

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

1. ACT NOW, Wisconsin

ACT NOW, LLC, was organized in 2013 as a member-managed organization. Their mission is to educate people on frac-sand mining. ACT NOW has sponsored the Standing Against the Sand Storm conference, frac-sand awareness presentations, newspaper ads, a billboard, and yard signs. In addition to their public education work, the organization has taken legal action against two mines that would destroy their rural Wisconsin way of life and pollute water and air resources.

ACT Now will use their funding to develop educational programs to create a more effective and inspirational messaging campaign about their communities and the effects of frac-sand mining. They will hold workshops to develop a unifying, positive message that conveys the importance of the air, land, and water to the health and prosperity of their communities. Efforts to increase visibility will include the design and construction of signage to be placed throughout the region.

2. Brooks Range Council, Alaska

The Brooks Range Council was formed by Alaskans in 2012 to defend the Brooks Range from a 220-mile industrial access road that would enable the state of Alaska and powerful mining interests to exploit the southern Brooks Range with large scale, open pit copper mining operations. The organization's goal is to expose the economical, environmental and social folly of this proposal to protect their heritage; way of life; and the fish, moose, and caribou that feed and sustain them.

Mini-grant funding will be used by the Brooks Range Council to hire a consultant to provide technical review, interpretation of existing data, and expert testimony related to the geochemistry of the sought after massive sulfide deposit in the Ambler Mining District and the accompanying water quality risks. An analysis of impacts from the proposed road's crossing of hundreds of creeks and several major rivers would also be included.

3. Chilkat Indian Village, Alaska

The Chilkat Indian Village is a federally recognized tribal government. Members reside in Klukwan, an Alaska Native village positioned on the banks of the Chilkat River in Southeast Alaska. Klukwan is located twenty-two miles north of Haines, Alaska. Their ancestral land base, which covered approximately 2.6 million acres, was reduced to an 898.6-acre reserve as miners, homesteaders, the Territory/State of Alaska and others staked claims on Chilkat land. In the 1990s, Nature Conservancy, which had been entrusted with the land by Klukwan Iron Ore, returned an additional 1,000 acres of ancestral lands to the tribe.

The Chilkat Indian Village will use their funding to continue partnering with Takshanuk Watershed Council and Lynn Canal Conservation to implement activities in a strategic plan that addresses large scale mineral exploration and mining in the Chilkat Valley, Haines, Alaska. They will develop a media message and education campaign for the Chilkat Valley Working Group to include a video and speaker series with presentations on acid mine drainage and the social impacts of mining.

4. Citizen's Coal Council, Pennsylvania

The Citizen's Coal Council was formed in 1989 by grassroots groups from Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Virginia, the Rocky Mountain Region, and the Navajo Nation to provide a unified voice for all coalfield citizens and to demand environmental justice in response to violations perpetrated by the coal industry. The organization's mission is to inform, empower, and work for and with communities affected by the mining, processing, and use of coal.

Citizen's Coal Council will use their funding to provide travel scholarships for Hopi and Navajo citizens to attend a Surface Mining Control and Reclamation (SMCRA) Legal Workshop in Arizona in April 2017. The workshop will include public interest attorneys with knowledge of federal mining laws, water rights, and bankruptcy to respond to the Chapter 11 bankruptcy filed by Peabody Energy Coal Company. Peabody has been mining coal in northern Arizona on Hopi and Navajo Indian Reservations for over 50 years, causing material damage to tribal lands, waterways, springs, and groundwater resources of both tribes.

5. Comstock's Resident Association, Nevada

The Comstock Residents Association is a Nevada community-based non-profit organization formed out of concern for the loss of community, the natural environment, and wildlife habitat, and in response to apprehension about the significant health hazards caused by industrial scale mining within a Superfund Site.

Funding will be used for attorney fees to pursue legal challenges related to an unlawful amendment of a county master plan and changes in zoning that would allow mining within town limits close to residential areas, as well as a related public transparency lawsuit. Additionally an expert will be retained to assist in creating a statutory amendment during the 2017 Nevada Legislature to amend the rules governing the Comstock Historic District within the Virginia City National Historic Landmark and provide protections and oversight of cultural values and landforms.

6. Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners Association, Arizona

Concerned Citizens & Retired Miners Coalition is a grassroots group of citizens who: 1) reside in Superior, AZ, or do not reside locally, but are affiliated with relatives who are residents; 2) are retired hard-rock miners who previously worked in the

now non-operational mine in Superior, AZ and were displaced due to mine closure or personal disability; 3) or individuals who are concerned that important U.S. public recreational land will be conveyed and lost to foreign mining companies for private use. The organization provides information, data, and outreach in opposition to the Resolution Copper Mine project/proposal, and is working to repeal Section 3003 (Oak Flat Land Exchange Bill), of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2015.

Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners Association will use their mini-grant for outreach and educational efforts to inform and advise the residents of the AZ copper mining region and surrounding communities about the negative environmental impacts and destructive nature of the proposed Resolution Copper Mine located near Superior, AZ. Specifically, funding will be used for educational materials; travel, marketing, and advertising costs for conducting public meetings; and 3D scale models of the proposed mine to be used as visual aids.

7. Dragoon Conservation Alliance, Arizona

Dragoon Conservation Alliance was revived in 2014 to combat a mining proposal by Excelsior Mining Co. The organization successfully defeated a marble mine in the Dragoon Mountains in 2008. A small group of local residents holds community meetings and shares information about the mining operation and the water quality of the Willcox aquifer, which serves as the sole source of potable water for several municipalities and unincorporated communities.

Dragoon Conservation Alliance will use their funding to hire Consultant Tom Myers to review and analyze the Underground Injection Control and State Aquifer Protection permits submitted by Excelsior Mining to the EPA and Arizona Division of Water Resources, respectively, so that the organization can knowledgeably identify and comment on the Draft Permits when issued for public comment. Dr. Myers will provide information on the impacts and risks of Excelsior Mining Company's project to extract copper from the North Star Deposit at the base of the Gunnison Hills in Dragoon, Arizona using an in-situ sulfuric acid leaching process.

8. Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, Minnesota

The Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness was established in 1976 to bring full wilderness protection to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). The organization has been protecting the wilderness character of the BWCAW and the Quetico-Superior ecosystem through advocacy, education and research. Their core work focuses on defending against activities that weaken or violate laws protecting its wilderness character, including preventing pollution from proposed sulfide mining projects from impacting area waters, cultural resources, human use of the region, and wilderness character.

Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness will use their mini-grant to support the organization's Building a Sustainable Future Campaign and its three main objectives of engaging citizens through sophisticated grassroots organizing, creating broad media pressure against current sulfide mining proposals, and providing an influential conservation voice at the Minnesota State Capitol. Funding will pay for travel, printing, supplies, and advertising.

9. Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, Oregon

Named for the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society has been the primary local, conservation advocacy group in Curry County, Oregon for more than 35 years. Their mission is to protect the extraordinary and diverse natural habitats of the area, including old growth forests, stunning coastlines and wild rivers – for birds, fish, wildlife, and the next generations. Currently, their leading project is a campaign to protect lands at the headwaters of several National Wild and Scenic Rivers from plans to explore and develop 2 nickel-laterite deposits by securing a mineral withdrawal to prevent future claim staking and to trigger a validity review of the associated claims.

Kalmiopsis Audubon Society will use their grant to pay for outreach and organizing, campaign materials, event supplies, and strategic ads that will help them reach their goal of advancing a proposed mineral withdrawal in the Kalmiopsis region of southwest Oregon through critical final stages to completion before the end of the Obama Administration.

10. Kuskokwim River Watershed Council, Alaska

The Kuskokwim River Watershed Council (KRWC) was created in 2009 to unite area tribes in cultivating a healthy respect for the land and water that they depend upon. The KRWC is a central hub for addressing 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 for their people; and to pass on abundant fish, wildlife and flora to future generations.

Kuskokwim River Watershed Council will use their funding to hire Dr. Tom Myers to participate in-person at an Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) hydrology and groundwater workshop in Anchorage associated with the Donlin Gold EIS. The native Village of Napaimute provided comments on the DEIS, and attached a review of groundwater modeling authored by Dr. Myers, which noted some potential impacts from the mine's probable operation as well as some errors within the DEIS. Subsequently, Dr. Myers was invited by the ACOE to participate in the workshop. Participation by Dr. Myers on behalf of the Native Village of Napaimute, as well as all stakeholders in the Kuskokwim drainage, will strengthen the final Environmental Impact Statement and help protect the ecological integrity of Kuskokwom River.

11. Maverick County Environmental and Public Health Association, Texas

The Maverick County Environmental Association was formed in 2011 to oppose the open pit coal mine in Maverick County being proposed by the Dos Republicas Coal Partnership (DRCP). This mine is only 3 miles from the city limits of Eagle Pass (which has a population of over 25,000 with 25,000 more living in the immediate vicinity) and within one mile of heavily populated subdivisions and 2 elementary schools. Their goal is to halt the operation of the Dos Republicas open pit coal mine in Maverick County and to prevent its further expansion through a multi-front program, which includes legal challenges.

Mini-grant funds will be used for legal assistance to appeal the wastewater discharge permit granted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to Dos Republicas Coal Partnership in a state district court. Court hearings will be held in Austin, TX, which is 220 miles from Eagle Pass, so funding will assist with travel and lodging expenses for members to attend the court hearings.

12. Paving Tundra, Alaska

Paving Tundra is a small grassroots media team of adventurers, photographers, writers and filmmakers who joined together in 2016 in the fight to protect the wild lands of the Brooks Range and the indigenous people who depend on them. They are committing time and energies into assisting the Brooks Range Council and the village councils of southern Brooks Range in protecting the land and livelihood threatened by the Ambler Road construction and the development of the sulfide deposit in the Ambler Mining District.

Paving Tundra will use their mini-grant funding to provide a visual defense against the Ambler Road (proposed by the State of Alaska) and related open copper pit mine for the Brooks Range Council (BRC) by creating a visually, stunning, short video, which accurately illustrates the cultural and environmental realities of the area. The video will be shown at a gathering in which tribal representatives and BRC members will provide a compelling case to Alaska legislators to keep the Brooks Range free from copper pit mining and road development by connecting them to an indigenous livelihood and wilderness that may never be the same if the tundra is paved and rivers polluted from this development.

13. Poo Ha Pah Healing Center, California

Pooha-Bah was founded in 2003 and received IRS tax-exempt status in 2004. The Pooha-Bah Healing Center is used by Western Shoshone leaders to hold healing and life ceremonies. The organization's board of directors has created the Newe Sacred Sites Protection Program that continues to conduct programs for the protection of sites sacred to the Western Shoshone people including the Tosawihl Quarry (White Knife), Bah-Tsa- Gom-Bah (Rock Creek) and Mt. Tenabo threatened by mining.

Funding will be used to create an educational pamphlet about mining along the Amargosa River with the goal of enhancing public understanding of the mining cycle, its legacy, and the current threat from mining to the water that flows through Poo Ha Bah Healing Center into Death Valley. The project will locate and interview Native American elders to obtain their perspectives of the impact of mining on tribal culture. The booklet will incorporate historic information, historic photos, and tribal elder interviews to tell the story of past, present, and future mining.

14. Radiation Monitoring Project, New Mexico

The Radiation Monitoring Project (RMP) was founded in 2014 by three grassroots organizations: Diné No Nukes (DNN); Sloths against Nuclear State (SANS); and Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS). Each of the founding groups serve communities affected by ionizing radiation emissions and contamination caused by active and closed facilities that are or were part of the Nuclear Fuel Chain. This includes communities affected by uranium mining and milling; national labs; waste sites; radiation “sacrifice zones;” and nuclear weapon testing, nuclear power plants/reactors, and other contaminated areas.

The Radiation Monitoring Project will use their funding to work with five organizations in South Dakota (each working against new uranium mining and/or watchdogging existing and abandoned uranium mines) to host a 2-day training on citizen monitoring of radiation. The training will consist of presentations by experts on the basics of radioactivity, health impacts of exposure to radiation from uranium and decay products, and hands-on training in the use of radiation detectors, water sampling, data collection, and chain of custody protocol.

15. Snake River Waterkeeper, Idaho

The Snake River Waterkeeper (SRW) was founded in 2013 with the mission of “applying science and law to protect, restore, and sustain waters of the Snake River Basin.” To that end, SRW monitors water quality at more than 100 sites in the Basin from the headwaters in Grand Teton National Park to its confluence with the Columbia River near Kennewick, Washington. Using those data, they establish citizen standing and bring lawsuits to protect and restore the river’s water quality to ensure the Clean Water Act’s guarantee of “fishable, swimmable, drinkable water” to residents of Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington, and Native American Indian Reservations relying upon this vital resource for subsistence, survival, and recreation.

The mini-grant received by Snake River Waterkeepers will be used to document illegal suction-dredge mining operations in coordination with the Nez Perce Tribe on the Clearwater and Salmon Rivers and their tributaries on reservation lands and in the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests.

Work will entail research on the timing and location of planned illegal suction-dredge operations, documentation and reporting of Clean Water Act violations, and follow through to ensure prompt and complete prosecution of violators intentionally harming endangered salmon and steelhead spawning grounds and populations.

16. To Nizoni Ani, Arizona

To Nizoni Ani (TNA) was founded in 2001 to address Peabody Coal Company's excessive drawdown and waste of the only potable water source the Navajo people have on Black Mesa. The organization has organized numerous campaigns through horse rides, non-violent actions, and intense community education. TNA campaigns include working with Hopi as Intervenors in the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) to bring awareness to the impacts coal mining has on the water on Black Mesa.

To Nizoni Ani will use their funding to educate and prepare community members to respond to the recent release of the draft EIS for the NGS and Kayenta Mine Complex. The EIS, if approved, would allow the NGS/KMC to continue to operate until 2044. TNA also will prepare community members, including youth, to travel to San Francisco for the 9th Circuit Court Hearing on the TNA V.S. Blumenfeld challenge of EPA's Final Rule on BART for the Navajo Generating Station.

17. Yukon Conservation Society, Yukon Territory

The Yukon Conservation Society (YCS) is a grassroots environmental non-profit organization, established in 1968. Their mandate is to pursue ecosystem well-being throughout the Yukon Territory, Canada, and beyond. The YCS acts as a 'mining watchdog' and pursues the vision that mining in the Yukon is undertaken responsibly and in such a way as to ensure that perpetual treatment of future mines upon closure is unnecessary, that mining occurs only in areas where such activities are environmentally and socio-economically acceptable, and that existing care and maintenance activities at abandoned mine sites should continue until a final closure plan has been developed and implemented.

The Yukon Conservation Society will use their mini-grant to create ten simple infograms on contaminants caused by mining activity such as copper, lead, arsenic, selenium, zinc, acid rock drainage, and others. The infograms will be used to inform the general public on mining contaminants and ensure a greater awareness of mining contamination issues. They also will support better and more informed public participation in Yukon environmental assessment processes for forthcoming mining projects. The infograms will be available for use by other groups and will not be project-specific.