

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

**1. Aberdeen Neighbourhood Association, British Columbia**

Established in 2014, Aberdeen Neighbourhood Association's mission is to develop a vibrant, healthy, and cohesive community in the Aberdeen Hills Neighbourhood. Aberdeen Neighbourhood is made up of approximately 11,000 residents and has been one of the fast growing neighbourhoods in the City of Kamloops. The association has established the Ajax Sub-committee to review the proposal presented by KGHM AJAX to the BC Environmental Assessment Office and Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency - specifically assessing those valued components that most affect the Aberdeen Neighbourhood including air quality and health impacts, soil and slope stability, noise and vibration, property values, and land use.

Aberdeen Neighbourhood Association will use their mini-grant to address the impacts of the proposed AJAX open pit gold/copper mine on an urban area by hiring an economic expert to assess the mine's impacts on property values, and to provide expert opinion. This project is one of several steps that the organization is currently undertaking as it explores legal avenues against government agencies and KGHM Ajax.

**2. Black Mesa United--Dzilíjiiin Bee Ahóta', Arizona**

Black Mesa United-Dzilíjiiin Bee Ahóta' Incorporated was founded in December 2009 by Black Mesa residents living within the Peabody Western Coal Company leasehold areas. Black Mesa United serves as the primary resource for Navajos living in the leasehold area that have been adversely affected by coal mining.

Mini-grant funding will be used by Black Mesa United to develop a ten-minute video documenting the voices of elders impacted by Peabody Coal Mining on Black Mesa, AZ entitled "Voices from Dzilijiiin-Part 2." The video will serve as an educational tool to inform others about the negative impacts of mining, and to advocate for the elders living within the Peabody Western Coal Company leasehold areas. This project is phase 2 of the documentary "Voices from Dzilijiiin" developed with a previous mini-grant in 2010.

**3. Clean Water Alliance, South Dakota**

Clean Water Alliance was established in 2009 to prevent radioactive mining in the Black Hills region and protect valuable resources, especially water, for future generations. The Alliance is a diverse collection of citizens concerned about the

health, environmental, and economic impacts that proposed radioactive mining projects would have on their communities, economy, and natural resources. The organization coordinates and facilitates the activities of grassroots groups, primarily in their region.

Clean Water Alliance will use their mini-grant to support a follow-up strategy meeting to the April 2, 2016, Inter Mountain West Uranium and Water Summit: "Uranium and Water Should Not Mix", held in Rapid City, S.D. The follow-up meeting would be held the day after the WMAN conference in November 2016 at the same location. Funding will pay for the meeting room, lodging, meals, and outreach expenses to help as many activists as possible to hold an all-day meeting to develop and commit to specific strategy goals and build solidarity by expanding their reach and detailing their approach to preventing, stopping, and cleaning up uranium mines, mills, waste and nukes.

#### **4. Clearfork Community Institute, Tennessee**

The Clearfork Community Institute (CCI), founded in 1997 by local women seeking to provide meaningful engagement for their families and community, successfully secured the last standing coal camp school in the area and restored it into a place-based, living, learning center that today is the Clearfork Community Institute. The main goal of the CCI is to support coalfield residents in bringing themselves out of poverty, away from mono-industrial practices and into a flourishing state of well being with one another and the earth.

Funding will strengthen CCI's Citizen's Water Monitoring and Enforcement Project, which provides access to equipment, training and professional support for local water monitoring and enforcement. This program works in partnership with the Appalachian Community Enforcement Project, which provides a website for public and agency review of monitoring data. Funding will result in 20 new water monitoring volunteers and will strengthen enforcement work, help prevent future stream degradation, contribute to the restoration of watersheds, and provide leverage to create state-level legal precedent and thorough data and testimonials for federal and state level comment periods and rule changes.

#### **5. Coalition pour que le Québec ait meilleure mine, Quebec**

Coalition pour que le Québec ait Meilleure Mine is a non-profit organization with the mission to reform the Province of Quebec's mining sector to ensure greater environmental, social, cultural, and health protection of affected individuals and communities. The Coalition encompasses thirty member organizations, primarily citizen groups, environmental organizations, workers' unions, and physician associations. It the only organization dedicated exclusively to monitoring the

mining sector in Quebec, and has made several significant gains including a reform of the Quebec Mines Act.

Mini-grant funding will be used to develop campaign materials to pressure the Quebec government to legislate a ban on uranium mining. Work will include a 'sign-on' letter addressed to Quebec's Legislature, a press-conference or significant public action with grassroots and indigenous organizations urging the Quebec government to ban uranium mining, and other coordinated media and public relations work.

#### **6. Eyak Preservation Council, Alaska**

The Eyak Preservation Council (EPC) utilizes research, education, and grassroots organizing to protect and preserve Indigenous fishing culture, wild salmon habitat and the sustainable food system and economy of the Copper River Delta, Prince William Sound (PWS) and Gulf of Alaska. EPC develops and advocates for public policies and legal strategies that prevent and reduce toxic pollution, destructive resource development (mining) and environmental degradation of salmon habitat. The organization employs Indigenous knowledge and standing to educate and inspire action in community members, policymakers, local stakeholders, and the broader public.

The Eyak Preservation Council will use their mini-grant for continued outreach, advocacy, and communications support to conduct a public and high-donor fundraising campaign with the critical objective of raising \$3 to \$5M in private funds for the purchase of the Bering River coal patents in order to return them to the Chugach National Forest in Alaska. This will result in transferring the 12,000-acre Bering Coalfield title from the Korean Alaska Development Corporation (KADCO) to the U.S. Forest Service so it will never be mined. Specifically, funding will be used for booklet printing costs, media production, travel and meetings, direct mailers, and press packets.

#### **7. Fair Mining Collaborative, British Columbia**

Founded in 2000, the Fair Mining Collaborative (FMC) provides values based, credible technical and strategic guidance to communities, First Nation Leadership groups, and political decision makers to build capacity to make informed land-use decisions that foster healthy sustainable communities and ecosystems. FMC partners with their clients to build knowledge of mining impacts and benefits so they can fully participate in fair land-use decision making processes that affect their future.

Fair Mining Collaborative will use their mini-grant to increase public knowledge of environmental risks from and inadequate regulation of BC placer mines through the distribution of their report titled "Stirring up the Sentiment: An Overview of

Placer Mining in BC.” They plan to print, distribute and present the findings in this report to First Nation Women Advocating Responsible Mining (FNWARM), the First Nations Energy and Mining Council (FNEMC) and at the WMAN conference.

### **8. Gifford Pinchot Task Force, Oregon**

The mission of Gifford Pinchot Task Force (Task Force) is to protect and sustain the forests, streams, wildlife, and communities in the heart of the Cascades through conservation, education, and advocacy. Accomplishments include: preventing logging of all ancient forests and inventoried roadless areas in the GPNF since 1999, preventing major hydropower projects in sensitive watersheds and securing the removal of Hemlock Dam in 2009 and the Condit Dam in 2011, and defeating proposals to conduct hard rock mining exploration and development adjacent to Mount St. Helens for the last decade.

Gifford Pinchot Task Force will use their mini-grant to continue their campaign to protect Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument and the Green River Valley from hard rock mining exploration and development, including a renewed proposal by Ascot Resources Limited to conduct exploratory drilling for copper, gold, and molybdenum. Specifically, funding will be used for legal support and filing fees, online and print materials developed for grassroots action and media outreach, and travel and meeting expenses associated with educating coalition partners, the public, and influential decision-makers and agencies.

### **9. Idaho Conservation League, Idaho**

The Idaho Conservation League (ICL) was founded in 1973 and “protects the air you breathe, the water you drink, and the land you love.” The largest state-based conservation organization in a politically conservative state, ICL has a remarkably successful track record, using scientific, policy, legal and community organizing skills to protect the environment and Idahoans from the harmful effects of poorly implemented mining projects.

ICL will use their mini-grant to conduct a suction dredge-monitoring project to document unpermitted and illegal mining occurring in the South Fork Clearwater River in north-central Idaho. Working with Advocates for the West, they will work to build Clean Water Act enforcement cases by collecting specific information associated with illegal mining activity. Funding will be used to hire an investigator, and a portion of the grant funds will support outreach to Idaho’s indigenous communities, specifically the Shoshone-Bannock and Nez Perce Tribes.

#### **10. Information Network for Responsible Mining (INFORM), Colorado**

Founded in 2001, the mission of the Information Network for Responsible Mining (INFORM) is to educate the public about environmental dangers caused by irresponsible mining practices. INFORM monitors the impacts and activities of the hardrock mining industry in Colorado and works to protect communities, wildlife and public lands by: 1) addressing mine proposals and permitting; 2) advocating for regulatory and legislative reforms; and 3) disseminating information and research to affected people and groups.

INFORM will use their funding to hire a technical consultant to respond to the emergence of a new, experimental form of uranium processing called impact ablation, which the industry wants exempt from specific regulations even though it will create two new types of radioactive waste streams. Expert consulting will assist INFORM's coalition of groups in advocating for the strongest and most protective licensing regulations during a public review process to take input on whether and how ablation should be regulated.

#### **11. Lynn Canal Conservation, Alaska**

Founded in 1972, Lynn Canal Conservation (LCC) promotes the integrity of wild lands, protects quality of life, and fosters environmental awareness in northern Southeast Alaska's Lynn Canal, and Chilkat/Chilkoot watersheds near Haines. LCC has been working hard to prevent or minimize the damaging development of a copper/zinc/gold/silver mine located upstream of productive salmon habitat, the village of Klukwan, and the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve.

Lynn Canal Conservation will use mini-grant funding to continue their work with the Chilkat Indian Village (CIV) and Takshanuk Watershed Council (TWC) to strategically address exploration expansion at the 6765-acre hard rock mining claim located upstream from the CIV at Klukwan. LCC will use grant monies to bring trainers from Trout Unlimited and Salmon Beyond Borders to facilitate media campaign development and strategies; develop a media, messaging, and education campaign; create informative newspaper ads; and identify limitations and weaknesses in the State permitting process.

#### **12. McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS, New Mexico**

The McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS initiative began in June 2013 with a vision of all people of McKinley County living in a safe, healthy, and prosperous environment that honors health-in-all policies and leaves a legacy of responsible leadership grounded in equity. The organization is focused on raising awareness about the health impacts of uranium mining along with supporting the Red Water Pond Road Community Association with their efforts in seeking justice regarding the uranium legacy. The Red Water Pond Road Community Association officially

formed in 2007, and is a grassroots organization of Diné families who have experienced and lived with the impacts of uranium mining and milling in the Church Rock mining area since the 1960s.

Funding will be used to support the Red Water Pond Road Community Association's efforts in completing their community hogan, which will be used to heal individuals and community members from the impacts of uranium mining. This hogan will also serve as a community educational meeting place for raising awareness about the organization's health impact assessment and for planning the next steps in the reuse of their land.

### **13. Native Youth Movement, British Columbia**

Native Youth Movement was founded in 1990 in Anishinabe Territory (Winnipeg, Manitoba). Originally organized as an alternative to gang violence, the group expanded to a network of native youth throughout Canada and the US. Over the years, Native Youth Movement has organized walks, runs, gatherings, community events, protests, educational workshops, forums, and youth camps; built traditional homes and harvesting camps; started a school program-Raising Leaders; and published several magazines.

The mini-grant received by Native Youth Movement will provide funds to cover the cost of printing a full color magazine that will be distributed to indigenous communities throughout Canada and the U.S. The publication, which has already been created, will educate indigenous youth about mining and its impacts to indigenous lands and waters, and will highlight community resistance to mining through printed imagery and words of indigenous communities and people.

### **14. Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, Minnesota**

Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness (NMW) was founded by local citizens from wilderness-edge communities that would be seriously harmed by proposed sulfide-ore copper mining projects near the Boundary Waters Wilderness. NMW has worked to achieve legal protection for the Boundary Waters Wilderness through federal administrative action, and seeks a federal minerals withdrawal in the Superior National Forest.

Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness will use mini-grant funding to expand veterans outreach work. Their Veterans for the Boundary Waters campaign will involve collaborative work with Vet Voice Foundation, a national group dedicated to helping veterans gain access to public lands, in organizing a veterans trip to the Boundary Waters Wilderness complemented by meetings with decision makers and the news media. Funding would cover travel, materials, and digital outreach.

### **15. Patagonia Area Resource Alliance (PARA), Arizona**

Patagonia Area Resource Alliance was founded in 2011 in response to renewed interest by foreign mining companies in the Patagonia Mountains, and is a grassroots, non-profit community alliance committed to preserving and protecting the biological wealth of the Patagonia, Arizona area, including the uniquely diverse Patagonia Mountains. As a citizen watchdog organization, PARA monitors the activities of mining companies and ensures government agencies' due diligence, to make sure their actions have long-term, sustainable benefits to public lands, water, wildlife, and the town of Patagonia.

Patagonia Area Resource Alliance will use their mini-grant to support a wildlife monitoring specialist in documenting the biodiversity of the Patagonia Mountains, whose groundwater, surface water, and air quality – all critical to the survival of numerous threatened and endangered species – are currently under siege by four proposed mineral extraction and exploration proposals and one active exploration campaign by Arizona Mining Inc. (AMI). Funding will cover game cameras, computer equipment, and a portion of the consultant's time.

### **16. Rivershed Society of BC, British Columbia**

Since its inception in 1996, the Rivershed Society of BC (RSBC) has been actively delivering public education programs, community initiatives, and building stewardship capacity in the Fraser River Basin. The RSBC is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health of the Fraser River. Its mission is to conserve, protect and restore the health of BC riversheds in this generation.

Funding will be used by the Rivershed Society of BC to outline a strategic plan for the protection of the Fraser River corridor between Williams Lake and Lillooet from impacts of mines (eg: Mount Polley Mine). The Fraser canyon corridor is home to critical salmon habitat, California big horn sheep habitat and important ungulate winter range, as well as BC's most endangered ecosystem, the unique and rare Montane grasslands. Work will include mapping land ownership, identifying collaborators, and highlighting the benefits of protection for all stakeholders. Funding will cover a community gathering with the Xat'sull First Nation, the drafting of a plan by a consultant, and advertising/promotion.

### **17. Takshanuk Watershed Council, Alaska**

Takshanuk Watershed Council provides stewardship for the Chilkat, Chilkoot and Ferebee River systems. Through restoration, education, research, and community involvement they work to benefit the natural ecology, economy and quality of life valued by all residents. Takshanuk Watershed Council was formally incorporated in 2003 via the Community Watershed Project, a cooperative agreement with the

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, to administer Southeast Sustainable Salmon Funds and to help establish community-based watershed councils.

Takshanuk Watershed Council (TWC), in partnership with Chilkat Indian Village (CIV) and Lynn Canal Conservation (LCC) will use their mini-grant to implement two primary activities identified during their 2016 Advocacy Planning session focused on addressing the concerns related to large scale mineral exploration and mining in the Chilkat Valley, Haines, Alaska. These two primary activities include: (1) develop a media message and education campaign for the Chilkat Valley Working Group including the production of a 1-2 minute Chilkat Valley promotional video, and (2) to host a speaker series on community involvement with mineral exploration and mining activities with the Chilkat Valley Working Group. Funding will cover video production costs, travel, advertising, and presenter fees.

#### **18. WaterLegacy, Minnesota**

WaterLegacy is a grassroots organization founded in 2009 by citizens concerned that sulfide mining proposed for Northeastern Minnesota would destroy wetlands and wild rice, contaminate water with toxic metals, increase mercury in fish, and impair human health and tribal rights. WaterLegacy works with environmental allies to advocate and engage citizens to oppose the PolyMet sulfide mine. In 2015, WaterLegacy's Advocacy Director published the only legal scholarship on tribal authority under the Clean Water Act to object to federal permits that violate downstream tribal water quality standards.

WaterLegacy will use funding to support their Clean Water Act Authority project to secure tribal exercise of Clean Water Act authority prior to consideration of permits for Minnesota's first proposed sulfide mine, the PolyMet copper-nickel mine project. Specifically, they will work to ensure that the EPA develops procedures to allow the downstream Fond du Lac Band to object to Minnesota's first proposed sulfide mine, the PolyMet project, and enacts rules allowing tribes to limit upstream mining pollution impairing reservation waters, including Minnesota's St. Louis River, where sulfate pollution has affected mercury contamination of fish. Funding will cover advocacy, scientific consultation and outreach to EPA.

#### **19. Western Colorado Congress, Colorado**

Western Colorado Congress (WCC) is a grassroots citizen action organization operating in the conservative heartland of Colorado's Western Slope. They organize people to increase their collective power and build their skills, empowering them to create healthy, sustainable communities, social and economic justice, environmental stewardship and a truly democratic society. WCC formed in 1980 as an alliance of environmental organizations and local governments in western Colorado. By the mid-1980s, it had evolved into its present

form, consisting of several semi-autonomous community groups under the leadership of a central office with professional staff.

Western Colorado Congress will use their mini-grant to lay the groundwork for transitioning Western Colorado's economy away from dependence on coal production and toward a prosperous, sustainable future based on clean energy. They will do this through community-based conversations in at least six different communities to encompass all willing stakeholders, including elected officials, coal miners, oil and gas workers, faith communities, low-income communities, farmers and ranchers, renewable energy industry reps, economic development groups, water users, and recreational groups. Visioning processes will then be used to begin to draft transition plans for each county, and a regional comprehensive plan. Funding will support public organizing efforts including meetings, website and social media outreach, and list-building.

#### **20. Uranium Watch, Utah**

Uranium Watch (UW) was established in 2006 to address the health, safety, and environmental issues associated with uranium mining and milling—the front end of the nuclear fuel cycle. UW works to educate and advocate for protection of public health and the environment from past, current, and future impacts of uranium mining and uranium recovery. UW is a citizen information, research, networking, and environmental action project. The long-term goal is to reduce or eliminate the adverse impacts of uranium mining and milling and any other nearby nuclear fuel cycle facilities, including the proposed nuclear reactor (Blue Castle Project) at Green River, Utah.

Funding will be used to support a Uranium Mine Radiological Assessment Project to examine the surface radiological conditions at uranium mines in Utah, including permitted mines and selected abandoned and reclaimed mines. The study will measure and compare the amount of surface activity uranium and its progeny and ore dust materials in air at the uranium mines to analyze the environmental impact of different above-ground storage techniques. The findings will provide a basis for changes in BLM and USFS regulations and individual uranium mine Plans of Operation and environmental analyses, and will have a positive impact on all existing and proposed uranium mining operations, not just in Utah.

#### **21. White Mesa Concerned Community, Utah**

White Mesa Concerned Community was formed ten years ago by Ute Mountain Ute tribal members from the White Mesa Ute Community, which is located in southern Utah and is immediately adjacent to the White Mesa uranium mill, the only active mill in the US. Their mission is to protect the health, environment and sacred sites of their people, with a focus on closing the White Mesa uranium mill

and getting the contamination cleaned up. In addition to working to close the uranium mill, their goals are to escalate efforts within their community, tribal government and environmental justice allies to prevent expansion of the mill and challenge current permit violations regarding radioactive emissions.

Mini-grant funding will provide resources to enable the White Mesa Concerned Community to educate, organize and mobilize their tribal members and leaders in the escalating campaign to close the White Mesa uranium mill and dump. Specifically, funding will be used to print educational fact sheets and to organize two community meetings and events. One event is earmarked for tribal members, and the other for nearby residents to view a new film produced about the White Mesa Mill contamination. Funds also will be used for travel to events and to meetings with tribal council and government officials.