

**Western Mining Action Network (WMAN)
Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)
Mini-Grant Recipients
February 2016**

1. Aligning For Responsible Mining, South Dakota

Aligning for Responsible Mining (ARM) is an Oglala Sioux Tribe nonprofit unincorporated association formed on June 25, 2007 to: (a) cause the International Precautionary Principle to be applied to all mining activities, (b) train people in the technical aspects of testing, monitoring and reporting of the impacts of mining activities, and (c) prevent abusive mining (that which does not show it can be done without causing irreversible harm to the water, environment, food supply and will not cause any substantial adverse health impacts to populations of people, animals, fish, birds, plants and other wildlife).

Aligning for Responsible Mining will use their mini-grant to continue their opposition of the expansion of Cameco's Crow Butte Resources ISL mine at Crawford, NE. Specifically, funding will assist in the payment of expert witness fees in the Crow Butte Resources Licensing Renewal hearing before the Nuclear Regulatory Atomic Safety Licensing Board Panel.

2. Alliance for Appalachia, Kentucky

The Alliance for Appalachia is a nine-year-old regional coalition with the goals of ending mountaintop removal, putting a halt to destructive coal technologies, and supporting a sustainable and just economy in Appalachia. They have won hard-fought regulations that decreased mountaintop removal mining and its impacts across their region.

The Alliance for Appalachia will use their mini-grant to host a "Grassroots Policy Training" for their members and allies across the Appalachian region. The training will focus both on legislative opportunities and on assisting people in becoming engaged in local, state and federal policy settings. Funding will provide scholarships for low-income Appalachian leaders to participate in the Policy training as well as a concurrent Steering meeting, which is a roundtable and opportunity to create shared strategy.

3.Center for Science in Public Participation (CSP2), Montana

CSP2 was organized in 1997 to provide technical assistance to public interest groups on issues related to mining and water quality. The organization seeks to focus the debate on factual issues, as brought to light by its technical analyses, and whenever possible to seek consensus and win-win solutions. Technical analyses focus on the environmental effects of water quality contamination from mining, application of new mine design and effluent treatment technologies, reclamation, and risks to fisheries. CSP2 additionally provides assistance to communities and

tribes on understanding the technical issues around mine projects, so that they may have a stronger voice in negotiations and decisions.

CSP2 will use their funding for travel to their client village of Chuathbaluk, and potentially other villages, for consultation during presentations given by federal agencies and contractors on the draft EIS for the proposed Donlin gold mine. CSP2 will advise their client on the alternatives presented in the EIS and the need for further field studies.

4. Coal River Mountain Watch, West Virginia

Coal River Mountain Watch was formed in 1998 by a group of citizens concerned about the growing problem of mountaintop removal coal mining (MTR). Coal River Mountain Watch's mission is to stop the destruction of their communities and environment by mountaintop removal mining, to improve the quality of life in their area, and to help rebuild sustainable communities. In 2003, the organization's Judy Bonds won the Goldman Environmental Prize, providing a major boost to their efforts to publicize the devastation of MTR.

Funding will be used for the Coal River Active Monitor Project to aggressively monitor the active and pending mountaintop removal coal mines on and around Coal River Mountain. The project will include water sampling of adjacent streams, ground truthing for boundary violations, and aerial drone surveillance.

5. Dakota Rural Action, South Dakota

Dakota Rural Action (DRA) is a grassroots family agriculture and conservation group that organizes South Dakotans to protect their family farmers and ranchers, natural resources, and unique way of life. Since being formed in 1987, DRA has responded to a variety of issues identified by its membership including oil and gas regulation, renewable energy, and uranium development in the Black Hills.

Mini-grant funds will be used to fund capacity building as part of the continuing campaign to stop all uranium mining in the Black Hills, including staying abreast of the Atomic Safety Licensing Board's upcoming decision and possible state board actions. To further their work with indigenous groups and organizations fighting uranium mining around the West, DRA is co-hosting the Inter Mountain West Uranium and Water Summit in Rapid City, SD on World Water Day to draw attention to the threat of uranium mining to drinking water supplies around the West.

6. Douglas Indian Association, Alaska

The Douglas Indian Association (DIA) is the historical Douglas and Juneau-based, federally recognized Tlingit Tribe with Tribal members of both the T'aak̓u Kwáan and A'akw Kwáan ancestry. The Douglas Indian Association became a federally recognized tribe in 1934. Through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA)

of 1971, the State of Alaska conveyed lands to Native corporations in Southeast Alaska, but no land, especially in the Douglas or Juneau area, was conveyed to the Tribe.

Mini-grant funding will be used by the Douglas Indian Association to protect the outstanding ecological and cultural values of the Taku Watershed of Northwest British Columbia and Southeast Alaska from the Tulsequah Chief mine proposal. Specifically, they will build upon a successful event held last year, which was made possible by the mini-grant program, through a follow up project to reconnect indigenous people on both sides of the border with the Taku, inform them about the issues, and provide a structured forum to formulate aspirations for the watershed beyond mining.

7. Earthworks, Montana

Earthworks is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting communities and the environment against the adverse effects of mineral and energy development while promoting sustainable solutions. While their long-term mining reform objectives seek to change the rules of the game by which the mining industry is allowed to operate, their work with impacted communities achieves immediate and tangible results in protecting people and the environment from mining's impacts. Earthworks (then the Mineral Policy Center) was founded in 1988 by Phil Hocker, Mike McCloskey, and former Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall to help reform mining laws and practices. In 2005, the Mineral Policy Center and the Oil and Gas Accountability Project joined forces to become Earthworks.

Earthworks will use their mini-grant to acquire technical support to analyze the impacts of the Rock Creek Mine, a copper/silver mine proposed in the Cabinet Mountains Ecosystem of northwestern Montana. Specifically, funding will be used to hire a fisheries biologist and a tailings dam expert to review the Draft Supplemental EIS (DSEIS) for the proposed mine, and to generate technical reports to be submitted along with organizational comments. Earthworks will be working in conjunction with the Rock Creek Alliance in acquiring technical reviews of the DSEIS.

8. Grassy Narrows Women's Drum Group, Ontario

The Grassy Narrows Women's Drum Group was formed in 2002 after the Grassy Narrows opposition to logging and resource extraction became public both nationally, and internationally. Their main goal is to protect the land as a grassroots group. They also work to empower women and youth to take action in defense of their people and mother earth. The Grassy Narrows Women's Drum Group has coordinated with scientists to document the health effects of mining.

The Grassy Narrows Women's Drum Group will use their funding to support a 4-day gathering bringing together community youth, mothers, elders, and supporters to discuss the current threats to GNAA territory and to put pressure on the Government of Ontario regarding mining and mercury contamination on Grassy Nations First Nation territory. Activities will include a press conference, speaking event, community dinner, and public art demonstration and rally.

9. Kuskokwim River Watershed Council, Alaska

The Kuskokwim River Watershed Council (KRWC) was created in 2009 to address environmental issues affecting the Kuskokwim region. Their mission is to maintain and promote a traditional subsistence lifestyle for the residents of the Kuskokwim River Watershed; to keep their land, water, and air unspoiled; and to pass on abundant fish, wildlife and flora to future generations.

KRWC will use their mini-grant funds to provide workshops titled *Understanding the Donlin Gold DEIS & Writing Effective Comments* to the 21 villages throughout the Kuskokwim drainage that could either be directly or indirectly affected by the Donlin Gold Mine. Funding will help with travel, lodging, and supplies.

10. Rivers Without Borders, California

Rivers Without Borders was formed in 1999 to raise awareness of the outstanding ecological and cultural values of the wild and spectacular BC – Alaska transboundary watersheds and to promote ecosystem based planning and stewardship toward safeguarding those values. They engage commercial fishing organizations, communities, First Nations and Tribes, NGOs, scientists, agencies, media, lawyers, and others to leverage conservation.

Rivers Without Borders will use their mini-grant to address the Tulsequah Chief mine proposal, which is targeting the largest totally intact watershed on the Pacific coast of North America, the transboundary Taku of northwestern British Columbia and southeastern Alaska. They will strive to build Tlingit First Nation and Tribal connections on each side of the border to craft mutually supportive positions on the mine proposal and develop an Indigenous watershed vision for the Taku beyond mining. Funding will assist in meeting travel costs for some of the participants.

11. Rock Creek Alliance, Idaho

The Rock Creek Alliance (Alliance) is a non-profit organization formed in 1996 by concerned citizens, conservationists, sportsmen and sportswomen, and local business owners in response to the proposed Rock Creek Mine. The mission of the Alliance is to protect northwestern Montana's Cabinet Mountains Ecosystem, especially the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness, and the Clark Fork-Pend Oreille

Watershed of Montana and Idaho from the wide-reaching and devastating impacts of the proposed Rock Creek mine.

Funding will be used to hire a hydrologist to review the hydrological modeling in the Draft Supplemental EIS (DSEIS) for the proposed mine to determine the accuracy of the projected impacts to ground and surface waters in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness, and, in combination with hydrologic data from the Montanore mine, to begin constructing an accurate description of the cumulative regional dewatering from the two mines. This review will be submitted to the permitting agencies as part of the organization's comments, and will be used to inform local communities during the NEPA process. The Alliance will be working with Earthworks in acquiring technical reviews of the DSEIS.

12. Salmon Beyond Borders, Alaska

Salmon Beyond Borders is part of the Trout Unlimited Alaska Program. Their work includes educational and awareness endeavors to seek public engagement, as well as fostering connections and relationships across the Alaska/B.C. border to address the KSM Mine project on the Unuk River.

The mini-grant received by Salmon Without Borders will provide travel funds for United Tribal Transboundary Mining Work Group representatives from Southeast Alaska and First Nations delegates from British Columbia to come together to request an international dialogue or referral to the International Joint Commission to ensure that Tribal and First Nations voices are heard regarding large-scale mining on the Taku, Stikine and Unuk Rivers.

13. Save the Scenic Santa Ritas (SSSR), Arizona

SSSR was formed in 1996 to protect the scenic, aesthetic, recreational and wildlife values of the Santa Rita Mountains, Patagonia Mountains, Canelo Hills and San Rafael Valley through education and outreach, including protection of these areas from degradation due to mining activities. Their short-term goal is to prevent any mining activities from occurring in these areas. Their long-term goal is to obtain permanent protection of these areas by supporting withdrawal of the Forest Service lands from mineral entry, and protecting the private lands from mining.

Save the Scenic Santa Ritas (SSSR) will use their grant to help cover costs of partnering with investigative reporter John Dougherty to screen his latest documentary *Flin Flon Flim Flam* in major cities throughout Canada in order to generate widespread awareness about the worldwide operations of Toronto-based Hudbay Minerals Inc. and its plans to construct the Rosemont Copper Mine on the Coronado National Forest southeast of Tucson, Arizona.

14. Yellowdog Watershed Preserve, Michigan

Yellowdog Watershed Preserve was founded in 1995 by local citizens concerned about unchecked resource extraction methodologies and the possible effects on their watershed. Their mission is to preserve and protect the Yellow Dog River and its surrounding watersheds for the benefit of present and future generations. Their goals are to diligently watch over the watershed, advocate for wise use of resources, educate students and public, and try to permanently protect the integrity of the wilderness. Programs include ongoing monitoring of the effects of the Eagle Mine on the Salmon Trout and Yellow Dog Watersheds.

Yellowdog Watershed Preserve will use their funding to develop a methodology for collecting river dwelling macroinvertebrates to test them for metals contamination likely found in mining areas. Using the Yellow Dog and Salmon Trout rivers as examples, this methodology would then be used by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission in future metals testing in Wisconsin, Minnesota and the rest of Michigan, wherever watersheds may be impacted by mining.