

## JIM POSEWITZ PROFESSIONAL CONSERVATIONIST AWARD

2016

LARRY PETERMAN

For decades, Larry Peterman has put boots on the ground to protect, preserve and enhance wildlife and their habitat. Along the way, he faced many challenges, but always met them head on with integrity and vision.

Larry's long career with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (DFWP) often found him at the cutting edge of what was possible. He stood up in the 1970s when the Yellowstone River was threatened with massive water diversion and depletion, and water law had no provision to protect stream flows. By the end of that decade, water law was changed, stream flows were reserved for fish and wildlife, and the Yellowstone River remained free-flowing from end to end. Larry's professional skills, conservation ethic, and boots on the ground presence were essential to that outcome.



Again and again, Larry stood up — helping to stop construction of a re-regulating dam downstream from Libby Dam; negotiating with the Montana Power Company to prevent peak operations at Holter Dam; helping to develop and implement the highly controversial water leasing program; and securing staff and funding to manage whirling disease and protect the water supplies of the state's trout hatchery. His leadership ramped up DFWP's emphasis on the restoration and protection of native fish species, including Arctic grayling, bull trout and Westslope cutthroat trout.

Today, working in the private sector, Larry continues to fight for the health of the Yellowstone River, recently securing significant compensation for and mitigation of fish and wildlife damage caused by contamination from a ruptured oil pipeline.

Larry's recognition for his many outstanding achievements and boots on the ground presence that made exceptional things happen for Montana's fish and wildlife, and the waters that bring them life, included a \$5,000 Special Award grant. He chose to donate the award to Montana Trout Unlimited, Montana Wilderness Association and Prickly Pear Land Trust.