farris-Olsen, executive director of the Montana Watershed Coordination Council, which is also a recipient of Cinnabar funding, explains to Legacy Society and Cinnabar board members how her organization complements the work of the Blackfoot Challenge and other watershed conservation groups throughout Montana.

demonstration area for the watershed. This area is a pilot for innovative access, land stewardship and restoration practices. Landowners in this larger portion of the BCCA include the Lolo National Forest, two state resource agencies, and a number of private landowners.

BC executive director Gary Burnett said this area is managed by a council of stakeholders for a variety of uses and is open to public access year-round, including a six-week period for motorized use in the summer.

In January 2015, The Nature Conservancy purchased all of the remaining Plum Creek land in the lower Blackfoot Watershed — about 117,000 acres. The Conservancy is exploring the potential for other community forests and has studied models in the U.S. and Canada to learn what makes them successful.

Gary stressed that getting people out onto the BCCA is an important component of managing this land. “We think conservation happens through protection, restoration, stewardship and continued education,” Gary explained. “Because of the (BCCA) partnerships, 83 percent of the Blackfoot Watershed has been protected through public ownership of conservation easements. The work continues through restoration, and it’s the long-term stewardship that is sustainable.

That is how we support our communities. That is the end game.”

The Blackfoot Challenge also is taking a closer look at how to support rural economic development. Working with Headwaters Economics out of Bozeman, the Challenge gathered public input from Blackfoot Watershed residents to assess how to best balance heritage values, recreational opportunities and economic growth in the area while not compromising conservation efforts.

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The Blackfoot Community Conservation Area’s management plan includes grazing, timber, recreation and wildlife goals.



Blackfoot Challenge executive director Gary Burnett, with staff member Sara Schmidt and a map of the Blackfoot Watershed, describes the hallmark of the Blackfoot Community Conservation Area as a balancing of economic, community and environmental interests.

Cinnabar Legacy Society Field Trip

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Randy Gazda, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and chair of the Blackfoot Challenge's Wildlife Committee.

Serving a Need: Carcass Pickup

The last portion of our information-rich and inspiring field trip focused on another Challenge initiative, the Carcass Pick-Up and Composting program.

This program provides a practical solution to minimizing predation and, thus, livestock loss and human-wildlife conflicts. Whether by predation or natural means, death is a constant specter in the life of a rancher. For example, death loss during the spring calving

season is a part of ranching. In the past, ranchers would pile dead animals on their properties, creating a natural attractant for bears and wolves. Attracting predators would threaten the living herds, causing more loss or impacting weight gain, both factors that affect the rancher's bottom line. Working with its public and private partners, the Blackfoot Challenge's Wildlife Committee created a program to remove carcasses before predation could occur.

"Instead of each rancher having their own boneyard, which increases wildlife conflict," explained Wildlife Committee chair Randy Gazda of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (F&WS), "this is a cooperative project between ranchers, the Fish & Wildlife Service, which provides a truck, and coordination and funding from the Blackfoot Challenge for picking up carcasses."

Each year about 250 carcasses are hauled to the Montana Department of Transportation (DOT) composting site in Clearwater. The carcasses, we learned, take a minimum of 60 days to break down. The state DOT uses the resulting compost for its roadside revegetation projects.

The Carcass Pick-up and Composting Program is a creative and

practical solution to a real problem. The program is one more link to the mission of the Blackfoot Challenge to find consensus-based working solutions that conserve and enhance the natural resources and rural way of life of the Blackfoot Watershed.

We ended our field trip with a reminder from Challenge board chair Jim Stone: "As ranchers, we live to sign the back of the check."

Postscript: The Cinnabar Foundation awarded its first grant to the Blackfoot Challenge in 1996, their fourth year of operation. Since that time, Cinnabar has provided the Blackfoot Challenge with more than \$90,000 in grants.

The Blackfoot Challenge operates programs within five of the Cinnabar Foundation's seven conservation priority program areas. Their mission — to coordinate efforts that conserve and enhance the natural resources and rural way of life throughout the watershed — exemplifies community-based conservation in concert with Cinnabar's vision of a future for Montana and its greater ecosystems.

Dear Friends

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status from protected to multiple use.

With a climate change denier in the White House, a hostile legislature, and two-thirds of our Congressional delegation bent on dismantling laws that protect our wildlands, clean air and clean water, we will continue to see an all-out assault on the environment during the year 2018.

Yet, despite the challenges, we at the Cinnabar Foundation have plenty of hope:

- ▶ Hope because a federal district judge rejected claims by the U.S. State Department and TransCanada that the president does not have to comply with bedrock environmental laws, thus assuring our grantees and other organizations that they will

have their day in court to stop the Keystone XL pipeline.

- ▶ Hope because our grantees are pushing back and holding the conservation naysayers accountable.

- ▶ Hope because our grantees are not afraid to address the issues and promote policies to combat climate change and promote public access.

- ▶ Hope because our grantees continue to promote and support sustainable communities and collaborative action.

- ▶ Hope because a Colorado College poll showed an overwhelming percentage of Montanans support protecting land, water, wildlife, and public access, with 82 percent of Montanans self-identifying as conservationists.

- ▶ Hope because the Cinnabar Foundation is here for the long haul — perpetuity — and will continue to

support environmental advocacy, private land conservation, public lands and public access, natural history education, and sustainable communities.

- ▶ Hope because, working with conservation funding partners like Rose Letwin and the Wilburforce Foundation, we can more effectively meet the needs of nonprofit organizations in Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

You can help us meet the challenges of today and tomorrow by supporting the Cinnabar Foundation through a donation or legacy gift through your will or trust.

Robin Tawney Nichols

Robin Tawney Nichols
Chair, Cinnabar Foundation

FULFILLING OUR MISSION

2017 Conservation Partners

Each year the Cinnabar Foundation partners with scores of nonprofit organizations and educational institutions which are working within

Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

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 both new and experienced leaders in conservation.

We are proud to report that in 2017, the Cinnabar Foundation awarded 80 grants and awards totaling \$422,000 to our following conservation partners:

CLIMATE ACTION — natural resource extraction, renewable energy, reduction of greenhouse gases, adaptation strategies

\$12,000

Climate Smart Glacier Country	\$2,000	Montana Renewable Energy Association	\$3,000
Missoula Community Foundation	\$3,000	Northwest Energy Coalition	\$4,000

EDUCATION & RESEARCH — conservation, environmental, species

\$52,500

Artemis Common Ground	\$3,000	Swan Valley Connections	\$10,000
Ecology Project International	\$3,000	Teller Wildlife Refuge	\$5,000
Montana Natural History Center	\$12,000	University of Montana: Crown of the	\$2,000
Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame	\$2,500	Continent & Greater Yellowstone Initiative ¹	
Raptor View Research Institute	\$3,000	University of Montana:	\$5,000
Raptors of the Rockies	\$4,000	Environmental Studies Program ⁴	
		Wildlife Management Institute	\$3,000

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY — diverse statewide environmental issues

\$98,000

American Whitewater	\$3,000	Montana Wildlife Federation ³	\$2,500
Cabinet Resource Group	\$3,000	National Wildlife Federation	\$3,000
Forward Montana	\$3,000	National Wildlife Federation ³	\$2,500
Forward Montana ²	\$2,000	Northern Plains Resource Council	\$15,000
Montana Audubon	\$7,000	Park County Environmental Council	\$7,000
Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund	\$12,000	Western Organization of Resource Councils	\$5,000
Montana Environmental Information Center	\$15,000	Wyoming Wildlife Federation	\$3,000
Montana Wildlife Federation	\$10,000	Yellowstone to Yukon	\$5,000

PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION — wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, open space

\$79,500

Big Hole Watershed Committee	\$2,000	Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation:	\$6,500
Bitter Root Land Trust	\$10,000	JRCT Chapter ¹	
Ducks Unlimited	\$3,000	Montana Association of Land Trusts	\$5,000
Five Valleys Land Trust	\$10,000	Montana Land Reliance	\$5,000
Flathead Land Trust	\$10,000	National Parks Conservation Association	\$2,000
Gallatin Valley Land Trust	\$8,000	Prickly Pear Land Trust	\$8,000
		Vital Ground	\$10,000



photo: National Bison Range

PUBLIC LANDS — access, advocacy, stewardship, wildlife habitat

\$92,500

Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation	\$3,000	Montana Forest Collaboration Network	\$2,000
Backcountry Hunter & Anglers	\$5,000	Montana Wilderness Association	\$12,000
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers ²	\$2,000	Pheasants Forever	\$5,000
Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation	\$2,000	Public Land/Water Access Association ¹	\$4,500
Center for Large Landscape Conservation ¹	\$5,000	Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation	\$3,000
Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument	\$5,000	Swan View Coalition	\$4,000
Friends of Scotchman Peak Wilderness	\$5,000	The Wilderness Land Trust	\$3,000
Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance ²	\$3,000	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	\$5,000
Great Burn Study Group	\$6,000	Wyoming Outdoor Council	\$5,000
Montana Conservation Corps	\$5,000	Yaak Valley Forest Council	\$8,000

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES & AGRICULTURE — community-based conservation initiatives, rangeland stewardship, watershed partnerships

\$49,000

Alternative Energy Resources Organization	\$3,000	Montana Watershed Coordination Council	\$5,000
Big Hole Watershed Committee ²	\$2,000	Montana Watershed Coordination Council ²	\$2,000
Blackfoot Challenge	\$15,000	Rocky Mountain Front Weed Roundtable	\$5,000
Citizens for a Better Flathead	\$5,000	Roundtable on Crown of the Continent	\$2,000
Madison Farm 2 Fork	\$3,000	Western Sustainability Exchange	\$5,000
		Western Sustainability Exchange ²	\$2,000

WATER QUALITY & FISHERIES

\$38,500

Clark Fork Coalition	\$15,000	Montana Trout Unlimited ²	\$2,500
Clearwater Resource Council	\$3,000	Rocky Mountain College: Environmental Science Center	\$3,000
Montana Trout Unlimited	\$10,000	Trout Unlimited	\$5,000

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

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

³ **Sargent Stewardship Award:** a special monetary grant designated by the award recipient to a nonprofit environmental organization whose mission is in keeping with the purpose of the Cinnabar Foundation.

⁴ **Cinnabar Program Initiative**

Conservation Partner Spotlight:

Our River's Keeper: A Portrait of the Clark Fork Coalition

by Matt Hart

Spend an hour beside the Clark Fork River in Missoula and you're likely to see everything from fly fishermen to kayakers to great blue herons. If they all have one thing in common, beyond their ties to the river itself, it's a debt to the organization that has spent more than 30 years looking out for the waterway.

Since 1985, the Clark Fork Coalition (CFC) has been protecting and restoring the Clark Fork Watershed. Its work continues thanks to ongoing support from partners like the Cinnabar Foundation, with whom the CFC shares a long relationship.

"It's all connected, we're all connected," says Karen Knudsen, the Coalition's executive director, who has served the organization in many roles for 23 years. "What happens upstream impacts people's lives and wildlife and connections downstream. To the extent that people can carry that fundamental



Milltown dam before and after: The Clark Fork Coalition led the way in removing the 100 year-old dam east of Missoula, which had displaced the historic confluence of the Blackfoot and Clark Fork rivers and was the source of high levels of arsenic in local drinking water. The dam also prevented native fish, such as the threatened bull trout, from spawning and migrating. Today, this vibrant confluence and floodplain is a state park.

truth about rivers into their lives, I think we can make some good headway and solve some big issues."

Community Catalysts

The Coalition was born from need. In 1984, the state of Montana issued a permit allowing Champion International Paper to expand production at its pulp and paper mill just west of Missoula and to increase polluted wastewater discharges to the Clark Fork in the process. From sportsmen in Anaconda to citizens in Missoula to business owners in Sandpoint, Idaho, concerned

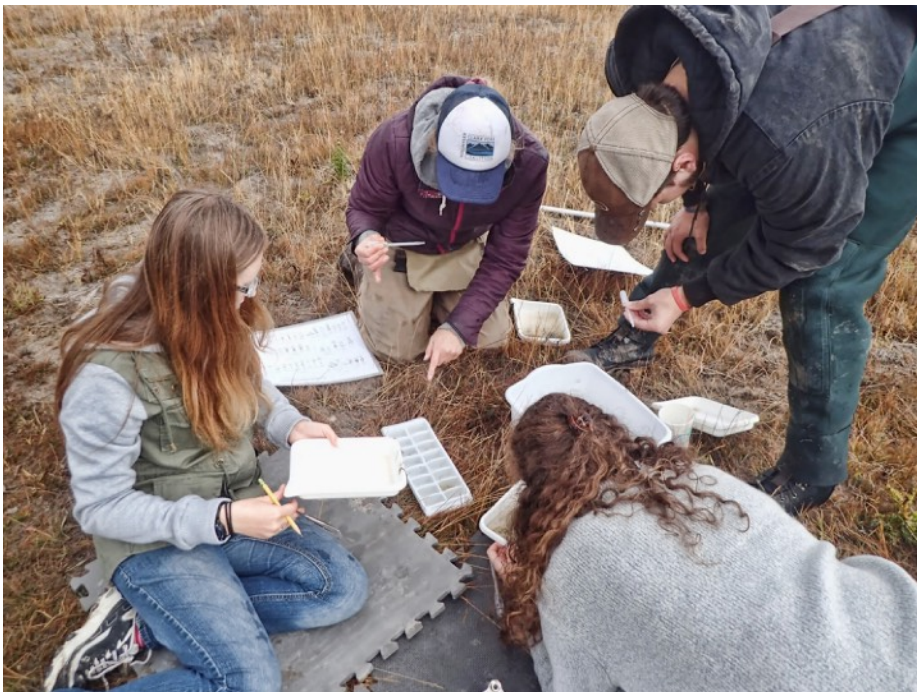
stakeholders up and down the Clark Fork recognized the need for an organized defense.

"It was a major public outcry," Knudsen recounts. "It seemed to be a flashpoint that catalyzed a lot of interest from folks who cared about the river."

In 1985, members of the newly-minted Clark Fork Coalition sat down with state and mill representatives and successfully stopped the permit from raising discharge limits. But the work was just beginning.

To keep it going, the new Coalition needed partners that shared their vision for a vibrant, interconnected western Montana. In 1986, the CFC first approached Cinnabar, which itself was only three years old, and in just its second year of grant-making. Cinnabar has funded the Coalition every year since 1986, typically with general operating support. That means that while Cinnabar shares in the CFC's many landmark successes, it can also take pride in an essential behind-the-scenes role. A flashy new project may attract support from many sides, but it is consistent general funding like Cinnabar's that kept the heat on — sometimes literally — for the CFC.

"Cinnabar has been with us through an amazing run," reflected Pat Ortmeyer, communications and development director for the CFC. Their first investment came when the river was still orange and the thought of removing a dam wasn't even a glimmer in the eyes of the Coalition."



Deer Lodge Valley students ID-ing macro-invertebrates from Modesty Creek.

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Conservation Partner Spotlight

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Poison and Politics

Backed by its first grant from Cinnabar, the CFC began its magnum opus in 1986, sending delegates to Washington, D.C., to urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to include the Upper Clark Fork River in its Superfund program, an initiative created in 1980 to clean up the country's worst hazardous waste sites.

The effort was based on a basic truth of ecology — a healthy river cannot be divided. While the Berkeley Pit, site of a former Butte copper mine, and the Milltown Dam 140 miles downstream received Superfund designations in 1981, the basin between them had no protection, despite a century of mining pollution impacting its fish, wildlife and human communities. While it could not achieve full protection of the Upper Clark Fork, the CFC achieved Superfund designation — and the resultant promise of federal cleanup efforts — for a 56-mile stretch of the river, a monumental achievement given Superfund's typical role of cleaning up small, specific sites of pollution.

The Coalition's vision was even larger, however. Throughout the 1990s, it spearheaded studies, organized rallies and recruited more than 10,000 public comments calling for outright removal of Milltown Dam, the key step in allowing the watershed to flush its dirty history and heal. Finally, in 2003, the EPA approved removal and reservoir cleanup, and after another four years of preparation, the dam came down in 2008.

"It required tons of science, tons of policy work, tons of outreach and community education," Knudsen recalls of the long dam-removal fight. "We were sharpening all of those approaches."

Restoration and Renewal

Dam removal opened a new channel of service to the Coalition: restoration of the polluted Upper Clark Fork. Beyond watchdogging the federal Superfund cleanup, the CFC launched its own campaign to rewater, reconnect, and restore the Upper Clark Fork's tributaries.



Volunteers at annual Clark Fork cleanup.

The strategy utilizes staff, student interns and community volunteers who plan and execute riparian habitat improvement projects. Behind the scenes, it relies on negotiating new water leases with landowners, seeking critical compromises that conserve irrigation water and add flows to dry or disconnected creeks. The results are tangible.

"Some bull trout or cutthroat that's swimming through Missoula is making its way back up to a tiny creek in the Deer Lodge Valley, and if things are working right, can come all the way back down," says Ortmeyer. "We're past the point where this river could ever run red again, and that's something. That's huge."

The Coalition is looking out for the region's future as well. At its Cottonwood Creek Ranch property in the Deer Lodge Valley, the CFC tests new restoration techniques and teaches the importance of river health to school groups from up and down the watershed. It also remains an organizing leader, teaming with like-minded groups to oppose mine expansion proposals in both the Cabinet Mountains and the Blackfoot Valley.

Through it all, Cinnabar has steadily backed the Coalition's diverse efforts. The organizations' 32-year partnership shows no sign of slowing, either, as a changing

climate and growing population foretell new challenges ahead.

"Rivers are dynamic systems," Knudsen says. "Even if we'd like to think that at one point we'd become irrelevant, that we could put ourselves out of business, it's not going to happen. We need to make sure growth and development take place in a way that's sensitive to the needs of the river, that takes people and water into account. We can't just put that on automatic pilot, even in Missoula."

Still, the Missoula community provides generous bedrock for the Coalition, thanks to a thriving membership of individuals. These supporters contribute in myriad ways, from end-of-the-year checks to public cleanup days with the Coalition's Volunteer River Corps. It's this on-the-ground presence, supported by partners like Cinnabar, that leaves the CFC equipped for the long haul.

"People go to rivers for renewal," says Knudsen. "Every community needs that, and this region really appreciates that about the Clark Fork. It allows us to take a really optimistic approach to work every day."

THE CINNABAR FOUNDATION BY THE NUMBERS: 2017

GRANTS AND AWARDS

\$422,000



NUMBER OF GRANTS

80



PERCENTAGE SPENT ON GRANTS & PROGRAM INITIATIVES

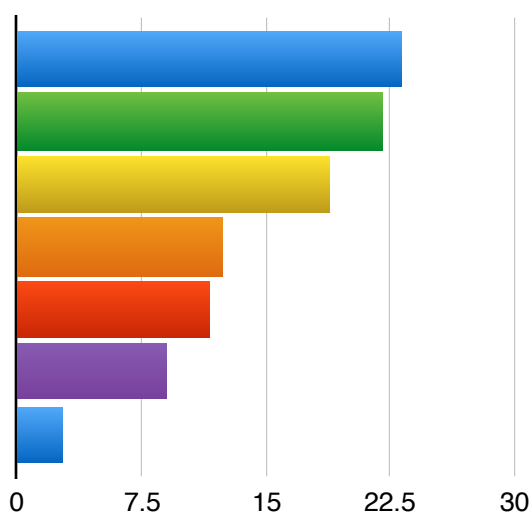
98.0% *



★ The Cinnabar Foundation's administrative expenses are very low (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

- Environmental Advocacy: 23.2%
- Public Lands: 22.0%
- Private Land Conservation: 18.9%
- Education & Research: 12.4%
- Sustainable Communities & Agriculture: 11.6%
- Water Quality & Fisheries: 9.1%
- Climate Action: 2.8%



1,872

**GRANTS AWARDED
SINCE**

1985

**TOTALING
NEARLY**

\$7.89M

WHO WE ARE

PRESIDENT	Robin Tawney Nichols
VICE PRESIDENT	Gordon "Corky" Brittan
SECRETARY	Judi Stauffer
TREASURER/ DIRECTOR EMERITUS	Ernie Turner
AT LARGE	Grant Parker
DIRECTOR EMERITUS	Jim Posewitz
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Gary J. Wolfe

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