

CINNABAR FOUNDATION

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.



Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, Corwin Springs, Montana

Dear Friends,

As we marked 37 bold years at the Cinnabar Foundation, the Covid pandemic catapulted us into an unprecedented year of challenges, adjustments, action and transformation.

The first half of the year inspired us to commit more deeply to our organizational mission to “help protect and conserve important lands, water and wildlife in Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.” To that end, we created an ambitious five-year Strategic Framework to guide the Foundation through 2026. We also learned how to hold virtual meetings that allowed our Board to meet more often than ever before. During the second half of 2020, we adopted both the Framework and an accompanying Development Plan; learned that our Executive Director Gary Wolfe will be retiring after the 2021 grant cycle and began preparing to recruit his replacement; and determined grant funding priorities for the uncertain year ahead.

The pandemic also coincided with several significant turning points for the Cinnabar Foundation. First, Jim Posewitz, the last of the Foundation's founders, passed away after

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Gary Wolfe to Retire as Cinnabar Executive Director



Gary Wolfe served as Cinnabar's third executive director from 2015 to 2021.

Photo: Lisa Densmore Ballard

After more than six years as Executive Director of the Cinnabar Foundation, Gary Wolfe will begin a well-deserved retirement at the end of June 2021. A professional wildlife biologist with special expertise on North American ungulates and carnivores, Wolfe has devoted his career to the protection, health, and vigor of western landscapes and the charismatic species that inhabit them. A brief summary of the positions Wolfe has held – Wildlife Biologist/General Manager of the Vermejo Ranch (NM), President and CEO of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Executive Director of Vital Ground Foundation, Fish & Wildlife Commissioner for the state of Montana, as well as ED of the Cinnabar Foundation—only begins to describe the key roles he has played in the public, private and nonprofit sectors for more than 40 years.

“The Cinnabar Foundation has benefited immensely from Gary’s vast experience with conservation issues and

the very wide network of individuals and organizations dedicated to their resolution,” said Foundation Board President Gordon “Corky” Brittan. “It has been a joy and an education to work with such a creative and capable Executive Director, and the Board of Directors will very much miss his leadership even as it wishes him and his wife Rita the best of times fishing, hunting, and deepening their understanding of the wildlife and wild places they love.”

Brittan continued, “Gary’s commitment to the mission of the Cinnabar Foundation is reflected in his willingness to continue serving as our Executive Director until someone new is hired and the subsequent transition is complete. Rest assured, the Cinnabar Foundation will continue to expand its positive impact on conservation efforts in Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.”

Dear Friends

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37 years of service to the Cinnabar Foundation as a founding Board Member, our first Executive Director, and our first Emeritus Director. Second, in 2019 we noted that several large private foundations that fund conservation projects in Montana were nearing their sunset dates. The loss of these important funders means the end of millions of dollars that once flowed to conservation and environmental organizations throughout our funding region. But Cinnabar has been preparing for this funding void. As made clear in our 2021-2026 Strategic Framework, we set new and ambitious goals to fulfill our role as *Montana’s Conservation Fund*. We recognize that our work has never been needed more, and we are committed to growing Cinnabar’s resources more vigorously and deploying them more strategically. It is only in this way that we can amplify and extend the indispensable work of our conservation partners to protect our irreplaceable landscapes and wildlife.

Finally, we recognize that Cinnabar’s work would not be possible without the tireless efforts of our part-time Executive Director Gary Wolfe; the active involvement of each of our five Board Members who take stock of the challenges, chart the course, and fill in the gaps; and the invaluable support of our annual donors and Conservation Legacy Society members.

We invite you to explore Cinnabar’s **2021-2026 Strategic Framework**, which outlines what the Foundation does, its accomplishments and impacts, the challenges we perceive, and how the Board has positioned Cinnabar for the years ahead.

While 2020 was an exceedingly challenging year on all fronts, we are optimistic about the future. We feel confident that the conservation partners Cinnabar funds will continue to work tirelessly, skillfully and boldly to conserve, preserve and restore the natural heritage of Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and help our communities as they adapt to change.



Kootenai Falls in Lincoln County, Montana

If you would like to help us fulfill Cinnabar’s vision, please consider making a donation to the Cinnabar Foundation or join us for the long haul by becoming a Conservation Legacy Society member. For more information, contact Gary Wolfe at 406 240 7323 or gwolfe@cinnabarfoundation.org.

Gordon “Corky” Brittan

Gordon “Corky” Brittan
President, Cinnabar Foundation Board

Cinnabar Plans for the Future

2021-2026 Strategic Framework

As the Cinnabar Foundation moves ever closer to celebrating 40 years as *Montana's Conservation Fund*, our 2021-2026 Strategic Framework serves as our guide. This Framework reaffirms Cinnabar's mission and emphasizes the

new and increasing needs of conservation nonprofit organizations in Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE).

To meet those needs, Board members and staff took detailed stock of the Foundation's collaborative impact. We developed an ambitious financial strategy to expand Cinnabar's Legacy Society and grow the endowment to meet the challenges and opportunities that exist today and those that will emerge in years to come. Through the Strategic Framework, the Foundation

reaffirms its pledge to support our conservation partners while we forge a path to a sustainable future, and captures the intentions of Cinnabar's founders who wanted to build a stable funding source for conservation nonprofits in our region. It offers a road map from where we started to where we are heading.

Please join us in bringing this enduring vision to fruition!

You can access the Strategic Framework on our website, www.cinnabarfoundation.org.

The Cinnabar Foundation Strategic Plan seeks to:

- Enhance our grant-making program by sharpening our focus and priorities while retaining our fundamental model and operations.
- Strike a delicate balance between responding ambitiously to the urgency and gravity of the moment and delivering tangible and measurable service to our conservation partners and our extended "family" of donors and conservation awardees.
- Remain structured and detailed enough to ensure accountability and reliability, but nimble enough to allow room to take on new initiatives.
- Sustain and enhance what our conservation partners value most about the Cinnabar Foundation — a dependable source of funding from a homegrown foundation singularly focused on conservation and the environment in Montana and the GYE.
- Sustain and grow what our Legacy Society members value most about the Cinnabar Foundation — the opportunity to pool resources to strengthen *Montana's Conservation Fund* and more effectively address the challenges and opportunities of today and tomorrow.

Cinnabar's Impact Throughout Montana and GYE

The Cinnabar Foundation's impact is seen and felt throughout Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) and is reflected in the successes of the region's thriving environmental and conservation community.

Because grants from the Cinnabar Foundation require a 1:1 match, their impact is doubled. As a result, since 1985 when the Foundation awarded its first grants, our 300 conservation partners have leveraged nearly \$20 million for programs, projects and organizational capacity to support their

vital work.

Examples of the impact Cinnabar's recent investments (2015-2019) have had in each of our conservation program areas include:

❖ Community Conservation & Sustainable Agriculture

More than \$225,000 has been invested in community-based watershed collaborations, land-use planning, and citizen science data collection. Long-term investment in the Western Sustainability Exchange (Livingston, MT) has facilitated sustainable private land stewardship on over 1.45 million acres in Montana and the GYE by teaching, working and incentivizing farmers and ranchers to use regenerative agricultural practices that preserve open

space and wildlife habitat by connecting producers to lucrative markets.

❖ Conservation Education and Research

Cinnabar has invested approximately \$350,000 in local, state and regional education programs that address climate adaptation, renewable energy, water conservation, and wilderness stewardship, reaching students of all ages. Long-term investment in the Montana Natural History Center (Missoula, MT) has supported state-of-the-art conservation and ecology teaching modules that are used by schools throughout Montana. In 2019 alone, MNHC reached over 15,000

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Elections Have Consequences

Montana's Changing Political Landscape

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Cinnabar Foundation cannot engage in political campaigns on behalf of (or in opposition to) either candidates for elective public office or ballot initiatives. Yet election results impact legislation, executive orders, and administrative policies — all critical to the work of Cinnabar's conservation partners. We asked a cross section of our Montana grantees to share their thoughts about how the historic 2020 election will affect their work in coming years.

At the national level, these grantees agreed that the Biden-Harris Administration and a Democrat-controlled Congress, will be much more focused on protecting the environment, confronting climate change, and advancing science-based solutions to natural resource issues than the previous administration. If they are right, our conservation partners should see some excellent opportunities to support federal policies and advance actions favorable to our air, waters, wildlands, and wildlife.

At the state level, the situation is quite different. For the first time in 16 years, Republicans control both legislative chambers, hold all the state's top leadership posts, and fill every seat on the five-member Public Service Commission. Governor Greg Gianforte and Republican legislative leaders early on declared their goal to grow Montana's economy and create jobs through extractive industries.

To help achieve this goal, the Governor appointed new directors to head the agencies responsible for Montana's environment and natural resources, including the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP); Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); and Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). These agency directors have considerable discretion to install or remove staff from key positions and to set agency policies that implement the Governor's priorities. The Governor has

also appointed new members to a number of citizen advisory boards, committees and commissions that help guide the direction of each department.

Clearly, the results of Montana's recent election present real challenges to the environment and the conservation community. **Following is a summary of the comments and concerns we received from our conservation partners, without attribution.**

Rollback of State Environmental Regulations

- One of the Governor's priorities is speeding up environmental permitting. This is code for weakening air, water, mining, and waste safeguards (rules and laws) and decreasing public access to decision making.
- Public participation has always been integral to environmental protection, and it has long been a target for develop-at-any-cost policy makers.
- Consistent with his stated goal to open the state to more resource extraction, Governor Gianforte has referred to the DEQ and DNRC as "project prevention departments." This foreshadows efforts to weaken regulatory departments that are really the only place where Montana citizens can go to seek protection from toxic pollution, depleted aquifers, and the like.
- We worry that laws designed to protect clean water could be the first to go. It's easy to imagine that there will be no mine unpermitted under the new administration, and that mining regulations will be stripped away.
- Under the banner of being fiscally conservative, the Republican leadership seeks to cut appropriations to already underfunded state agencies (FWP, DEQ and DNRC) that oversee the management, protection and permitting of our natural resources and their use and preservation. This is a classic example of cutting budgets of environmental agencies so they cannot and do not do their jobs well,

then pointing at them saying, "See, government oversight doesn't work." Hence, the need for further cuts.

- In recent years, Montana has had governors who had the public's back and used their veto power to stop some of the worst and most irresponsible legislation emerging from the Capitol. The mere threat of a veto helped limit the most egregious legislation. There is widespread concern that this backstop is no longer available.

Clean Energy

- Governor Gianforte has said that one of his top priorities is keeping the coal-fired generating plants at Colstrip online. We believe that priority extends beyond Colstrip to include a strategy to encourage all fossil fuel development and to discourage or interfere with clean energy deployment. We anticipate this administration will do whatever it can to encourage or require the continued operation of coal mines, coal plants, oil and gas development, and the construction of new gas plants at the expense of consumers.
- The cleanup of Colstrip's ash ponds is another major concern. The DEQ approved a cleanup plan for Units 1 and 2 (the oldest and dirtiest coal-fired generating plants at Colstrip), however the plants' owner, Talen Energy, has appealed that plan, and the decision on that appeal will be made under the aegis of the new DEQ director. We are confident that the existing plan is well justified and economically beneficial to the town of Colstrip, but we are less certain about how the new DEQ director will proceed.
- Montana's energy advocates need to be even more focused on engaging with elected leaders and connecting them with Montanans who are being affected by their decisions. In short, my biggest concern is not necessarily the attitudes that elected officials currently hold, it's their willingness

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Continuing the Legacy of Activist Philanthropy

Conservation Legacy Society Members Give More

The Cinnabar Foundation is the extraordinary legacy of Len and Sandy Sargent, who as activists and philanthropists were always willing to add their voices and offer financial support to Montana's grassroots environmental movement. Seeding the Foundation was a natural extension of their philanthropy. The intent was, and continues to be, to invite others to join in growing this permanent fund by consolidating and strategically directing resources in perpetuity.

As Robin Tawney Nichols writes in *A Legacy of Activist Philanthropy*, "They (the Sargents) did all they could to help build strong organizations, but to Len, the time and money spent were never enough. Each year, when the Cinnabar Foundation board met to decide how to allocate available funds, Len always would lament, 'I wish I could've given more.'"

With the Sargents' spirit in mind, the Cinnabar Foundation board and its then executive director Steve Thompson launched the *Conservation Legacy Society* (CLS) in 2013 to invite others to join in growing this private independent foundation in perpetuity. The Society recognizes individuals and families who make provisions for the Cinnabar Foundation in their planned giving or establish memorial funds in honor of loved ones.

Conservation Legacy Society

This year, we highlight three Conservation Legacy Society members who continue to enhance the Foundation's ability to faithfully support nonprofit conservation organizations in Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

- **Lynda Saul** became a CLS member in 2014 by establishing a deferred gift annuity designated for the Cinnabar Foundation through the

Montana Community Foundation. In 2020, Lynda reprised her commitment by supporting the Cinnabar Foundation through another planned charitable gift.

Lynda retired in 2015 from a career devoted to watershed and wetland conservation. In her work, she saw firsthand the importance of providing operating funds to Montana's grassroots conservation organizations. Cinnabar provides that critical funding. And while they say "you can't take it with you," you certainly can plan for a conservation legacy that outlives you. That's why Lynda has chosen to include the Cinnabar Foundation in her planned giving both during her lifetime and beyond. She encourages others "to support the grassroots environmental movement in Montana, which is very important to me."

- **Marsha and Doug Okland** became CLS members in 2019 by designating the Cinnabar Foundation as a beneficiary of a charitable gift annuity through the Montana Community Foundation. The Oklands chose to add to their gift in 2020 because they feel that Cinnabar's mission is aligned with their passions. As Marsha and Doug noted: "The Cinnabar Foundation

continues to impress us with their partnerships with numerous nonprofit and educational organizations advocating and supporting environmental issues which are important to us (public lands, clean air and water, habitat and public access)." As a matter of fact, during a meeting with Gary Wolfe and Robin Tawney Nichols, the Oklands discovered that almost every conservation organization they support either is or has been a Cinnabar grantee. They realized they would be enhancing their fiscal support to their favorite organizations through Cinnabar's grant program.

Marsha and Doug believe that continued planned giving to the Cinnabar Foundation is a wise investment that not only benefits them, but will help protect the places they love to visit, now and in the future.

- **David Scrimm** became a CLS member in 2019. He connected with the Cinnabar Foundation through his friendship with Len and Sandy Sargent and his involvement in the establishment of the Park County Environmental Council (PCEC) in 1989. David said he

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David Scrimm is Cinnabar's most recent Conservation Legacy Society Member.

Land Use Planning as an Important Conservation Strategy

by PCEC staff

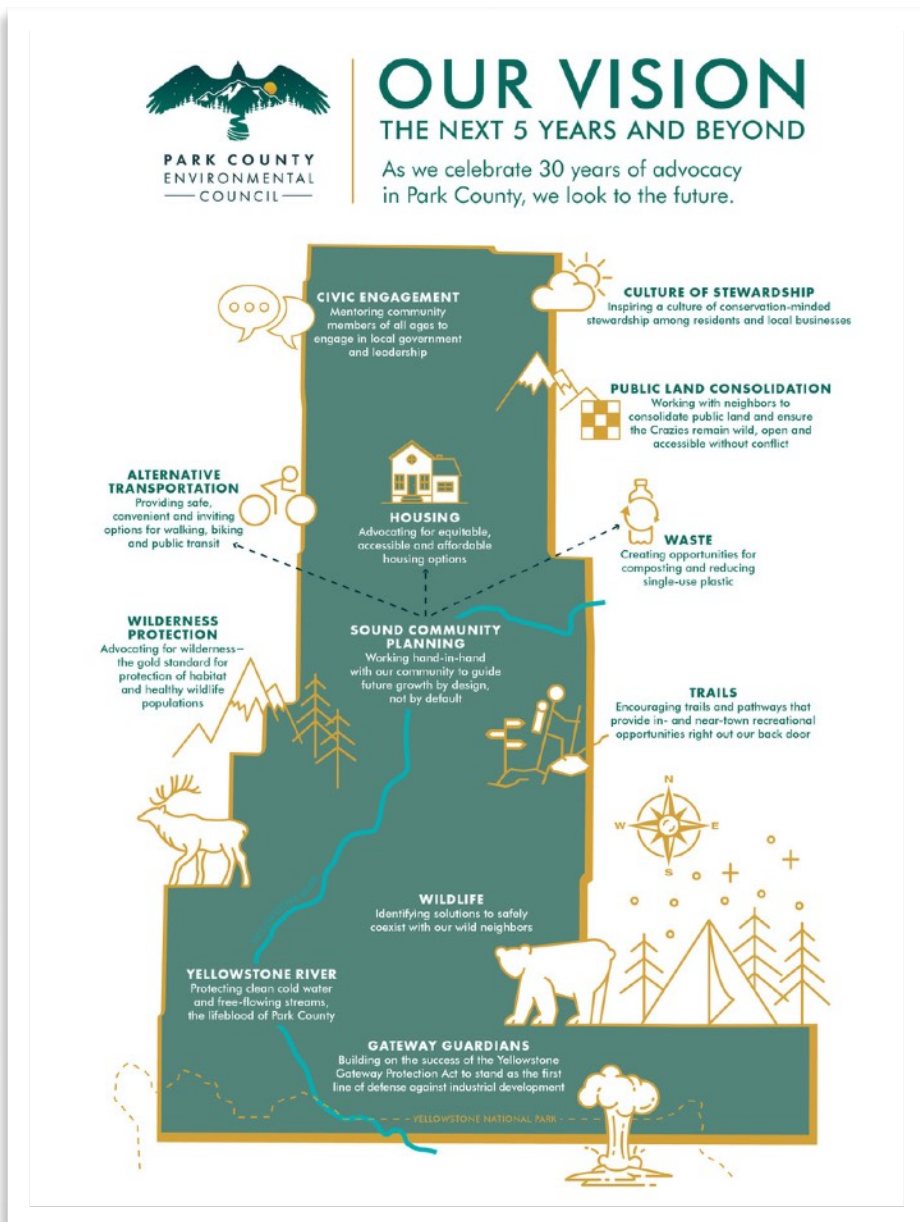
Two years ago, the Park County Environmental Council (PCEC) celebrated the passage of the Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act as it removed the threat of two industrial-scale gold mines from more than 30,000 acres of the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

This victory was the culmination of years of effort by PCEC and our partners. Over those years, we helped organize hundreds of local businesses to come together and form the Yellowstone Gateway Business Coalition, recognizing that this place — this community of Park County, Montana, at the northern edge of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem — wasn't worth risking for a couple of gold mines.

Since the bill became law, PCEC's staff and members have hardly had a moment's rest as we played whack-a-mole with new developments that threatened the idea of gateway protection: A tire dump. Oil and gas leases. A gravel pit.

Protecting this special place requires constant vigilance. There is no shortage of bad ideas that could carve up, cut down, poison and spoil this one-of-a-kind ecosystem, which provides habitat for all the major species of mammals that were present in the Lower 48 prior to the arrival of Europeans. In the words of PCEC member Colin Davis, PCEC "walks the fence at night" to protect the Yellowstone Gateway.

But, increasingly, the threats facing Park County aren't just coming from industrial sources. They are also coming from population growth and increased visitation. Neighboring Gallatin County is the fastest-growing metropolitan community in the United States. Four million people visit Yellowstone National Park every year. The impact of all these visitors and newcomers is drastically



changing the makeup of nearby communities.

The effects of growth and change threaten the very same tourism-based economy that our locals want to protect from pollution related to industrial-scale gold mines. Growth can mean a lot of things, including habitat fragmentation; water quantity and water quality issues; and increasing inequity.

For example, in the town of Gardiner, Yellowstone's only year-round entrance, investors have gobbled up the existing housing stock and turned it into vacation rentals, pricing locals out of the market. School enrollment has dropped, while businesses (including Yellowstone National Park itself) now have trouble

attracting qualified employees because they can't find a place to live.

With this in mind, in recent years, Park County Environmental Council has doubled down on our program work in land-use planning, organizing community leaders and business owners who share an underlying belief that the local community, not developers, should determine how Gardiner, Livingston and Park County ought to grow.

PCEC works with partners to encourage elected officials to initiate updates to community growth plans, even raising private funds when government officials with strapped

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FULFILLING OUR MISSION

2020 Conservation Partners

Each year the Cinnabar Foundation partners with scores of nonprofit organizations and educational institutions working within Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

We use a model of impact investing to support the general operation of these

entities as well as special projects that demonstrate the ability to advance our mission and vision. Equally important, we invest 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, outreach, educational programs, economics, law, policy, research, and “boots on the ground” to achieve long-

lasting conservation solutions. Further, we continue to actively support both new and experienced leaders in conservation. Many of our grantees work in more than one conservation program area, in particular climate action.

We are proud to report that in 2020, the Cinnabar Foundation awarded 75 grants and awards totaling \$441,000 to the following conservation partners:

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

\$38,000

Climate Smart Missoula	\$2,000	Northern Plains Resource Council	\$15,000
Forward Montana Foundation	\$5,000	Western Sustainability Exchange	\$11,000
Montana Renewable Energy Association	\$5,000		

EDUCATION & RESEARCH — conservation, environmental, species

\$53,500

Clark Fork Watershed Education Program	\$1,000	Swan Valley Connections	\$10,000
Ecology Project International	\$3,000	Swan Valley Connections ²	\$2,000
Jack Creek Preserve Foundation	\$2,000	Teller Wildlife Refuge	\$5,000
Livingston Depot Foundation	\$2,500	University of Montana — Crown of the Continent / Greater Yellowstone Initiative	\$1,500
Montana Natural History Center	\$12,000	University of Montana: <i>Len & Sandy Sargent Environmental Studies Graduate Fellowship</i> ⁵	\$5,000
Montana Outdoor Science School	\$5,000		
National Center for Appropriate Technology ⁴	\$2,500		
Raptors of the Rockies	\$2,000		

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY — diverse statewide environmental issues

\$70,000

Cabinet Resource Group	\$2,000	Montana Wildlife Federation	\$10,000
Montana Audubon	\$7,000	MontPIRG Leadership Fund	\$3,000
Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund	\$15,000	Park County Environmental Council	\$10,000
Montana Environmental Information Center	\$12,000	Park County Environmental Council ²	\$3,000
Montana Environmental Information Center ²	\$3,000	Western Organization of Resource Councils	\$5,000

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

\$76,000

Bitter Root Land Trust	\$10,000	Montana Association of Land Trusts	\$5,000
Five Valleys Land Trust	\$10,000	Montana Land Reliance	\$5,000
Flathead Land Trust	\$10,000	Prickly Pear Land Trust ²	\$4,000
Flathead Land Trust ²	\$2,000	Vital Ground	\$10,000
Gallatin Valley Land Trust	\$10,000	Wyoming Wildlife Federation	\$5,000
Heart of the Rockies	\$5,000		



National Bison Range, Charlo, Montana

PUBLIC LANDS — access, advocacy, stewardship, wildlife habitat

\$112,000

Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation	\$5,000	Montana Wilderness Association	\$12,000
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers	\$7,000	Mountain Journal	\$5,000
Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation	\$5,000	Public Land and Water Access Association	\$3,000
EcoFlight	\$3,000	Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation	\$4,000
Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument	\$5,000	Sustainable Obtainable Solutions ³	\$5,000
Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness	\$6,000	Swan View Coalition	\$4,000
Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance	\$6,000	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	\$5,000
Great Burn Conservation Alliance	\$5,000	Wyoming Outdoor Council	\$5,000
Great Burn Conservation Alliance ²	\$2,000	Yaak Valley Forest Council	\$15,000
Montana Conservation Corps	\$5,000	Yellowstone to Yukon	\$5,000

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

\$51,500

Big Hole Watershed Committee	\$5,000	Montana Watershed Coordination Council	\$5,000
Blackfoot Challenge	\$12,000	Montana Watershed Coordination Council ²	\$3,000
Citizens for a Better Flathead	\$5,000	Montana Watershed Coordination Council — Watershed Fund	\$10,000
Community Food and Agriculture Coalition	\$3,000	Yellowstone Safe Passages	\$3,000
Future West	\$3,000		
Future West ¹	\$2,500		

WATER QUALITY & FISHERIES

\$40,000

Clark Fork Coalition	\$15,000	Montana Trout Unlimited	\$10,000
Clearwater Resource Council	\$5,000	Trout Unlimited	\$4,000
Earthworks	\$4,000	Watershed Education Network	\$2,000

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 **Posewitz Professional Conservationist Award:** a special monetary grant made in the recipient's honor to a nonprofit environmental organization whose mission is in keeping with the purpose of the Cinnabar Foundation.

⁴ **Rick Hubbard Sargent Innovation Award:** recognizes conservation work that pushes boundaries with the intent to expand understanding about more sustainable ways of being in relationship with our natural world.

⁵ **Cinnabar Program Initiative**

Land Use Planning as an Important Conservation Strategy

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budgets are reluctant to pay for this much needed update. Once finalized, Livingston's growth plan should reflect the community's vision and serve as a guiding document for future regulation and zoning. To help shape the process, PCEC has informed and organized hundreds of community members by hosting community conversations, bringing in national experts to present smart growth principles and explain complex planning concepts.

It's working. We are seeing conversations shift as new members of the Livingston and Park County planning boards consider public comment and ask questions like, how does this plan protect the urban wildlife corridor along the Yellowstone River, prevent sprawl into our open space, and encourage infill development in our downtown areas? After Park County finalized its 2017 growth plan, PCEC members thanked the County Commission and asked them to focus on Goal 16: implementing proactive land-use tools. The commission agreed. Now newly engaged community members have joined city and county boards to implement these plans.

PCEC sits down at the table with ranchers, outfitters, landowners, and recreationists to discuss how to manage our community's most precious resource, the Yellowstone River, today and for years to come. As a partner in the Upper Yellowstone Watershed Group, PCEC helped complete the first phase of a recreational study on the Yellowstone River that sought to identify who is using the river, when are they using it, and what are they using it for. As a community, we are working together to build an understanding of how the increased demand from all user groups impacts the river.

National Park gateway communities are unique places, with immense character and tremendous natural resources. People love these places, and that love has been demonstrated in the support for PCEC's work. For instance,



Yellowstone River flows north through the Paradise Valley in Park County.

Photo: Eric Ian

thousands of residents have completed surveys, while scores of others have submitted comments, attended meetings and used their voices for this place. Even the consultant preparing Livingston's growth policy update has commented that they rarely see the level of engagement that our local citizenry has demonstrated even in communities far larger than ours.

It is clear to us at PCEC that the front lines of conservation are at planning board meetings and zoning commission discussions. Protecting open space and wildlands from the ever-expanding human footprint is our new conservation focus.

During the pandemic, housing prices skyrocketed, fueled by an exodus from urban areas into rural landscapes. People from across the nation now seek refuge in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. As a community, we need to balance the need for more affordable housing while home prices soar, creating a desire and demand for sprawl and unchecked development. Our work centers on making our urban centers better and more affordable places for people to live, incentivizing people to live within smaller footprints.

Clearly, conservationists not only bear the responsibility to protect intact ecosystems, we also must protect the people and communities that rely on a

healthy environment. We need to coexist with wildlife, preserve intact habitat, and create resiliency in the face of climate change, balancing our need for scarce resources with those of the area's flora and fauna. This is the work of PCEC, now and into the future.



Sean Hawksford took to the corner of Main Street and Willson Avenue in Bozeman, MT to make a plea for someone to sell him a home.

Photo: Sean Hawksford

Elections Have Consequences

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- and our ability to change those attitudes.
- We are concerned about the current legislature because, in past sessions, we have seen persistent attempts to erect obstacles to clean energy in Montana and, once again, we are seeing attacks on renewable energy development, including the use of prohibitive taxation.
 - We also need to continue to monitor the Montana Public Service Commission (PSC). In November 2019, we scored a huge victory for Montana's clean energy future when the PSC unanimously ruled to reject changes to net metering rates. This ruling came from a fully conservative Commission, and was the result of very hard work and dedication by a coalition of clean energy allies.

Habitat Conservation and Public Lands

- The state budget diverts funding for conservation and public lands from anticipated marijuana tax revenue, estimated to be as much as \$20 million annually. This is contrary to the intent of I-190, a 2020 ballot initiative that legalized marijuana use for adults over the age of 21, and overwhelmingly met the approval of Montana voters.
- A successful FWP program, Habitat Montana is funded in great part by revenue derived from the sale of big game hunting licenses. Habitat Montana funds are used to lease, purchase conservation easements on or outright buy "important habitat that is seriously threatened." The 2021 legislature sought to place Habitat Montana's conservation easements under the authority of the State Land Board (made up of the state's top elected officials: Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Auditor, and Superintendent of Public Instruction). Other bills attacked the efficacy of FWP's administration of Habitat Montana.

Public Input

- We are extremely concerned about access to justice issues. We consider access to justice to include public participation in rule-making and permitting processes. The only way to speed up many permitting processes is to cut back the time allowed for public involvement, which, in Montana, is already incredibly short compared to similar federal requirements. Access to justice also includes the public's ability to access the court system. A number of proposals considered by the legislature would make it even more difficult or impossible to challenge government decisions on permits and rules.

Opportunities

- With all the potential concerns we might have over policy and/or funding, I feel like we have a strong case to make for local grassroots conservation in Montana. The work accomplished by watershed organizations and local conservation groups is generally supported by conservatives and progressives alike within local communities.
- Opportunities may arise if conservationists can creatively and

effectively articulate a credible case that conservation makes economic sense. For example, our state leaders may support economic incentives that increase rancher profitability through conservation, so our work on soil health and carbon capture could be seen as a positive.

- At the national level, the prevailing notion is that conservatives are against renewable energy and progressives are for it. We're seeing those lines begin to blur, especially here in Montana. However, single majority rule may potentially limit discussion and consideration of differing insights and input. However, Governor Gianforte's *Comeback Plan for Montana* focuses on economic security for Montanans, boosting small businesses, and getting Montanans back to work in well-paying careers. Renewable energy checks all of these boxes.

The concern and optimism expressed by our conservation partners underscore the importance of Cinnabar's continued support of nonprofit, grassroots conservation organizations that seek to protect and conserve the water, wildlife and wildlands of Montana.



Madison Valley, Montana

Gloria Flora Honored with Professional Conservationist Award

In 2020, the Cinnabar Foundation Board of Directors awarded its fifth *Jim Posewitz Professional Conservationist Award* to Gloria Flora for her courageous and principled stands during a lifetime of leadership and advocacy.

A nationally known leader in ecosystem management, Gloria continues to work toward sustainable solutions on a broad spectrum of issues, including wise forest management, endangered species protection, public lands preservation, social equity, and climate change.

As Supervisor of the USDA Lewis and Clark National Forest in Montana, Gloria prohibited oil and natural gas leasing along the 356,000-acre Rocky Mountain Front near the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The oil and gas industry appealed this controversial decision all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ultimately ruled in Gloria's favor. The court's decision ensured that the Front is protected.

As Supervisor of the largest National Forest in the Lower 48 states,

the Humboldt-Toiyabe in Nevada, Gloria faced down hostile state residents intent on taking control of federal land. Things came to a head when fisheries biologists warned that reopening a washed-out road along the Jarbidge River would threaten endangered bull trout. Knowing her decision would be unpopular, Gloria kept the road closed, leading to a full-throated backlash in an area with a long history of violent confrontations that included a string of bombings against federal conservation employees and property. To avoid further trouble, a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order to stop the locals from rebuilding the road. After a Forest Service career spanning 22 years, Gloria resigned to draw attention to the campaign of harassment and intimidation against federal employees.

The Cinnabar Foundation created the Posewitz award to honor one of our founding Board members and to recognize conservation professionals who, like Jim Posewitz, have made significant contributions to Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Jim's recent passing underscores the need to recognize individuals like Gloria Flora who stand up in the face of organized opposition to protect the natural environment of this precious landscape, including its abundant wildlife and sustaining habitat as well as



The Cinnabar Foundation's fifth *Jim Posewitz Professional Conservationist Award* was presented to Gloria Flora at the Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance's virtual Fall Gathering, October 9, 2020.

the future of the human beings who live here.

The Posewitz Award includes a grant of \$5,000, which Gloria recommended be given to the nonprofit Sustainable Obtainable Solutions (SOS) to continue its conservation work along the Rocky Mountain Front. SOS will use the Posewitz Award grant specifically to launch their new project *Documenting the Effects of the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act*.

Cinnabar's Impact Throughout Montana and the GYE

continued from page 3.

people of all ages. Their Visiting Naturalists in the Schools program accounted for 32,300 direct contact hours of instruction in 69 classrooms in Western Montana.

❖ Environmental Advocacy

Between 2015 and 2019, Cinnabar invested \$375,000 to build community awareness and responsiveness while addressing and taking action on local, state and regional issues; to prevent irresponsible natural resource extraction; and to promote the growth and use of renewable energy. In 2019, the Montana Environmental Information Center won

legal victories revoking water discharge and water use permits for two mines that would dewater wilderness streams and degrade water quality in the Cabinet Mountains.

❖ Private Land Conservation

More than \$425,000 has been invested in local and regional land trusts to secure property rights that protect wildlife habitat and migration corridors. As of the end of 2019, The Montana Land Reliance (Helena, MT) protected more than 1.13 million acres of working lands through 897 monitored conservation easements.

❖ Public Lands

The Foundation has invested \$458,000 in the preservation, protection,

stewardship, public access, and advocacy of public lands throughout Montana and the GYE. Cinnabar grants have helped The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness (Sandpoint, Idaho) recruit more than 8,800 volunteers who work to save the wild character of the Scotchman, offer hikes and wildlife education programs, and build grassroots support for permanent wilderness designation.

❖ Water Quality and Fisheries

More than \$200,000 has been invested to protect, steward and advocate for water resources. Our long-term investment in the Clark Fork Coalition (Missoula, MT) supports their continued work in the Upper Clark Fork and Bitterroot river drainages.

Messages from Our Conservation Partners

Each year the Cinnabar Foundation receives thank yous from our conservation partners and award recipients, and 2020 was no exception. The Covid-19 pandemic required our grantees to adopt health and safety precautions and adjust their programs and projects accordingly. Sensitive to the needs and challenges of organizations receiving special project grants, Cinnabar offered many the option to use those funds for general operations to maintain their capacity and “keep the lights on.”

Cinnabar alone can only do so much, so we are especially thankful for our annual donors. In that spirit, please know that the thank yous listed below and many others are directed just as much to you as they are to the Cinnabar Foundation.

“...I’m inspired by all the good work Cinnabar makes possible throughout Montana ... Cinnabar’s support ensures MALT has the

resources to continue adding value to its members, and benefit the land and people of Montana, every single day.” Gavin Ricklefs, President of the Montana Association of Land Trusts Board of Directors and Executive Director of Bitter Root Land Trust.

“I am so very honored to have been one of the recipients of the Len and Sandy Sargent Stewardship Award. Montana has certainly benefited from the Cinnabar Foundation’s support and encouragement of hundreds of non-profit organizations who love this State and work hard to preserve her beauty and reputation as ‘The Last Best Place.’” Gayle Joslin

“You [Executive Director Gary Wolfe] and Cinnabar have been fabulous partners and have helped time and time again to move FWP closer to achieving its Vision. Here’s to many more Annual Reports demonstrating tangible benefits to the resources in our collective trust.” Martha Williams, Former Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

“I know for certain that having the enticement of matching funds was highly motivating for many of [our] donors... I also greatly appreciate the flexibility the Foundation has offered its grantees in this difficult year...”

Thanks again for accommodating the unique needs presented by this global crisis.” Pat Ortmeier, Communications/ Development Director, Clark Fork Coalition

“...This [Sargent Legacy Grant] just made me cry! What an honor! Thank you so much! We absolutely treasure our relationship with the Cinnabar Foundation, and we hope to continue to honor your mission and your legacy through our work!” Rebecca Ramsey, Executive Director, Swan Valley Connections.

“I was just reading the new Cinnabar Strategic Framework...I was especially struck by the long-term impact Cinnabar has had as reflected in this sentence: ‘Rarely has there been an important environmental victory or major conservation achievement during the past three-plus decades — whether it be conservation of fish and wildlife habitat, preservation of our clean air and water, protection of public lands and wilderness areas, or environmental education for the next generation — that was not positively influenced in some way by support from the Cinnabar Foundation.’ So true and so reflective of the Foundation’s founders. And kudos to their successors.” David Brooks, Executive Director, Montana Trout Unlimited

Continuing the Legacy of Activist Philanthropy continued from page 5.

“has long appreciated the Foundation’s work and that it was a \$500 grant from Cinnabar that got PCEC started.” PCEC’s first program director, David has designated the Cinnabar Foundation as a contingent beneficiary on an investment account.

The Cinnabar Foundation Board of Directors is sincerely grateful to these individuals and many more who have chosen to become members of the Conservation Legacy Society. Len and Sandy Sargent would be pleased that their vision is being fulfilled as other likeminded people choose to act through charitable giving. As Robin Tawney Nichols writes, “Careful planning by ‘true believers’ like the Sargents can sustain our wildlife and wildlands far into the future.”

WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION LEGACY SOCIETY?

“We’ve seen the good that the Cinnabar Foundation has done during our lives and we have every reason to believe it will continue doing so for many decades to come.”

— Bert Lindler & Kristi DuBois

We invite you to join the Conservation Legacy Society by designating a planned charitable gift to the Cinnabar Foundation in your estate plan, or by establishing a memorial gift in honor of a loved one.

Thank you for your interest in the work we do with our conservation partners to ensure Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem has clean water and access to the lands which are so important to us all.

For more information, please contact Gary Wolfe at 406 240 7323 or gwolfe@cinnabarfoundation.org.

In Memoriam:

Jim Posewitz



On July 3, 2020, everyone at the Cinnabar Foundation mourned the passing of our last living founding director Jim Posewitz. From the inception of the Foundation in 1983 to his passing 37 years later, Jim served as a founding Board Member, our first Executive Director (a post he held for 25

years), and Emeritus Director. He also was our conservation historian and Theodore Roosevelt devotee.

One of Montana's most respected conservationists, Jim pioneered protections for fish and wildlife and was nationally recognized for his work on the ethics of hunting. His professional career included 32 years with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks where, as a young fisheries biologist, he helped gather data that resulted in the cancellation of proposed dams on the Missouri River upstream from Fort Peck Reservoir and the permanent protection of that stretch as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Under Jim's leadership, the department's Ecological Services Division documented and defended the importance of in-stream flows for fish and wildlife. He was instrumental in preserving the Yellowstone River as the longest free-flowing river in the Lower 48 states and in protecting the Rocky Mountain Front from energy exploration. As chair of the International Joint Commission, he addressed water quality in the Flathead River System and helped prevent an open-pit coal mine from being developed

in the Canadian portion of the Flathead drainage.

Jim authored five books. His first, *Beyond Fair Chase: The Ethic and Tradition of Hunting*, sold more than a million copies. He created Orion - the Hunter's Institute, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ethical hunting and the preservation of wilderness and wildlife. His last book, *My Best Shot: Discovering and Living the Montana Conservation Ethic*, was his autobiography and call to protect America's "democracy of the wild."

Over the years, Jim earned many honors including Conservationist of the Year from the Montana Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation. In 2016, he was inducted into the second class of the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame. Cinnabar honored him that same year by establishing the *Jim Posewitz Professional Conservationist Award* to recognize natural resource management and conservation professionals who, like the award's namesake, have made a significant contribution to Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Jim is survived by his wife Gayle Joslin (Helena) and five adult sons.

Brian Kahn Remembered

In late October 2020, the Cinnabar Foundation lost a close friend, Brian Kahn. For many years we helped fund Brian's Yellowstone Public Radio program, "Home Ground." His open and honest conversations with hundreds of guests from across the state and region often focused on landscape conservation and wildlife restoration.

The list of Brian's interests and activities is long, which made it easy for him to talk to a variety of people on a wide range of subjects—always serious, never sharply. An avid outdoorsman, he coupled his love of the land and its native animals with an unrivaled commitment to defend them.

Brian was instrumental in establishing an organization designed to bring together ranching families and environmentalists, the Madison Valley

Ranchlands Group. A key facilitator for this nonprofit, Brian encouraged members to find common ground as they worked to protect the ranching way of life while recognizing the need for biologically healthy open spaces.

Leadership came naturally in everything he did. At one time, Brian served as president of the California Fish and Game Commission, playing a significant role in the restoration of the California condor. In 1989, he moved to Montana to become Executive Director of the The Nature Conservancy — Montana, a position he held for six years.

Cinnabar Board members delighted in Brian's company and "we applauded Brian's success in moving the conservation agenda forward," noted Board President Gordon Brittan. "Perhaps most of all," Brittan continued, "we appreciated his relentless search for common ground on the basis of which those of us who live here can eventually



overcome division and reach agreement. He is sorely missed."

Brian is survived by his wife, Sandra Dal Poggetto (Helena) and one son.

THE CINNABAR FOUNDATION BY THE NUMBERS: 2020

GRANTS AND AWARDS

\$441,000



NUMBER OF GRANTS

75



PROGRAM EXPENSE RATIO

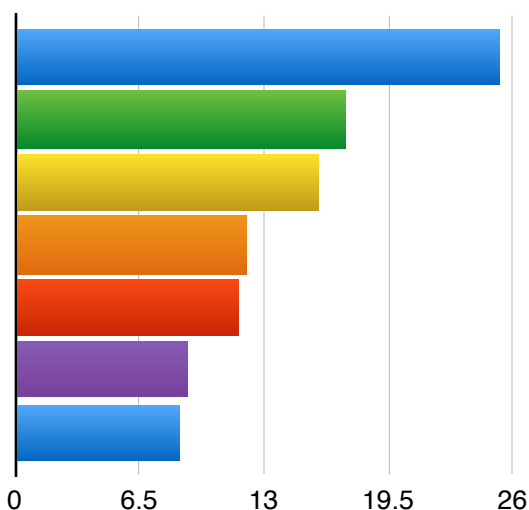
93.6% *



★ The Cinnabar Foundation's administrative expenses are low 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

- Public Lands: 25.4%
- Private Land Conservation: 17.2%
- Environmental Advocacy: 15.9%
- Education & Research: 12.1%
- Sustainable Communities & Agriculture: 11.7%
- Water Quality & Fisheries: 9.1%
- Climate Action: 8.6%



2,130

**GRANTS
AWARDED SINCE**

1985

**TOTALING
MORE THAN**

\$9.2M

WHO WE ARE

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

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