

**Western Mining Action Network (WMAN)
Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)
Mini-Grant Recipients
October 2017**

1. Amerind, Arizona

The Amerind Foundation and Museum was founded as a nonprofit archaeological research institution in 1937. Its mission is to foster and promote knowledge and understanding of the Native Peoples of the Americas through research, education, and conservation.

Funding will be used to support the work of hydrologist Dr. Tom Myers, who will be analyzing and writing reports on the EPA permitting process for the Gunnison Copper Mine Project proposed by Excelsior Mining Corp. Dr. Myers conducted an earlier review for Amerind on the Arizona DEQ permitting process, finding an inadequacy of monitoring wells.

2. Appalachian Citizen's Law Center, Kentucky

The Appalachian Citizens' Law Center (ACLCL) is a nonprofit law firm that fights for justice in the coalfields by working with grassroots groups and individuals to protect the land and people of Appalachia from misuse and degradation caused by extractive industries and by representing coal miners and their families on issues of black lung and mine safety. ACLCL handles individual cases and engages in strategic litigation, organizing, and policy work in the areas of environmental protection, sustainable energy, and mine safety and health.

The Appalachian Citizens' Law Center will use their mini-grant to support their Bond Forfeiture Research Project, which seeks to catalogue the current state of water quality on inactive surface mines in Eastern Kentucky, and link those water quality data to information regarding the status of surface mines. Connecting water quality problems to permit status will allow ACLCL and others concerned with water quality in Eastern Kentucky to advocate for more stringent permit processes that prevent companies from simply abandoning their reclamation responsibilities.

3. Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance, New Mexico

The Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance (BVDA) is a core member of the MASE (Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment) organization, and works to protect a small community located adjacent to the Homestake-Barrick Gold uranium mill tailings site north of Milan, NM, which is a Superfund site. BVDA was organized in 2007 to support community members who had been working for over twenty years to ensure cleanup of the site.

The Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance will use their funding to hire Dr. Tom Myers to analyze and comment on a recent EPA Superfund sampling

project conducted by the USGS to collect detailed groundwater and geophysical data of the alluvium and two bedrock aquifers near the site. Dr. Myers' review will assist the community in interacting with EPA to assure results are interpreted and reported accurately with the interests of the surrounding community in mind.

4. Brooks Range Council/Paving Tundra, Alaska

Paving Tundra is a small grassroots media team of adventurers, photographers, writers and filmmakers who have joined the fight to protect the wild lands of the Brooks Range and the indigenous people who depend on them. Started in 2016, they have been committing time and energies into assisting the Brooks Range Council and the village councils of southern Brooks Range in keeping this land and livelihood protected. 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 to make a series of six short film vignettes, each approximately 30 seconds to a minute long, in reference to the Ambler Road (proposed by the State of Alaska) for the purpose of open copper pit mining. The Brooks Range Council will disburse the short films throughout the state of Alaska, and nationally, in order to bring awareness of the issue during the remaining 3-month EIS scoping and public comment review process.

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

The Center for Science in public Participation was organized in 1997 to provide technical assistance to public interest groups on issues related to mining and water quality. CSP₂ focuses on factual issues, and whenever possible seeks consensus and win-win solutions. They focus on the environmental effects of water quality contamination from mining, mine design and effluent treatment technologies, reclamation, and risks to fisheries. CSP₂ additionally provides assistance to communities and tribes so that they may have a stronger voice in negotiations and decisions.

Funding will be used to demonstrate that mining exploration poses its own risks, which are currently undocumented in the literature, through the publication of a water contamination manuscript in a peer-reviewed journal. Impacts occur from unclosed drill holes and unlined drill waste sumps. This manuscript would provide some of the documentation NGOs and regulators need by ensuring that the scientific work documenting impacts is sound. It also has the potential to reach a wide audience.

6. 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 work with local communities including the three First Nations in whose territories they operate—Tla-o-qui-aht, Ahousaht and Hesquiaht, and with provincial and national organizations, to protect Clayoquot Sound from industrial development. Their goals are accomplished through research, education and advocacy.

Clayoquot Action will use their mini-grant to work with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation to develop a plan to launch a campaign to legally ban mining activities in their territories in perpetuity. Imperial Metals (of Mount Polley infamy) has claims in Tla-o-qui-aht territories—despite their existing Land Use Plan, which states that mining is a non-permissible use. This project will include close collaboration with key allies to gain letters of support that will be given to the government.

7. Comstock Residents Association, Nevada

The Comstock Residents Association was formed when the Comstock communities became concerned about the loss of community, their natural environment and animal habitats, and out of concerns related to the significant health hazards caused by industrial scale mining within a Superfund Site and the Virginia City National Historic Landmark. Among the organizations' core values are protecting their communities, cultural resources, watersheds, biodiversity and wildlife; ensuring sustainable environmental protections; and advocating for clean air, clean water, and the natural environment.

Mini-grant funding will be used to help fund the organization's legal campaign involving: 1.) a challenge to an amendment of a county comprehensive master plan and zoning that now allows mining within Silver City town limits; and (2.) a Nevada public records lawsuit addressing the lack of government transparency and public oversight. The mini-grant also will provide resources to further their public awareness campaign aimed at educating and engaging residents and officials.

8. Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners Association, Arizona

Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners Coalition is a grassroots group of local citizens and their families, retired and displaced miners, and individuals concerned about the conveyance of important U.S. public recreational land to a foreign mining company for private use. The organization is opposed to the Oak Flat land exchange authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2015 and partners with others to demonstrate opposition through protests and public outreach meetings.

Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners Coalition will use their mini-grant to continue their outreach and educational program to 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 (RCM) to be located near Superior, AZ. Specifically, funds will be used for informational copies, brochures, bumper stickers, banners, t-shirts, food & travel, advertising and meetings, and the purchase of additional professional 3D scale models/renderings of the public lands that would be destroyed and negatively impacted by this mining project.

9. Conservation Council of New Brunswick, New Brunswick

The Conservation Council of New Brunswick was founded in 1969 and is New Brunswick's longest running environmental charity and one of the province's leading public advocates for environmental protection. The Conservation Council, a member of the UN's Global 500 Roll of Honour, works to find practical solutions to help families and citizens, educators, governments and businesses protect the air they breathe, the water they drink, their precious marine ecosystem and the land, including the forest, that supports them.

The Conservation Council will use their funding to raise awareness about the potential impacts of the proposed Sisson mine, which would be one of the world's largest open-pit tungsten and molybdenum mines, to freshwater resources by creating educational materials for the affected communities. These will include colorful infographics and a powerpoint presentation.

10. Deer Tail Scientific, Minnesota

Deer Tail Scientific was founded in May 2017 with a mission to educate the public, government officials, and tribal sovereign nations with fact-based information on: (1) the permitting, development, regulation, reclamation, environmental performance and economics of Wisconsin's Flambeau Mine; and (2) how the Flambeau Mine compares to other mines (closed, currently operating and/or proposed) in the Great Lakes region and beyond.

Mini-grant funding will be used to facilitate completion of a comprehensive report documenting water contamination at the Flambeau Mine that Dr. Robert E. Moran was working on at the time of his death in May 2017. The report is to be completed by Dr. David Chambers. This work is important because of the prominent role that the Flambeau Mine is playing in various debates over new mining projects in the Great Lakes region and beyond.

11. 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 local aquifer, which serves as the sole source of potable water for several municipalities and unincorporated communities.

Mini-grant funds will be used to hire hydrologic consultant Tom Myers, PhD, of Reno, NV to participate in several site visits in Dragoon. Dr. Myers will work with Excelsior's operator/owner and their hydrologists to address the inadequacy of monitoring wells as outlined in his comments on Excelsior's ADEQ State Aquifer Protection Permit, which was granted in September 2017 by the Arizona Division of Water Resources. Dr. Myers has analyzed and reported extensively on the future impacts and risks caused by Excelsior Mining Company's project to extract copper from the NorthStar Deposit at the base of the Gunnison Hills in Dragoon, Arizona using an in-situ sulfuric acid leaching process.

12. Duluth for Clean Water, Minnesota

Duluth for Clean Water, formed in 2016, is an all-volunteer organization seeking a safe and healthy future for Duluth, the Lake Superior watershed, and surrounding areas. They believe the Glencore/PolyMet copper nickel sulfide project in their headwaters poses an unacceptable threat to Duluth and Lake Superior. The organization's role is to elevate Duluth's voice on this issue at the local, state and national levels.

Mini-grant funds will be used to hire a consultant recommended by Amnesty International to use up-to-date climate predictions from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to evaluate the ability of PolyMet's proposed dam to withstand increasing heavy precipitation events. The findings of the report will be shared with the broader community through public meetings (including a presentation at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, in collaboration with the student environmental club), and through printed materials, letters to the editor, and social media.

13. Fair Mining Collaborative Society, British Columbia

Founded as the Environmental Mining Education Foundation in 2000, the Fair Mining Collaborative is BC's only mining-centered regional NGO. They provide values-based, credible technical and strategic guidance to communities, First Nation Leadership groups, and political decision makers with the intention of increasing knowledge of mining impacts and building capacity to make informed land-use decisions that foster healthy sustainable communities and ecosystems.

Fair Mining Collaborative Society will use their funding in support of a campaign with University of Victoria's Environmental Law Clinic to issue a call for BC's Auditor General to investigate BC's regulation of placer mining. They will network with First Nations, NGOs, and decision makers, and conduct community and public outreach, including creating and

disseminating social media content, and mailing placer reports to communities and Members of BC's Legislative Assembly.

14. Information Network for Responsible Mining, 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) monitoring mine proposals and permitting; 2) advocating for regulatory and legislative reforms; and 3) disseminating information and research to affected people and groups.

Mini-Grant funding will support public outreach, education, and a coalition campaign to enact reforms to hardrock mining in Colorado. INFORM is organizing a coalition of groups to develop grassroots support to ban perpetually polluting mines and to increase bonding to protect taxpayers. INFORM provides research, education, and technical support to the campaign; produces written campaign materials; and coordinates the coalition. Specifically, funding will be used to cover travel expenses for INFORM staff and coalition members to attend meetings and work directly with community leaders and local officials to draft public resolutions and support for proposed mining reforms.

15. Maverick County Environmental & 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).

The Maverick County Environmental & Public Health Association will use their mini-grant to contest the renewal of the Dos Republicas Coal Partnership mining permit at a hearing conducted by the Railroad Commission of Texas. Funding will cover legal assistance, travel, and lodging.

16. The Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter of Montana Trout Unlimited, Montana

The Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter of Montana Trout Unlimited is a locally driven chapter of Montana Trout Unlimited based in Helena, Montana. They are dedicated to the conservation, protection, and restoration of fisheries and fisheries habitat within the reaches of the Missouri, Smith, and Little Blackfoot Rivers and their tributaries, and conduct many on-the-ground projects to protect cold water fisheries.

Mini-grant funding will be used for a polling effort to determine public opinion about a potential ballot initiative that would amend Montana State law to require a mine to demonstrate that it can complete operations without

perpetual care before it can secure an operating permit. The chapter also will use mini-grant funds to help generate participation in a public hearing in Helena, Montana about the proposed Tintina Mine at the headwaters of the Smith River Watershed in Montana.

17. Nez Perce tribe, Idaho

The Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho is a federally recognized Indian tribe. The Nez Perce have lived on the Columbia River Plateau in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States for at least 11,500 years. The hatching, harvesting and eating of salmon is an important cultural and economic strength of the Nez Perce through full ownership or co-management of various salmon fish hatcheries.

Mini-grant funding will be used to obtain technical expertise that Tribal staff do not currently possess. Jim Kuipers of Kuipers Consulting will assist the Tribe in understanding the Midas Gold Corporation's proposed mining project, the Stibnite Gold Project, in the South Fork Salmon River watershed, as well as the proposed Project's potential impacts on the Tribe's Treaty-reserved resources. Issues to be investigated include river diversion, tailings dam seismic stability, impacts to the watershed's hydrology, and impacts to critical habitat of Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

18. Rochford Opposition to Mineral Mountain Mining and Milling, South Dakota

Rochford Opposition to Mineral Mountain Mining and Milling (RO Forum) was formed in 2017 by citizens of the Rochford and Nemo, S.D., area who are opposing gold exploration in the central Black Hills. This new organization's leading members are beginning to tackle legal and organizing work.

Rochford Opposition to Mineral Mountain Mining and Milling will use their mini-grant to build capacity to prevent gold exploration, and potentially mining, in the central Black Hills of South Dakota. Activities will include travel to potentially affected communities; printing flyers, postcards, and other public education materials; and information tabling and meetings to inform and engage citizens.

19. Snake River Waterkeeper, Idaho

Snake River Waterkeeper was founded in 2013 with the mission of "applying science and law to protect, restore, and sustain waters of the Snake River Basin." The organization 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 the Native American Indian Reservations.

Mini-grant funding will be used to research and investigate the expanding exploratory mining operations of Midas Gold on the East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River near Yellow Pine, Idaho. Expenses to be covered include travel and field supplies.