The first Rick Hubbard Sargent Innovation Award was made to the Montana Watershed Coordination Council (Helena, Montana) for its innovative approach to combining state, federal and foundation funding in a statewide “Watershed Fund” to advance two primary goals:

1) Increase the capacity of local communities to advance community-based and locally led conservation, and

2) Provide a model for streamlining, consolidating, and leveraging resources for locally led conservation statewide.

The Watershed Fund provides grant opportunities to more than 60 local watershed organizations throughout Montana, and will be used to assist with organizational capacity building, professional development opportunities for watershed coordinators, and project implementation. Supporting MWCC’s Watershed Fund leverages Cinnabar’s investment for greater impact statewide.

The Montana Watershed Coordination Council received $10,000 as a contribution to the Watershed Fund.