

# CINNABAR

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## FOUNDATION

August 17, 2011

Melanie and Tom Parker  
Northwest Connections  
Post Office Box 1309  
Swan Valley, MT 59826

Dear Melanie and Tom,

Congratulations! The Cinnabar Foundation has selected you to receive 13th annual **Len and Sandy Sargent Stewardship Award**. This award recognizes outstanding environmental achievement within Montana and honors the spirit and memory of our founders, Len and Sandy Sargent. Your recognition includes a grant of \$5,000 to Northwest Connections.

You are carrying forward the good work and land ethic of your mentor and neighbor, Bud Moore. Through Northwest Connections, you have mentored more than 700 young adults to discover and appreciate rural landscapes and livelihood. You helped spark passion in many students who now lead outdoor education and ecology programs of their own.

Together, you have inspired countless others as teachers, guides, and advocates for rural Montana. Your leadership, eloquence and intimate knowledge of the forests, waters and wildlife of the Seeley-Swan valleys have been integral to the Montana Legacy Project, which will forever conserve 310,000 acres of private forest at risk of conversion for real estate development.

Your commitment to your community and landscape exemplifies Montana's rich tradition of citizen conservation leadership. You have found ways to bring together diverse interests and craft innovative solutions. We salute your bold vision and partnership with other community groups, including Swan Ecosystem Center, to develop the Swan Valley Innovations project.

Melanie, your vision, commitment and organizing skills match the grandeur of the valley and mountains you cherish. Tom, your wisdom and intimate knowledge of the land and its wildlife is unmatched, and your passion for nature is contagious. Together, you are creating a legacy that will be celebrated long into the future.

The Cinnabar Foundation is pleased and honored to recognize you both for outstanding achievements in conservation. We thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, for Montana's rural communities, environment and way of life.

Sincerely,

Robin Tawney Nichols, Chair