

**Western Mining Action Network (WMAN)
Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)
Mini-Grant Recipients
October 2014**

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 (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) 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.

ARM will use this emergency grant funding in its ongoing opposition to uranium mining in the Black Hills and in traditional Lakota territory, which adversely affects the Oglala Aquifer, and related aquifers. Funding will be used for an expert review of borehole data electronic logs that potentially contain information demonstrating the presence of faults and fractures, which would prevent a finding of “Adequate Containment.” Such a finding is required for Powertech/Azarga to obtain a license.

2. Center for Science in Public Participation (CSP2), Montana and Alaska

CSP2 was organized in 1997 to provide technical assistance to public interest groups and tribal governments on issues related to mining and water quality, including water quality contamination, application of new mine design and effluent treatment technologies, reclamation, and risks to fisheries. Technical support is often needed in several areas – for example, presenting technical arguments to the state and federal agencies that have permit authority over large industrial and natural resource development projects. CSP2 strives to focus the debate on factual issues, and seeks consensus and win-win solutions.

CSP2 will use its funding to provide technical support to the village of Chuathbaluk in its role as a cooperating agency in the development of the Donlin Gold mine EIS. This work will entail analyzing mine design and mine facilities, including water quality, water treatment, and waste management issues. In particular, funding will be used by CSP2 during the EIS team assessment of mercury management documents. CSP2’s technical support on behalf of Chuathbaluk also will assist four other villages that have been working together in their role as cooperating agencies. This engagement of local villages in the early stages of EIS development is precedent setting.

3. Clean Up the Mines!, Arizona

Clean Up the Mines!, founded in 2013, is a national campaign lead by an alliance of environmental and social justice organizations including Defenders of Black Hills, Popular Resistance, Veterans for Peace, and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Their mission is to assure that all abandoned uranium mines in the U.S. are remediated to the highest possible standard through legislation, public education and activism, and the empowerment of impacted communities.

Grant money will be used to pay for Clean Up the Mines' advocates to attend meetings in New Mexico to discuss standards for uranium mine clean-up, including the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency five-year plan; to participate in a presentation at the University of New Mexico; and to conduct site visits to document abandoned mines. Clean Up the Mines also will travel to DC to participate in Sierra Club's Nuclear Free Summit and will meet with key allies and legislators.

4. Coalition pour que le Quebec ait Meilleur Mine (QMM), Quebec

Formed in 2008, QMM is a coalition of more than 30 groups working together. The coalition's mission is to engage Quebec in a major reform of the exploration and exploitation of its mineral resources to enable future development while providing increased protection of the environment and the quality of life.

Quebec is conducting a Generic Environmental Impacts Evaluation Process of the Uranium mining industry. QMM will be working with a coalition of grassroots groups, native nations, citizens, municipalities, and others on an informational campaign called the "Community Experiences Exchange Project." WMAN-IEN funding will be used to bring the stories and written memoirs of native and non-native representatives from the Four Corners area in the US, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and France to Quebec's uranium debate. Representatives will participate in the International Uranium Mining Symposium to help influence the political decision-making process. Symposium presentations of the invited representatives will be filmed to assist local members and communities. QMM will be working collaboratively with Minganie Sans Uranium, Saskatchewan Environmental Society, Sept Iles Sans Uranium and Committee for Future Generations.

5. Committee for Future Generations, Saskatchewan

The Committee for Future generations includes citizens and Northern Saskatchewan First Nations partners who are holding uranium mining corporations accountable for the risks and harm they are causing to land and water, plants and animals, and public health in the northern regions of

Saskatchewan. The organization is collecting testimonies from uranium miners documenting health impacts, beginning a health study to determine the cause of increased cancer rates and other diseases related to radiation exposure, and educating the public about the risks of nuclear waste storage.

Quebec is conducting a Generic Environmental Impacts Evaluation Process of the Uranium mining industry. The Committee for Future Generations will be working with a coalition of grassroots groups, native nations, citizens, municipalities, and others on an informational campaign called the "Community Experiences Exchange Project." WMAN-IEN funding will be used to bring the stories and written memoirs of native and non-native representatives from the Four Corners area in the US, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and France to Quebec's uranium debate. Representatives will participate in the International Uranium Mining Symposium to help influence the political decision-making process. Symposium presentations of the invited representatives will be filmed to assist local members and communities. The organization will be working collaboratively with Minganie Sans Uranium, Saskatchewan Environmental Society, Sept Iles Sans Uranium and Coalition pour que le Quebec ait Meilleur Mine.

6. Great Basin Resource Watch, Nevada

Great Basin Resource Watch was founded in 1994 by representatives from the environmental, Native American, and scientific communities. The organization's mission is to protect the air, water, land, and communities, both human and nonhuman, in the Great Basin from the adverse affects of resource extraction and industrial development. Current projects include work on the proposed Long Canyon Mine Project, the proposed Mt. Hope Molybdenum mine, the Anaconda Copper Mine, Comstock Gold's activities in Lyon County, hydraulic fracking, and oil and gas development.

Funding will be used to work collectively with the impacted residents of Yerington, Nevada and the Yerington Paiute Tribe to persuade Governor Sandoval to request that the Anaconda Mine site near Yerington and the Tribe's lands be placed on EPA's Superfund National Priorities List. This long-avoided listing must be done in a timely manner to prevent further risk to citizens.

7. Ketchikan Indian Community, Alaska

Ketchikan Indian Community has 5,712 tribal citizens who are predominantly of Tlingit, Haida and Tsimpsian descent. Their cultures have evolved around the use of coastal natural resources over thousands of years. With two of its tribes having migrated from Canada in the last several hundred years, there are strong tribal and family connections between Alaska and Canada's first nation peoples. The coastal

natural resources in this part of northwestern BC and southeastern Alaska are important to the cultural existence of the first nations of both nations, and, consequently, the Ketchikan Indian Community is committed to their protection.

Funding will be used to conduct a meeting of the Tribal representatives of the Unified Tribal Trans-boundary Mining Work Group. This meeting will ensure the voice and influence of the southeastern Alaskan Tribes is heard during the international discussion surrounding mine development in the Canadian headwaters of Alaskan rivers. Letters and resolutions to the Canadian and US governments will be produced requesting a referral to the International Joint Commission (IJC) for consideration of a region wide assessment of the impacts of mining on the head waters of SE Alaskan rivers. This work will be done in cooperation with the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council.

8. Klabona Keepers, British Columbia

Klabona Keepers are Tahltan elders and youth working to protect the Tl'abane, headwaters of the Nass, Skeena, and Stikine Rivers, from large-scale mining and fracking through traditional stewardship, direct action, and community engagement. The organization has won victories against Royal Dutch Shell, Fortune Minerals Anthracite Coal Project, Firesteel Inc.'s Copper/Gold deposit development, and Black Hawk Drilling, and has achieved a moratorium on oil and gas development.

Funds will be used for the Klabona Keepers' Etsu kun'desk'ake (Grandmothers Fireplace) campaign to shut down Imperial Metals' Red Chris Mine in light of the recent Mount Polley disaster. Affected nations would be brought together for a strategic meeting and the signing of a declaration to be placed at the base of the mine. Funding also would be used for legal advice and media development.

9. Kipawa Lake Preservation Society, Quebec

The Kipawa Lake Preservation Society works to preserve the Kipawa Watershed through dialogue, education, and protective initiatives that involve the local population, general public, government officials, and corporations.

Funding will be utilized to assist in covering the costs of detailed water testing in the Kipawa area to establish baseline levels. Funds also would be used for an awareness campaign to provide materials and presentations to various organizations and town councils about the risks associated with open pit mining, with a focus on the mining of rare earth minerals.

10. Maverick County Environmental and Public Health Association, Texas

The Maverick County Environmental Association was formed in early 2011 to oppose the open pit coal mine in Maverick County being proposed by Dos Republicas Coal Partnership (DRCP). The organization is 95% Hispanic and five of six Association officers are Hispanic. Maverick County is 95% Hispanic, and also is home to the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas. Since 34% of the people live below the poverty level, the area is a prime target for environmental exploitation.

Funding will support a multi-pronged program to stop the mine including opposing all DRCP permit applications, appealing any actions to grant DRCP a mining permit in state court, supporting the decision by Maverick County to not grant a Floodplain Development Permit, conducting a public information campaign, undertaking petition drives, monitoring the company's ability to obtain water to operate the mine, and joining forces with colleagues in Mexico (where the parent companies of DRCP are causing great environmental damage in their coal mining operations there).

11. Mining Task Force Committee of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Wisconsin

Formed in 2012, the purpose of the task force is to have a centralized, community-based group within the Tribe that meets to discuss mining issues, develops positions and strategies on new mining proposals and legislation, builds coalitions with other tribes and environmental groups with similar ideologies, and provides information and emergency travel funds to community members to attend public meetings.

The grant funds will be used to support initiatives that educate the general public, particularly youth, about mining projects in Wisconsin and the Chippewa Ceded Territory that will harm Lake Superior. These mining projects include existing and proposed mines in Minnesota and Michigan, but the main focus of the Task Force's efforts is the proposed Gogebic Taconite Iron Mine in the Penoque Hills of Northern Wisconsin. The Mining Task Force intends to use funds for travel and meeting expenses, informational materials, and educational events.

12. Minganie Sans Uranium, Quebec

Minganie Sans Uranium is a citizen-based group formed in 2010 to oppose Uracan's exploration for uranium in the Minganie. Working with Innu nations and non-native towns, the organization's work resulted in the passage of resolutions against uranium exploration. Subsequently, exploratory work was halted. Minganie Sans Uranium works to inform the people of the region about mining issues, and is taking an active part in the new coalition for a Quebec Sans

Uranium to ensure that the provincial government includes a uranium mining restriction in its mining law.

Quebec is conducting a Generic Environmental Impacts Evaluation Process of the Uranium mining industry. Minganie Sans Uranium will be working with a coalition of grassroots groups, native nations, citizens, municipalities, and others on an informational campaign called the “Community Experiences Exchange Project.” WMAN-IEN funding will be used to bring the stories and written memoirs of native and non-native representatives from the Four Corners area in the US, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and France to Quebec’s uranium debate. Representatives will participate in the International Uranium Mining Symposium to help influence the political decision-making process. Symposium presentations of the invited representatives will be filmed to assist local members and communities. The organization will be working collaboratively with Coalition pour que le Quebec ait Meilleur Mine, Saskatchewan Environmental Society, Sept Iles Sans Uranium, and Committee for Future Generations.

13. Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment (MASE), New Mexico

MASE was founded in 2007 as a coalition of community-based grassroots organizations that have been adversely impacted by uranium mining in New Mexico. The groups represent a cross-section of the different cultures and ethnicities of northwestern New Mexico, including Laguna Pueblo, Acoma Pueblo, the Navajo Nation, and Anglo ranching communities. MASE spans the region known as the “Grants Mineral Belt,” an area that from 1948 to 1988 supplied more uranium than any other district in the world and accounted for almost one-half of all the uranium produced in the United States. MASE works to address the legacy issues of airborne radiation and contaminated groundwater while preventing new proposals that threaten the environment.

Project funding will pay for a series of educational presentations, known as “No Social License Project” in the MASE member communities and beyond that will provide broad education about environmental impacts and health issues related to uranium mining and milling in the Grants Mineral Belt area. Covered expenses will include meeting room fees, educational materials, advertising, and travel.

14. Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Ottawa

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada was incorporated in 1984 and is the recognized national representative organization of all Inuit women in Canada. The organization fosters a greater awareness of the needs of Inuit women in Canada, and encourages their participation in community, regional, and national concerns in relation to social, cultural, and economic development. Advocacy and policy

development, tools and resource development and dissemination, capacity-building projects and workshops, and research are used to address women's equality, violence and abuse prevention, socio-economic development, and physical and mental health. Impacts related to mining and resource extraction activities have emerged as a priority issue.

Funding will allow Inuit women to plan actions and initiatives that build upon the results of previous research that focused on the social and health impacts of resource extraction activities on Inuit women and families in Qamani'tuaq (Baker Lake), Nunavut. This research documented increases in alcohol consumption and domestic violence; inadequate daycare, mental health, and women's shelter facilities; and the potential for exploitation and abuse of unsupervised youth. The grant will pay for community meetings, recorded discussions and recommendations, and meeting reports in both Inuktitut and English.

15. Rivers Without Borders, a project of the Tides Center, California

Rivers Without Borders was formed in 1999 as a U.S. and Canadian nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to sustaining the outstanding ecological and cultural values of the northwest British Columbia - southeast Alaska transboundary watersheds. The organization engages First Nations and Native Alaskans, commercial fishermen, scientists, agencies, community leaders, elected officials, media, and others to challenge shortsighted resource exploitation. A recent focus has been the Tulsequah Chief mine proposal for the lower Taku watershed and the massive Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell (KSM) mine proposal straddling the Unuk and Nass watersheds. Overall, Rivers Without Borders seeks to foster an alternative international conversation focused on the habitat needs of wild salmon to counter the current BC government's vision of a mining boom for northwest BC.

Rivers Without Borders will use funding to collaborate with Alaska tribes and First Nations, community leaders, fishing organizations, and NGOs in organizing and outreach efforts around the KSM mine. A series of community meetings will be held to educate and engage the general public, stakeholders, community leaders, and tribes on transboundary mining threats. Mining experts will present at several of the meetings. Grant money will be used to finance meeting costs and outreach materials.

16. Saskatchewan Environmental Society, Saskatchewan

Founded in 1981, the Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES) is a non-profit, registered charity whose mandate is to work towards a world in which all needs can be met in sustainable ways. SES has been a leading Saskatchewan voice in promoting renewable energy development and energy conservation and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and in the struggle against uranium

mining. The organization also conducts water monitoring projects with school children in many northern Saskatchewan communities. In 2010, they successfully mobilized public pressure to resist government plans to build a nuclear reactor in Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan Environmental Society will use their funding to prepare a comprehensive report to the Quebec Commission on Uranium Mining Issues on the legacy of uranium mining in the province of Saskatchewan. The submission will highlight the historical relationship between contamination at abandoned and decommissioned uranium mines in Saskatchewan, the level of contamination at the operating Rabbit Lake uranium mine on the western shores of Wollaston Lake, and the record of the Government of Canada in failing to clean up uranium mine sites in Saskatchewan, when it is partially or fully responsible for the contamination at those sites. SES will be working collaboratively with Coalition pour que le Quebec ait Meilleur Mine, Minganie Sans Uranium, Committee for Future Generations, and Sept Iles Sans Uranium.

17. Save Our Sky Blue Waters, Minnesota

Founded in 2005, Save Our Sky Blue Waters (SOS) is concerned about the risks associated with potential mining proposals in Minnesota, and across the Great Lakes Region. SOS consists of residents of northeast Minnesota who oppose the opening of a sulfide mining district in the Superior National Forest, and who live downstream of PolyMet and other proposed mining projects. The organization works to educate the public through its website and provide opportunities for their involvement.

Funding will be utilized to organize an Upper Midwest Asbestos and Mining Workshop to educate regulators and the public on the potential public health risks associated with mines proposed in the region. There is a clear connection between public health and mining deposits that are potential sources of elongate mineral particles (EMP) such as asbestos, but the mining industry has obscured the potential risks. This workshop will provide an opportunity for neutral scientists to discuss these issues. SOS plans to have participation from leading experts in geology and public health, and to involve top scientific and public health experts as well as federal agencies including the USGS and the U.S. EPA in the workshop.

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

Save the Scenic Santa Ritas 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. SSSR's short-

term goal is to prevent any mining activities from occurring in these areas. The organization's long-term goal is to obtain permanent protection of these areas by supporting withdrawal of the Forest Service lands from mineral entry, and by protecting the private lands from mining.

Save the Scenic Santa Ritas (SSSR) will use their mini-grant award to help cover the costs of their legal defense fund. The organization is currently engaged in two important legal appeals challenging the Aquifer Protection Permit and the Air Quality Permits granted for the proposed Rosemont Mine by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Now that the project has entered the final phase in the permitting process (the Forest Service is likely to release a Record of Decision in the next 6 months), the battle is increasingly moving from the public sphere to the courtroom.

19. Sept Iles Sans Uranium (SISUR), Quebec

Sept Iles Sans Uranium, also known as Seven Islands Without Uranium, is a citizen-based, grassroots group formed in 2008 to address exploratory drilling by Terra Ventures, Inc., a Vancouver-based company. After successfully stopping that proposal, the organization launched a regional campaign "Northshore without Uranium" in 2011, followed by Quebec Sans/Without Uranium in 2012. SISUR's main objective is to inform the public and to advocate for the right of affected communities to say "no" to uranium mining.

Quebec is conducting a Generic Environmental Impacts Evaluation Process of the Uranium mining industry. SISUR will be working with a coalition of grassroots groups, native nations, citizens, municipalities, and others on an informational campaign called the "Community Experiences Exchange Project." WMAN-IEN funding will be used to bring the stories and written memoirs of native and non-native representatives from the Four Corners area in the US, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and France to Quebec's uranium debate. Representatives will participate in the International Uranium Mining Symposium to help influence the political decision-making process. Symposium presentations of the invited representatives will be filmed to assist local members and communities. SISUR will be working collaboratively with Coalition pour que le Quebec ait Meilleur Mine, Minganie Sans Uranium, Saskatchewan Environmental Society and Committee for Future Generations.

20. Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC), Alaska

Established in 1970, the mission of the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council is to protect the special places of the world's largest temperate rainforest, promote conservation, and advocate for sustainability in human use of natural resources. SEACC has worked with Tribal leaders in Southeast Alaska and British Columbia to address transboundary mining development, Tribal engagement in Forest

Service decision-making, and protection of water quality and traditional use activities.

Funding will be used to conduct a meeting of the Tribal representatives of the Unified Tribal Trans-boundary Mining Work Group. This meeting will ensure the voice and influence of the southeastern Alaskan Tribes is heard during the international discussion surrounding mine development in the Canadian headwaters of Alaskan rivers. Letters and resolutions to the Canadian and US governments will be produced requesting a referral to the International Joint Commission (IJC) for consideration of a region wide assessment of the impacts of mining on the head waters of SE Alaskan rivers. This work will be done in cooperation with the Ketchikan Indian Community.

21. Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN), British Columbia

The TRTFN took their name from the Taku River, which flows through boreal, sub-boreal, and temperate rainforests from interior northwest British Columbia to the coastal mountains of the Alaskan Panhandle. The Taku watershed is the largest totally intact wild salmon watershed on the Pacific Coast of North America. Chieftain Metals has proposed a gold and mixed metals mine on the banks of the Tulsequah River, just upstream of its confluence with the Taku River and the best wild salmon habitat in the Taku watershed. The TRTFN rely on the watershed to support their culture, economy and community, and wish to ensure the sustainability of the wildlife and fisheries upon which their culture has always depended. The TRTFN will take all necessary steps to ensure that the Tulsequah Chief project, as currently proposed, is not developed on Taku River Tlingit Territory.

WMAN-IEN funds will be used to make a determination of whether permitting the proposed Tulsequah Chief mine project and related 128 km/80 mile access road in Taku River Tlingit First Nation territory is predicated on legally required consultation with the First Nation. The Taku River Tlingit will acquire technical support to provide the most effective arguments and documentation supporting their position that the project's Environmental Assessment permit should be deemed to be expired by the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office, thus stopping development of the mine.

22. WaterLegacy, Minnesota

WaterLegacy was 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 has successfully defended Minnesota's wild rice sulfate standard in litigation initiated by the mining industry and preserved

the health risk limit set to protect children from brain damage resulting from manganese pollution in drinking water. In addition, WaterLegacy is addressing the proposed PolyMet sulfide mine. WaterLegacy's work combines scientific and legal analysis, regulatory advocacy, grassroots organizing, media relations, and cooperation with tribal governments and other allies.

IEN-WMAN mini-grant funding will be used to fund legal research, advocacy, and analysis of scientific and technical materials, all of which will be shared and conducted in consultation with tribes. WaterLegacy's goal will be to help develop new protocols for the exercise of tribal rights under Clean Water Act Section 401, including rights to object to federal permits and rights to secure compliance with tribal water quality standards when upstream pollution affects tribal waters, especially mercury contamination of fish from mining activities.

23. Western Colorado Congress, Colorado

Western Colorado Congress (WCC) is a grassroots citizen action organization with a mission to organize people to challenge injustice and increase their power over decisions that affect their lives. WCC works to address the critical issues facing Colorado's Western Slope and to build people's skills so they can achieve lasting change. The organization works for healthy, sustainable communities, social and economic justice, environmental stewardship, and a truly democratic society. WCC works on uranium mining and oil and gas development, among other issues.

The Western Colorado Congress will use their mini grant support for a project to convince the federal Department of Energy (DOE) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to fully clean up and remediate abandoned uranium mines and mills in western Colorado's Uravan District. Un-reclaimed uranium mines and mills in western Colorado cumulatively impact the region's water quality and people's health. With this grant, WCC will create outreach materials that highlight the threats to the San Miguel and Dolores Rivers and the need for remediation to build broad-based support from citizens and elected officials to urge the DOE and BLM to clean up the Uravan District from decades of contamination.