

**Western Mining Action Network (WMAN)  
Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)  
Mini-Grant Recipients  
October 2015**

**1. Arizona Mining Reform Coalition, Arizona**

The Arizona Mining Reform Coalition was formed in 2006 to coordinate and share information with Arizona groups working on hard rock mining issues. The organization works to protect Arizona's environment and the health and economic wellbeing of its citizens by working to improve mining rules and regulations, and by opposing irresponsible mining.

Arizona Mining Coalition will use their mini-grant to work towards the repeal of the Oak Flat land exchange, and to educate the general public, the media, and decision-makers about the importance of the greater Oak Flat watershed for religious freedom, ecosystem protection, and recreation. Funding will be used for travel, outreach materials, and a consultant's time.

**2. California Indian Alliance, California**

California Indian Alliance was founded in 2006 to address mining toxins threatening physical and environmental health, and the cultural continuance of California Peoples and families. Their mission is to "protect and restore California Indian People's cultural traditions, ancestral territories, means of subsistence and environmental health."

California Indian Alliance will use their funding to work for cleanup of California's lands and waterways that have been contaminated by legacy gold mining, educate members about mercury contamination, and train members in environmental advocacy. The organization also will support the adoption of new Beneficial Uses designations for water to support Subsistence fishing (FISH) by Native communities and Native American Cultural uses (CUL), and to increase Tribal members' civic engagement by participation in Integrated Regional Water Management.

**3. Chilkat Indian Village, Alaska**

The Chilkat Indian Village is a federally recognized Tribal Government. Tribal members reside in Klukwan, which is a small, ancient, Alaska Native village positioned on the banks of the Chilkat River in Southeast Alaska. The ancestral land base, once covering approximately 2.6 million acres, was drastically reduced as miners, homesteaders, the Territory/State of Alaska and others staked their claims on Chilkat land.

Chilkat Indian Village, in partnership with Takshanuk Watershed Council and Lynn Canal Conservation, will develop a strategic plan for public engagement, education, and outreach related to the potential social, economic, environmental, and cultural impacts of a 6,765 acre mine proposed within the headwaters of the Klehini River, a transboundary tributary of the Chilkat River in Southeast Alaska. In addition, as a team, they will host a second community education forum to bring educational speakers to the communities of Haines and Klukwan, Alaska.

#### **4. Clayoquot Action Society, British Columbia**

Clayoquot Action was formed in 2013 to protect the biocultural diversity of Clayoquot Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island. They are a Tofino-based grassroots conservation organization working closely with the three First Nations in whose territories they operate. The organization tackles challenges posed by open-net pen salmon farming, potential mines, and potential pipelines with the attendant risk of oil spills. Their goals are accomplished through research, education and advocacy.

Mini-grant funds will be used to work with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations to follow-up on the recent *Who's Knocking? An inventory of mineral tenures in Clayoquot Sound*. Each miner or company exploring or operating in Tla-o-qui-aht territory will be contacted. Under Canadian law, mining on First Nations traditional territory requires the Crown to meaningfully consult and accommodate the host First Nation(s).

#### **5. Comstock Residents Association, Nevada**

The Comstock Residents Association was formed when local communities became concerned about the loss of community, the obliteration of the natural environment and animal habitats within the Virginia Range, and the significant health hazards associated with living near the Carson River Mercury Superfund Site (CRMS), with particular concern caused by nearby open pit and underground gold and silver mining.

Mini-grant funding will be used to support two legal actions pertaining to an open pit mine proposal by Comstock Mining that will include a Nevada Supreme Court appeal and a public records lawsuit.

#### **6. Deebege Newe, Nevada**

Deebege Newe was founded in 2013 to support the land and indigenous people of the Great Basin. Deebege Newe has traditional Western Shoshone leadership that focuses on nuclear issues as a priority.

Mini-grant funding will support the Western Shoshone Uranium Mining Assessment to identify and assess the current status of uranium mines in

Nevada. This information will be used to guide their discussion on Weapons of Mass Destruction development and High Level Nuclear Waste disposal at Yucca Mountain. The project also will support the grassroots capacity building of Deebegé Newe by increasing tribal awareness of uranium mining in Nevada.

#### **7. Friends of the San Juans, Washington**

Friends of the San Juans was founded in 1979 to support local efforts to manage growth and protect natural environments in San Juan County. Their activities have expanded to include cultural restoration, marine research and habitat restoration, ecological stewardship and conservation, land use and environmental compliance, community engagement and education, and endangered species protection.

The Friends of the San Juans will use their mini-grant to further their efforts to reduce the risks posed by increased vessel traffic from coal ports in British Columbia and Washington State by leading a trans-cultural-boundary effort to oppose coal export through the Salish Sea. Funding will engage, inform and mobilize their region against the risk of international shipping associated with coal export through the Salish Sea.

#### **8. George Manuel Foundation, British Columbia**

The George Manuel Foundation focuses on the empowerment of indigenous people by engaging in research and education. The organization informs indigenous people about the economic dimension of their rights and supports them in asserting their indigenous territorial authority.

The George Manuel Foundation will use their mini-grant to inform Secwepemc communities and decision-makers about the mining activities proposed in their territory. Funding will be used to hire a legal researcher, as well as a mapping consultant, to provide quarterly updated maps and data tables on the mining activity in Secwepemc territory, and to advise the community on what is needed to set up a long-term monitoring project.

#### **9. Hillburn Environmental Action Committee, New Jersey**

Hillburn Environmental Action Committee was formed in 2015 as a group of concerned citizens, mainly Ramapough Lenape indigenous people, in response to the imminent threat posed by the proposed expansion of mining activity near their small community. The organization is addressing impacts to their quality of life, which include noise and disruption, degradation of property values, exposing genetically susceptible indigenous and minority people to autoimmune and cancer-causing silica dust, and the desecration and pillaging of land that likely contains ancient artifacts.

Hillburn Environmental Action Committee will use their funding to hire an attorney to stop illegal mining in a residentially zoned area with an expired special use permit, and to produce outreach materials.

**10. Inside Passage Waterkeeper (Part of SEACC), Alaska**

Inside Passage Waterkeeper, a member of the international Waterkeeper Alliance, was formed in 2014 to promote clean water issues in Southeast Alaska. The grassroots organization is directed by an Advisory Board of locals, from Yakutat to Metlakatla, with a mission to keep Alaska's clean water clean.

Inside Passage Waterkeeper will combine their mini-grant funding with the Wrangell Cooperative Association's mini-grant to assist in the costs of filing fees for attaining non-profit corporation status for the United Tribal Transboundary Work Group (UTTMWG), and to conduct a meeting of the tribal representatives that comprise the UTTMWG. The funding will help ensure the voice and unique power of the southeastern Alaskan Tribes are heard during the international discussion surrounding mine development in the Canadian headwaters of rivers in Alaska, and will promote efforts in requesting an international dialogue and/or a referral to the International Joint Commission.

**11. Kamloops Moms For Clean Air, British Columbia**

Kamloops Moms For Clean Air is a not-for-profit organization that began in 2012 out of a growing concern for air quality and the environmental and human health impacts from a proposal for an open pit copper and gold mine to be built approximately two kilometers from one of their community's elementary schools and neighborhoods.

Kamloops Moms For Clean Air will use their funding to hire an independent expert who will review the "air studies" section of the KGHM Ajax open pit copper and gold mining application. This critique will become part of the public review process for the mine.

**12. 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 proposed by Dos Republicas Coal Partnership. This mine would be only three miles from the city limits of Eagle Pass, and the organization is addressing water quality and air pollution concerns related to the proposal through legal action, public education, citizen activism, and monitoring.

The Maverick County Environmental Association will use their mini-grant to prevent the proposed Dos Republicas open pit coal mine in Maverick County, Texas from becoming operational. Funding will be used to hire an

expert witness for an upcoming hearing related to the granting of a waste water discharge permit, and to provide travel support for six local witnesses to attend the hearing.

### **13. Radiation Monitoring Project, New Mexico**

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

Radiation Monitoring Project will use their funding to pay for two trainings hosted by Diné No Nukes to be held on or near Navajo Nation for Diné (Navajo) residents affected by past uranium mining and milling, as well as new threats. The trainings will provide radiation monitors to a selected number of Diné groups or individuals and focus on the use of the monitors, data collection, basic health and safety education regarding radiation, and related issues.

### **14. Save Our Sky Blue Waters, Minnesota**

Founded in 2006, Save Our Sky Blue Waters is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the waters, forests, and wildlife of the Arrowhead region. The organization addresses sulfide mining and is working to educate the public and provide access to information and alerts regarding public meetings, review, and comments on PolyMet’s proposed NorthMet Mine.

Save Our Sky Blue Waters will use their mini-grant for legal review and research of the Forest Service Record of Decision and land exchange proposal for the PolyMet NorthMet Mine.

### **15. Save the Wild U.P., Michigan**

Save the Wild U.P. was founded in 2004 to protect the unique cultural and environmental resources of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula from the dangers of sulfide mining. Their mission statement reads: “Through public awareness and education we strive to protect the Upper Peninsula from unsustainable development, degradation and dangerous contamination.” Save the Wild U.P. works to empower citizens, translate permits, and to provide consistent analysis of corporate motives.

Save the Wild U.P. will use their mini-grant funding to fight the political manipulation by local politicians and international mining corporations to

push approval of a mining haul route through some of the last uninterrupted wilderness in Marquette County. They will accomplish this through the creation of a coalition of citizens and organizations, public education, community activism, and legal means.

#### **16. Secwepemc Nation Youth Network, British Columbia**

The Secwepemc Nation Youth Network is a grassroots organization focused on land protection and revival of cultural ways and language. The organization has taken a lead in protecting lands from mining by organizing site visits to the Mount Polley disaster site and mines in the exploration stage, such as Imperial Metal's Ruddock Creek mine. Secwepemc Nation Youth Network documents their site visits through film in order to educate the public about mining and its aftermath.

Secwepemc Nation Youth Network will use their funding for on going monitoring of the Mount Polley disaster site and a second report on the aftermath of the disaster. The organization will continue to use public education and citizen advocacy to get their message out about Mount Polley in light of Imperial Metal's proposed Ruddock Creek project, a lead and zinc mine in the exploration stage in the glaciers and headwaters of major salmon spawning grounds.

#### **17. Silver Valley Community Resource Center, Idaho**

The Silver Valley Community Resource Center was founded in 1986, following the 1983 Superfund designation, by representatives from the affected community, churches, unions, social service agencies, and medical professionals. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for all people of the Silver Valley specific to environmental justice, economic development, housing/homelessness, and health.

Silver Valley Community Resource Center will use their mini-grant funding to bring environmental justice advocates, mining and health experts, NGOs, tribal representatives, political representatives, and the organizations' supporters together to advocate for accountability from the EPA in the cleanup of the Bunker Hill site.

#### **18. Uranium Watch, Utah**

Uranium Watch was established in 2006 to address the health, safety, and environmental issues associated with uranium mining and milling. The organization 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. Uranium Watch is a citizen information, research, networking, and environmental action project.

Uranium Watch will use their funding for education, community action, and participation in regulatory processes regarding uranium mining and

milling, abandoned uranium mines, and zombie uranium mines in the Utah and 4-Corners area. This will involve field trips, community meetings, trainings, and permit and regulatory hearings.

#### **19. Walk to Save Oak Flat, Arizona**

Walk to Save Oak Flat was founded in 2015 to raise awareness about the proposed Resolution Copper mine at Oak Flat, Arizona. Their goal is to stop the mine from being constructed. The organization has sponsored and completed a 1,000-mile walk to raise awareness for this issue.

Walk to Save Oak Flat will use their funding to inform the general public about the giveaway of a sacred Native American site (Oak Flat) to a foreign mining company (Resolution Copper) so that people can influence their legislators to vote for the Save Oak Flat Act in Congress. Funding will be used for outreach materials and activities.

#### **20. Wrangell Cooperative Association, Alaska**

Wrangell Cooperative Association is a tribal government formed in 1938. One of their goals is to protect their natural resources from the potential disastrous effects of mining in the headwaters of rivers in Southeast Alaska. Wrangell Cooperative Association has been a member of the United Tribal Transboundary Mining Work Group (UTTMWG) since its inception in 2014.

Wrangell Cooperative Association will combine their funding with that of Inside Passage WaterKeepers to assist in the costs of filing fees for attaining non-profit corporation status for the United Tribal Transboundary Mining Work Group (UTTMWG), and to conduct a meeting of the tribal representatives that comprise the UTTMWG. The funding will help ensure the voice and unique power of the southeastern Alaskan Tribes are heard during the international discussion surrounding mine development in the Canadian headwaters of rivers in Alaska, and will promote efforts in requesting an international dialogue and/or a referral to the International Joint Commission.

#### **21. Yukon Conservation Society, Yukon Territory**

The Yukon Conservation Society 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, recognizing that human well-being is ultimately dependent upon fully functioning healthy ecosystems. Yukon Conservation Society acts as a mining watchdog in their territory.

The Yukon Conservation Society will use their funding to hire a graphic designer to finalize a logo and, under the management of their Mining Analyst, create four posters with graphics and information about the

environmental risks of the proposed Casino Mine. Each of the four pages will highlight one major environmental concern, and will be suitable for distribution through social media. The Casino Mine would be one of the biggest in the Yukon, if not western Canada, with a proposed earthen dam that would dwarf the failed Mount Polley dam in B.C.