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**Gloria Flora Receives Cinnabar Foundation's Jim Posewitz Professional Conservationist Award**

Gloria Flora, former Supervisor of the Lewis and Clark National Forest, was presented with the Cinnabar Foundation's fifth *Jim Posewitz Professional Conservationist Award* at the Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance's annual meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup>. In his congratulatory letter, Dr. Gordon "Corky" Brittan, Cinnabar Board President, recognized Gloria for "her work across a broad spectrum of issues — wise forest management, endangered species protection, public lands, social equity, and climate change among them — and, in the spirit of the Award's namesake, for two great occasions on which she stood particularly tall in defense of our incomparable western native landscape and life forms."

According to Brittan, the first notable occasion was her decision as Supervisor of the Lewis and Clark National Forest to prohibit oil and natural gas leasing along the 356,000-acre Rocky Mountain Front near the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The controversial decision was appealed by the oil and gas industry all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. "The court's decision to prohibit leasing and thereby drilling has endured, and we are all in her debt as a result" said Brittan.

The second was Gloria's decision, made while she served as Supervisor of the largest National Forest in the lower 48 states — the Humboldt-Toiyabe in Nevada — that was even more contentious. When fisheries biologists warned that reopening a washed-out road along the Jarbidge River could harm threatened bull trout, she decided to keep the road closed. This led to a full-throated backlash that included threats against Forest Service employees and agency buildings being bombed. Gloria resigned her two-year tenure as Supervisor at the very end of 1999 to draw attention to the campaign of harassment and intimidation against those who worked for her and the American public.

In making the presentation, Gary Wolfe, Cinnabar Executive Director, said: "Gloria, like previous recipients of the Posewitz Award, you have advanced an admirable conservation

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agenda in the face of adversity. The Board of the Cinnabar Foundation and your colleagues are proud of you, your stewardship, and the example you've set.

The Award includes a grant of \$5,000 from the Cinnabar Foundation to the nonprofit organization of the recipient's choice, which she recommended be awarded to Sustainable Obtainable Solutions for its continued conservation work on Montana's Rocky Mountain Front.

The Cinnabar Foundation created the Jim Posewitz Professional Conservationist Award in 2016 to recognize natural resource management and conservation professionals who, like Jim Posewitz, have made significant contributions to Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Previous recipients of the Posewitz Award are:

- Larry Peterman, retired fisheries biologist with Montana FWP;
- Alex Sienkiewicz, Yellowstone District Ranger on the Custer-Gallatin National Forest;
- Dan Wenk, retired superintendent of Yellowstone National Park; and
- Rock Ringling, retired managing director of Montana Land Reliance.

The Cinnabar Foundation, established in 1983, by philanthropists Len and Sandy Sargent, annually awards grants to environmental and conservation organizations operating in Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Since its creation, the Foundation has awarded more than 2,100 grants totaling nearly \$9.2 million.