

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

**1. Alliance for Appalachia, Kentucky**

The Alliance for Appalachia was formed in 2006 to respond to the growing momentum and urgency to end mountaintop removal coal mining and to support a sustainable and just economy in Appalachia. The organization offers trainings and collaborative opportunities to strengthen relationships and shared work across states. It has developed a regional community-led water-monitoring project and supports efforts of mountain residents to advocate for their communities in through lobbying and meetings.

The Alliance for Appalachia will use mini-grant funding to continue their “Our Water, Our Future” campaign. Funding will provide scholarships for low-income Appalachian leaders to participate in Steering Meetings, in which Our Water, Our Future strategy is developed. These meetings also will provide opportunities for Appalachian leaders to build mechanisms of support and shared analysis across organizations, campaigns, and state- lines.

**2. Castle Mountain Coalition, Alaska**

Castle Mountain Coalition (CMC) was founded in 2006 in response to the threat of large-scale coal development in the Matanuska Valley. Their mission is to protect the ecological integrity, economic sustainability, and quality of life within the Matanuska River watershed. CMC succeeded in stopping the coal project that was the impetus for their founding, but recent shifts in the market for coal are driving increasing interest in Matanuska Valley coal reserves. Currently CMC represents the grassroots in a broad coalition of local, statewide, and national organizations working together as the Mat Valley Coalition to oppose coal development.

Castle Mountain Coalition will use mini-grant funding for their MineWatch program. Citizens will be placed on and in close proximity to the boundary lines of proposed mines in order to monitor the activities of the mining corporations and to facilitate citizen engagement in the regulatory process. Ongoing trainings will be used to develop and empower local community experts, engage new volunteers, and hold mining corporations accountable to the law.

### **3. Chief Joseph Custer Reserve, Saskatchewan**

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve encompasses the communities under the Prince Albert Grand Council, which are: Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation, Black Lake Denesuline First Nation & Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation. The Prince Albert Grand Council's 12 Chiefs represent First Nation Members and seek to protect their livelihoods, traditional territories and inherent right to the practices of hunting and gathering. They are addressing the risk of uranium mining to traditional practices and the potential for long-term effects to the environment and the wildlife and plants that their elders and members rely on.

Grant money will be used to pay for elders, chiefs, and community members to attend the World Uranium Symposium in Quebec and share their stories of how uranium mining has affected them, and the way in which their voices are often unheard by the fiduciary bodies who govern the exploration of uranium mining and the issuance of operating licenses.

### **4. Coal River Mountain Watch, West Virginia**

Coal River Mountain Watch was formed in 1998 by citizens concerned about mountaintop removal coal mining (MTR). Their mission is to stop the destruction of their communities and environment by mountaintop removal mining, to improve the quality of life, and to help rebuild sustainable communities. Their projects include the Citizens' Enforcement Program to compel regulatory compliance where state officials fail, the Sustainable Energy and Economic Diversification Project to promote wise energy policy and protect landowners from unscrupulous extractive industries, the Road Show to tell their story to a broad audience; the Tadpole Project, to clean up the Coal River, and the Appalachian Community Health Emergency campaign to seek federal intervention in their communities' health crisis.

Coal River Mountain Watch will use funding to alert area residents, through door-to-door contact, of the new, as yet unofficial mountaintop removal coal mining permits being proposed in their community; to organize resistance; and to provide assistance in fighting the permits, which would encompass approximately 2,000 acres. They also will participate in the "No More MTR Permits Day" event at the WV Dept. of Environmental Protection.

### **5. Committee for Future Generations, Saskatchewan**

Committee for Future Generations was founded in 2011 to address a proposed high-level nuclear waste dump in northern Saskatchewan, along with the supply

of uranium, much of which is coming from indigenous territory in Saskatchewan and impacting communities socially, culturally, spiritually, physically and economically. The organization has conducted research, participated as interveners in the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Hearings, educated the public in Saskatchewan, and received Environmental Activists Awards from Saskatchewan Eco-networks and Council of Canadians.

Committee for Future Generations will use its mini-grant to network with other regions targeted by the uranium and nuclear waste industries, communicate using on-line tools, and conduct teach-ins. Funding will help cover the costs of travel, supplies, and communications.

#### **6. Concerned Citizens for Haines Township, Pennsylvania**

Concerned Citizens for Haines Township (CCHT) is a local grassroots association formed in January 2014 by leaders of other environmental protection groups active in the region since 1991. The mission of CCHT, generally, is to preserve what's good in Haines Township and to work for positive change. Current leading projects are to monitor and mitigate impacts of expanded open pit limestone mining on nearby homes and businesses in two watersheds classified (in Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection [PA-DEP] categorization) as Exceptional Value water sources.

CCHT will use emergency grant funding to pay for expert technical analysis of a proposed design change in the Con-Stone Aaronburg limestone mine's plan for protecting water sources and supply near its expanded operation site.

#### **7. Dakota Rural Action, South Dakota**

Dakota Rural Action (DRA) is a grassroots family agriculture and conservation group formed in 1987 to respond to the devastation wrought by the 1980's farm crisis. DRA organizes South Dakotans to protect family farmers and ranchers, natural resources, and a unique way of life. The organization has responded to issues including agricultural credit and policy; sustainable agriculture: local food, oil and gas regulation; renewable energy; confined animal feeding operations; property rights and responsibilities; and uranium development in the Black Hills.

Mini grant funds will be used to do a large direct mailing, produce outreach materials, and help fund a billboard as part of the campaign to stop uranium mining in the Black Hills. Specifically, DRA is seeking funds to

increase its capacity in opposing the efforts by Arzaga to receive a permit to build the first in situ leach mining permit in South Dakota.

#### **8. Deer Trail Press, Wisconsin**

Deer Trail Press was founded in 2006 to serve as the agent for the publication of the book, *The Buzzards Have Landed! - The Real Story of the Flambeau Mine*. The book, gifted to schools, libraries and tribal governments across the region (and available as a free download), chronicles the grassroots resistance movement to the mine and exposes various mining company maneuvers designed to squelch opposition. It also includes a detailed analysis of mining regulations impacting the Flambeau project and how ground and surface water quality fared under those regulations, giving others ammunition to use whenever the Flambeau Mine is featured by industry representatives as a “model mine.”

Deer Trail Press will use funding to help cover printing and mailing costs for a brochure entitled: *The Sad Story of the Flambeau Project*, developed with the assistance of mining engineer Jack Parker. It will be provided to U.S. and Wisconsin government officials, regulators within Wisconsin DNR, tribal government officials, and other interested parties. It is meant to pressure Wisconsin DNR to establish monitoring to define the extent of groundwater pollution from the backfilled mine pit, and to draw attention to false statements about the environmental performance of the Flambeau Mine propagated by industry representatives in their bid to develop new mines in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan.

#### **9. Kanawha Forest Coalition, West Virginia**

The Kanawha Forest Coalition, formed in 2013, is a coalition of local residents and organizations working to stop a recently permitted mountaintop removal coal mine located just outside Charleston, WV city limits and adjacent to the 10,000-acre Kanawha State Forest. Their goals are to stop the mine, use their campaign to raise awareness about the broad range of adverse impacts that Mountain Top Removal (MTR) surface mining has on Appalachian communities, and engage in a community-based MTR resistance campaign.

Kanawha Forest Coalition will use their funding to organize volunteers in an ongoing effort to stop the mine. Activities will include outreach, educational, and media efforts that encompass events, demonstrations, and the political organization of impacted communities.

## **10. Keepers of the Athabasca Watershed, Alberta**

Keepers of the Athabasca Watershed Society, founded in 2006, is composed of First Nations, Metis, Inuit, environmental groups, and citizens working together to secure and protect water and watershed lands for ecological, social, cultural and community health and well-being in the Athabasca River Watershed. They are part of a larger coalition of Arctic Basin watershed stewardship groups, Keepers of the Water Council. Their activities are based on the 2006 DehCho Elders' Keepers of the Water Declaration and Principles that clean water is a human right and that water is sacred.

Funding will be used to continue independent sediment monitoring for priority metals and organic contaminants in the Athabasca River downstream of the October 31, 2013 Obed coal mine slurry spill to document possible changes in levels of contaminants as a result of the spill. A consultant will help analyze multi-year sampling data. This activity is part of a larger Keepers project to increase capacity to monitor both water and sediments affected by industrial releases as part of ongoing advocacy work in the Athabasca River Basin.

## **11. Land and Community: Responses to Resource Extraction, Saskatchewan**

Land and Community is a planning committee for a two day workshop titled "Land and Community: Responses to Resource Extraction in Saskatchewan," It includes a grassroots Indigenous advisory group in charge of the format, content and recruitment for the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of a two-day workshop meant for people affected by resource development on Indigenous lands.

The mini-grant award will be used for a workshop in March 2015 that brings together Indigenous land defenders, environmentalists, and landowners to strategize about responding to Saskatchewan's resource extraction industries (including potash and uranium). Specifically, funding will subsidize the travel of Indigenous peoples from the Committee for Future Generations and the Northern Trappers Alliance (both groups currently resisting uranium) to attend. Members from Saskatchewan First Nations Potash Issues Panel also will receive subsidies to travel to the workshop.

## **12. Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation –Wildlife, Lands, and Environment Committee, Northwest Territories**

The Wildlife Lands & Environment Committee (WLEC) of the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN) reviews, monitors, and manages wildlife issues, land and water permits/licenses, and all environmental issues on behalf of its members.

The WLEC also works closely with the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation in developing guidelines and regulations for mining, mineral exploration and hydro development.

The Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN) will use their funding to participate in the Final Hearing of the environmental assessment process for the Kiggavik mine, a proposed uranium mine on the edge of LKDFN Traditional Territory. LKDFN opposes this project because it does not believe that the impacts to caribou and to the traditional way of life in the community of Lutsel K'e have been adequately assessed. The development is proposed next to the boundary of one of the most important parts of LKDFN traditional territory, crosses a river sacred to LKDFN, and is close to the calving grounds of caribou herds on which the people depend for their livelihoods. Two representatives will give a presentation and participate in the Final Hearing.

### **13. Native American Technologies (NAET), Wisconsin**

Since 1995, NAET has been working to stop proposed mining in Chippewas Ceded Territory through the Anishinaabe Niijii" (Native Friend) Alliance. Their accomplishments include helping to stop the Crandon mine, and working to successfully pass a Wisconsin statewide Metallic Sulfide Mining Moratorium in 1998. NAET has been actively working to raise awareness of and prevent the mining of the Penoque Hills, the headwaters of world famous Kakagon wild rice sloughs on the Bad River reservation and Lake Superior, directly downstream from the proposed acid generating mine and waste dump.

NAET will use its mini-grant to further its work to stop the proposed mine in the Penoque Hills by working with local townships and county boards to prevent changes in zoning laws that would allow mining; organizing local residents; raising awareness through the use of media, social media, and traditional journalism, including recording meetings and putting them online; and by organizing more local schools and non-native snowshoe and walking hikes through the Penoque Hills proposed mine site to draw larger awareness of the pristine nature of this headwaters that supplies 40% of Lake Superior's freshwater.

### **14. Powder River Basin Resource Council, Wyoming**

Powder River Basin Resource Council is a citizen-led, grassroots community organization in Wyoming. Founded in 1973, the organization works to promote the responsible development of Wyoming's abundant mineral resources,

addressing the impacts of all energy issues, including coal, oil and gas, and uranium.

Powder River Basin Resource Council will use their mini-grant funding to retain an expert to review the proposed EPA regulations to protect groundwater during in situ uranium mining and milling. The expert report will be provided to participants in the WMAN uranium caucus and will be submitted it as part of the organization's comments on the proposed rule.

#### **15. Sierra Club of British Columbia Foundation, B.C.**

The Sierra Club of BC Foundation exists to protect, conserve, and educate the public about BC's wilderness, species and ecosystems - within the urgent context of climate change impacts. Since 1969, Sierra Club BC has been a leader in advocating for science-based policy, supporting community initiatives and inspiring passionate commitment to the values of environmental stewardship. The organization has more than 25,000 supporters from diverse communities across the province, and a network of dynamic and committed local groups. Sierra Club BC has a track record of successful collaborations with First Nations.

Funding will be used by Sierra Club BC to launch a campaign to raise public awareness of the ecological and cultural values of the Dasikox (Taseko) watershed, which is situated in central B.C. interior and under intense pressure from mining interests. The organization will work closely with the Tsilhqot'in communities of Xení Gwet'in and Yunesit'in, and the Friends of Nemaiah Valley (FONV) to garner widespread and vocal public support for the Tsilhqot'in National Government's plan to protect the area as a tribal park.

#### **16. Native Village of Tyonek-IRA Council, Alaska**

The Native Village of Tyonek (NVT) – IRA Council is a federally recognized Tribe residing along the beaches of the Cook Inlet, and 35 air miles from Anchorage. The peoples of Tyonek have thrived off the marine environment, rivers, and lands for thousands of years, relying on a subsistence lifestyle that is centuries old, and tied to wild, healthy salmon. They are addressing a threat to their traditional native way of life from plans to extract coal for transport to Asian markets.

The Native Village of Tyonek (NVT) will use funding to bring 40-50 native youth together to learn about their Traditional Cultural Landscape and the Chuit'na Archeological District, and to learn about the importance of

protecting sacred sites against the threat of the largest coal mine ever proposed in Alaska, which threatens to destroy 14 miles of healthy salmon spawning areas, traditional moose hunting locations, and ancestral burials grounds. By learning about the location and significance of sacred and traditional sites, their protection and the protection of traditional subsistence hunting and fishing places can continue to be used effectively to ward off development of the mine.

### **17. The Sierra Fund, California**

The Sierra Fund founded in 2001, is dedicated to the Sierra Nevada. The Sierra Fund mission is to increase and organize investment in protecting and restoring the natural resources of the Sierra through advocacy, to leverage state and federal investment in the region; philanthropy, to attract private donor investment; and strategic campaigns, to pursue critically needed programs in the Sierra.

The Sierra Fund will use its mini-grant funding to provide scholarships and travel stipends to individuals from underrepresented organizations or tribes to enable them to attend Sierra Fund's conference entitled "Reclaiming the Sierra 2015: The New Gold Rush." The purpose of the conference is to set the agenda for an era of mine reclamation and community revitalization in California's Gold Country.