

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

**1. Alaska Clean Water Advocacy, Alaska**

The Alaska Clean Water Advocacy (ACWA) has been a project of the Earth Island Institute since 1998. ACWA's work is grounded in supporting the Clean Water Act principle that all waters in the nation should be "fishable and swimmable." For nearly twenty years their efforts have focused on challenging the authorization of industrial "mixing zones" (dilution-pollution zones in public waters) and requiring states to apply the Clean Water Act's Anti-degradation Policy (ADP) that requires states to formally identify the quality of its waters and only allow discharge permits that protect the existing uses of those waters.

Alaska Clean Water Advocacy will use their funding to support their organizing, outreach, and media efforts to stop the development of the Palmer Project (a.k.a. Constantine Mine) in S.E. Alaska. Work will include ensuring the State of Alaska adopts a functional evaluation mechanism for the designation of Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRWs,) and supporting the Chilkat Indian Village's nomination of the Chilkat River in Southeast Alaska to be the State's first ONRW.

**2. Alliance for Appalachia, Kentucky**

The Alliance for Appalachia is a decade old, regional coalition with the goals of ending mountaintop removal, putting a halt to destructive coal technologies, and supporting a sustainable and just Appalachia. They believe abolishing mountaintop removal and supporting economic transition to be important elements of systemic change in our nation's deeply troubled energy, economic, and environmental policies.

The Alliance for Appalachia will use their mini-grant to host regional steering meetings to plan and strategize for their "Our Water Our Future Campaign." Specifically, funding will enable low-income Appalachian leaders to attend and work collaboratively to build mechanisms of support and shared analysis across organizations, campaigns, and state-lines to strengthen their movement.

**3. Barriere Lake Solidarity, Quebec**

Barriere Lake Solidarity has been working with the Algonquins of Barriere Lake since 2008 to support community members in the protection of their territory and community well being. They have assisted their community in opposing mining on their territory, including planned drilling by Copper One, and in resisting government intervention in the community's governance process.

Barriere Lake Solidarity will use their mini-grant to maintain a land protection camp on the main access road to mining claims in the heart of their territory, where 14 proposed exploratory drilling sites are located. While those claims may be temporarily suspended, the First Nation will continue efforts beyond the camp to seek a moratorium on mining activity on their territory, and the cancellation of all companies' mining claims. Funding will be used for travel, food, and supplies.

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

Coal River Mountain Watch was formed in 1998 by a group of citizens concerned about the growing problem of mountaintop removal coal mining (MTR). Their mission is to stop the destruction of their communities and environment by mountaintop removal mining, to improve their quality of life, and to help rebuild sustainable communities. They have become one of the major forces fighting to end MTR, and, in 2003, their Judy Bonds won the Goldman Environmental Prize, providing a major boost to their efforts to publicize the devastation of MTR.

Mini-grant funding will be used to support the Coal River Intensive Monitoring Project (CRIMP), which will aggressively monitor the active and pending mountaintop removal (MTR) coal mines on and around Coal River Mountain. This project will include ground monitoring and aerial drone surveillance for boundary violations, sediment ditch condition, and other potential permit violations. Water sampling of adjacent streams may be conducted if there is a safe and secure way to do so.

#### **5. 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 to "protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, our precious marine ecosystem and the land, including the forest, that supports us."

Funding will be used to host a public event to raise public awareness about the lessons learned from the Mount Polley Mine disaster and the Mount Polley recommendations for tailings waste management during a time when the government is set to approve the Sisson mine/tailings project on unceded Wolastoq territory in the Canadian province of New Brunswick. The event also will forge cross-country networks with indigenous and non-indigenous people working to protect communities affected by mining.

## **6. Center for Science in Public Participation, Montana**

Center for Science in Public Participation (CSP2) was organized in 1997 to provide technical assistance to public interest groups on issues related to mining and water quality. Technical analyses focus on the environmental effects of water quality contamination from mining, application of new mine design and effluent treatment technologies, reclamation, and risks to fisheries. CSP2 additionally provides assistance to communities and tribes on understanding the technical issues around mine projects so that they may have a stronger voice in negotiations and decisions.

This mini-grant funding will be used by CSP2 in an effort to download data related to the environmental impacts of mining from government websites before the data are removed from public access and possibly destroyed.

## **7. Ch'óóshgai Forest Community Planning Project, Arizona**

The Ch'óóshgai Forest Community Planning Project has its origins in 2015 when two community members “crashed” a Navajo Nation legislative and administrative work session regarding the development of a new Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) for Navajo Nation forestlands. They discovered that early planning included greatly expanding sand and gravel mining as well as commercial logging and oil and gas drilling in the Chuska region. The organization’s members began organizing to insist on community participation and representation in any decision-making regarding the region’s forests and water.

Mini-grant funding will be used to inform and organize the Diné forest communities of the Chuska Mountain and Defiance Plateau region regarding environmental threats to the region’s watershed, groundwater, and forests from a series of recently initiated resource extraction proposals that include the expansion of sand and gravel mining. The goal of the Ch'óóshgai Forest Community Planning Project is to inspire and facilitate grassroots community participation in the Navajo Nation’s planning process for these proposals. Planned activities include the creation of a video, brochure, and PSAs, which also would be translated into Navajo.

## **8. Deer Tail Press, Minnesota**

Deer Tail Press, LLC 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 many schools, public libraries, and tribal governments, chronicles the grassroots resistance movement to the Flambeau Mine and exposes various mining company maneuvers designed to squelch opposition. It also includes a detailed analysis of mining regulations impacting the project and shows how groundwater and surface water quality fared under those regulations, thereby giving others ammunition to use whenever the Flambeau Mine is featured by industry representatives as a “model mine.”

Deer Tail Press will use their funding to help cover the cost of hiring a hydrogeologist to bring science into the debate occurring around an effort to repeal Wisconsin's 19-year old mining moratorium law. The consultant's primary role will be to provide fact-based information regarding the environmental performance of modern metal sulfide mines in the United States, Canada, and around the world.

#### **9. Douglas Indian Association, Alaska**

The Douglas Indian Association (DIA) is the historical Douglas and Juneau-based, Tlingit Tribe with tribal members of both the T'aaku Kwáan and A'akw Kwáan ancestry. The Douglas Indian Association became a federally recognized tribe in 1934. Through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971, the State of Alaska conveyed lands to Native corporations in Southeast Alaska, but no lands, especially in the Douglas or Juneau area, were conveyed to the Tribe.

Douglas Indian Association will use their mini-grant to organize a Taku boat trip, following on the heels of two prior successful excursions. The purpose of the event will be to focus on the Tulsequah Chief mine cleanup issue, generate more attention, inspire additional community interest, and shape a formal DIA position regarding reclamation and a future for the Taku beyond mining toward safeguarding the watershed's outstanding ecological and cultural values.

#### **10. Earthworks, D.C.**

Earthworks (then the Mineral Policy Center) was founded in 1988 by Phil Hocker, Mike McCloskey and former Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall to help reform mining laws and practices. In 2005, the Mineral Policy Center and the Oil and Gas Accountability Project joined forces to become Earthworks. The organization is dedicated to protecting communities and the environment from the adverse impacts of mineral and energy development while promoting sustainable solutions. While their long-term mining reform objectives seek to change the rules of the game by which the mining industry is allowed to play, the organization's work with impacted communities achieves immediate and tangible results in protecting people and the environment from mining's impacts.

Earthworks will use their grant to hire an economics expert to develop comments in support of new rules under consideration by the EPA for finalization in December 2017, which will require mining companies to provide financial assurance for the risks associated with hazardous releases. Their goal is to respond to unanticipated Executive Orders issued by Donald Trump that preclude new rules from being issued that impose a cost on industry.

### **11. Friends of the Stikine Society, British Columbia**

Friends of the Stikine Society (FOSS), founded in 1980, is a grassroots organization formed to support Tahltan efforts to halt five BC Hydro dams on the Stikine and Iskut Rivers. FOSS continued their involvement until 2000 when the area designated for the dams was given park status. The organization's main focus is to network information as well as maintain relationships with community members. They now work to keep mining development to a sane cultural, social, and environmentally secure level in the Stikine, Iskut, Unuk, Skeena, Nass, Taku, & Finlay watersheds, aiming for 50% of the area to be protected with no mineral development zones to conserve as much as possible in one of the remaining roadless areas in North America.

Friends of the Stikine Society will use their funding to circuit ride electronically and on the ground in Northwest BC, including the transboundary area with Alaska. Their goal is to continue building relationships and to ally and collaborate with First Nations, Tribes, NGO's, and settler communities, thereby extending the flow of information on best available mining practices for land use planning for cultural and ecological integrity.

### **12. Great Basin Resource Watch, Nevada**

Great Basin Resource Watch was founded in 1994 by representatives from the environmental, Native American, and scientific communities with a mission 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. The organization works to raise public awareness, change the culture of government agencies to take a more protective and precautionary tack in permitting mines that form pit lakes, increase accountability of the mining industry, support community actions for dealing with cleanup, and promote monitoring.

Mini-grant funds will be used to prevent the proposed Mt Hope Molybdenum Mine from contaminating surface and groundwater; depleting groundwater at the expense of Public Water Reserves (public springs), ranchers, and farmers in the region; and generally destroying the environs around Mt. Hope. Specifically, they will review the project's Supplemental EIS, and document the viability of the Public Water Reserves, which is an issue that the court has not yet addressed, by examining the use and flow of the springs and working with ranchers, farmers, and Eureka County to accomplish this goal.

### **13. Haul No!, Arizona**

Haul No! was founded in the late fall of 2016 out of the realization that no organization was addressing the threat that uranium ore transport poses to native and rural communities on the haul route from the Canyon Mine to the White Mesa Mill. Their team members have protested the Canyon Mine through administrative

processes and litigation efforts over the last five years, and have now come together to form a community-based line of defense in the event that the legal system fails to stop the Canyon Mine's operation.

Haul No! will use mini-grant funding to organize an awareness & action tour that will be held in Spring and Summer of 2017 along the proposed uranium haul route of the Canyon Mine in Arizona to the White Mesa Uranium Mill in Utah. Through community education and engagement, Haul No! intends to spread awareness and to stimulate action – including providing non-violent direct action training – to ensure sacred sites, the Grand Canyon, and their communities are safeguarded from this deadly toxic threat. Funding will help cover travel, lodging, meals, printing, and materials.

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

The Kanawha Forest Coalition formed in early 2014 with the goal of stopping the 413 acre KD#2 mountaintop removal strip mine, which was proposed immediately adjacent to the nearly 10,000-acre Kanawha State Forest and within 500 meters of homes, and with the broader goal of building regional awareness of and resistance to strip mining. They are currently focused on pushing the Department of Environmental Protection to properly enforce reclamation requirements at the shutdown KD#2 mine and to hold the mining company accountable to ongoing water quality issues. They've also extended their monitoring efforts to other area mines.

Mini-grant funding will be used to purchase in-stream water monitoring equipment to be deployed below discharge points of the now closed KD#2 mine to record hourly monitoring of stream conditions (pH and conductivity) and obtain a consistent record of non-compliant mine discharges. They believe the coal company may be falsifying water data and will be comparing their data to the data submitted by the company in order to determine whether falsifications or omissions are occurring.

#### **15. Ketchikan Indian Corporation, 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 an in-person meeting of the United Tribal Transboundary Working Group (UTTWG). The working group was established in 2014 in response to the rapid development of large mines and

related infrastructure occurring in the Canadian headwaters of rivers that support communities and culture. The 15 communities represented by the UTTWG are generally remote and none are connected by road. In-person attendance at this meeting, to be held in Ketchikan at the Tribe's office, will ensure a quorum to provide for elections, by-law changes, formation of sub-committees, and conduction of business.

#### **16. Klabona Keepers and Beyond Boarding, 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. Beyond Boarding is a group of snowboarders, surfers, artists and friends that strive to stand up against environmental and social injustices. They work together as a collective to share the voices of front line communities and take action to move towards a better future, and have produced various short films and fundraisers to support the fight against mining in the Sacred Headwaters by the Klabona Keepers.

Mini-grant funding will be used to create stewardship programming for the Sacred Stewardship Elders and Youth Centre, which will be the first community inspired Resistance, Art & Recreational centre in the heart of the Tahltan territory known as "Sacred Headwaters." The facility will be built from the ground up by community members and volunteers, to empower youth and highlight Tahltan stewardship of their traditional territory. Programming will include weekly events, art facilitators, outdoor trips, and elders and youth events. A mural will showcase the fight against mining in the Sacred Headwaters, while the Arts & Outdoor Programming will integrate themes of stewardship and conservation to the youth.

#### **17. Native American Educational Technologies, Wisconsin**

Native American Educational Technologies, Inc. (NAET) began in the mid-1980's during the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa verses Exxon battle over metallic sulfide mining in the Ceded Territory of northern Wisconsin. Since 2001, they have faced numerous tribal preservation struggles and have worked with many tribes and non-tribal environmental groups to help preserve clean air, water, land, and treaty rights, and to protect hunting/fishing and gathering. NAET has partnered with IndianCountryTV.com to become the main source for exchange of information, traveling thousands of miles from reservations to the state capitol and back again to provide online/TV coverage of hearings, rallies, and ceremonies all centered around protecting homelands from mining and tar sands pipelines.

NAET will use their grant to respond to a move by mining industry lobbyists/legislators who seek to remove Wisconsin's protective mining

moratorium law within the 2017 legislative session, which would allow companies to mine at least half a dozen mines within Chippewa ceded territory, including the ore deposit at Mole Lake Sokaogon reservation and a proposed mine upstream from the Bad River reservation. NAET will produce printed materials, articles, and online stories, and will hire several professionals to help create these materials. They will assist tribal councils in distributing information to promote rallies and actions designed to raise awareness and support.

### **18. Northwoods Nijji Enterprises Community, Wisconsin**

Northwoods Nijji Enterprise Community, Inc. is a partnership between the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and the Sokaogon Chippewa Community of Mole Lake, together with eight municipal partners in northern Wisconsin.

Northwoods Nijji Enterprise Community will use their funding to bring in technical experts to present at the Third Annual Mining Alternatives Summit. The Mining Alternative Summit is a tribally organized collaborative summit that brings together tribal interests and grass roots efforts to better understand the threats to mother earth from mining. This year it is sponsored by the Tribes of the Chippewa Federation and hosted by the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.

### **19. Organized Village of Kasaan, Alaska**

The Organized Village of Kasaan (OVK) is a federally recognized tribal government that was established October 15, 1938, and is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation. The organization consists of a seven member tribal council that serves 100 plus tribal memberships.

Funding will be used to conduct an in-person meeting of the United Tribal Transboundary Working Group (UTTWG), which will be attended by tribal representatives from the Organized Village of Kasaan. The working group was established in 2014 in response to the rapid development of large mines and related infrastructure occurring in the Canadian headwaters of rivers that support communities and culture. The 15 communities represented by the UTTWG are generally remote and none are connected by road. In-person attendance at this meeting, to be held in Ketchikan, will ensure a quorum to provide for elections, by-law changes, formation of sub-committees, and conduction of business.

### **20. Organized Village of Saxman, Alaska**

The Organized Village of Saxman is a federally recognized tribal government that was established on June 18, 1936. The Organized Village of Saxman is also a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. The small village is located on the southwestern coast of Revillagigedo Island, two miles south of Ketchikan on South Tongass

Highway. The Village of Saxman has nearly 400 tribal members and employs five full-time staff for the administration of the tribal government.

Funding will be used to conduct an in-person meeting of the United Tribal Transboundary Working Group (UTTWG), which will be attended by tribal representatives from the Organized Village of Saxman. The working group was established in 2014 in response to the rapid development of large mines and related infrastructure occurring in the Canadian headwaters of rivers that support communities and culture. The 15 communities represented by the UTTWG are generally remote and none are connected by road. In-person attendance at this meeting, to be held in Ketchikan, will ensure a quorum to provide for elections, by-law changes, formation of sub-committees, and conduction of business.

### **21. Rivers Without Borders, California**

Rivers Without Borders (RWB) was formed in 1999 to raise awareness of the outstanding ecological and cultural values of the wild BC - Alaska transboundary watersheds and to promote ecosystem based planning and stewardship toward safeguarding those values. The six transboundary watersheds are largely intact and, not coincidentally, ecologically rich and productive, especially relative to wild salmon. Unfortunately, the Canadian headwaters of several of these river systems are threatened by major mining development proposals which RWB is confronting. They engage commercial fishing organizations, communities, First Nations and Tribes, NGOs, scientists, agencies, media, lawyers, and others to leverage conservation.

Rivers Without Borders will use their mini-grant funding to work with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation to address reclamation and the acid mine drainage legacy in the Taku Watershed. Following the Chieftain bankruptcy, they want to help move the B.C Government beyond the idea that developing another mine, the Tulsequah Chief Mine, is the solution to the area's acid drainage problems. Funding will help pay for travel and lodging.

### **22. Secwepemc'ulecw Grassroots Movement, British Columbia**

The Secwepemc'ulecw Grassroots Movement group, led by the Shuswap people, was formed to raise awareness, educate, and support the "Secwepemc Rights & Titles" for the people and Mother Earth.

Mini-Grant funds will be used to develop a communications network and strategy to streamline communications and dispersal of information on mines currently operating or proposing to operate within Secwepemc'ulecw. This will include contracting with a desktop publisher and website designer to create a brochure and outreach materials and to design a website.

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

The Silver Valley Community Resource Center was founded in 1986, approximately 3 years after the Superfund site was designated, by non-traditional representatives from the affected community, churches, unions, including the Idaho Teachers and United Steelworker's, social service agencies, and the medical community. Their 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." Their priority is working with agencies to cleanup a century and millions of tons of lead and heavy metals, i.e.; the nations largest Superfund NPL site.

The Silver Valley Community Resource Center will use their mini-grant to advance EPA accountability of cleanup and protection of human health in the nation's largest lead site after a confirmation that EPA Bunker Hill project staff were covering up and withholding ongoing environmental and lead human health data. The Center will distribute information, demand closure of the Old Mission Repository, and build support for settlement funds to be used for the establishment of a community lead health clinic/center. Funding will cover travel, a computer consultant, and outreach.

### **24. Statewide Organizing for Community Empowerment Resource Project (SOCM), Tennessee**

SOCM was founded in Tennessee's rural coalfield communities in response to virtually unregulated strip mining of coal, which blasted the sides of steep mountains onto homes, roads, and streams and resulted in insufficient revenue for schools, roads, and other services. Many of their issue campaigns are fights against corporations and government entities that are devastating communities by polluting the water or air, threatening public health, and/or disproportionately affecting communities of color, low income, and working-class people.

SOCM will use their mini-grant to help organize community members in the coal producing areas of Tennessee to block new mines and help to close and remediate problems from existing mines. This will include building economic development opportunities in the coalfields to help empower people in new economies without the dominance of coal. Their work will involve citizen monitoring; targeted education of key decision-makers about issues such as the AML fund, the POWER-Plus Plan to assist communities in diversifying their economies, and the RECLAIM Act; permit challenges and comments; public outreach; organized action; and litigation, if needed.

### **25. Sierra Fund, California**

Since 2006, the Sierra Fund has worked to address the ongoing environmental, cultural, and human health impacts of historic mining in the Sierra Nevada region. They support organizations and communities by increasing public and private funding in the region, advocating for policy changes, and bringing intellectual resources that build capacity to restore and protect the resiliency of California's headwaters.

The Sierra Fund's mini-grant will support their biennial Reclaiming the Sierra conference, which provides the opportunity for community advocates to gather with leaders in science and policy to address the lasting legacy of historic mining and continued resource extraction while collaborating on a vision of ecosystem and community resiliency. Specifically, funding will provide scholarships and travel stipends for two Nevada mining justice organizers to participate in the conference.

## **26. Tsilhqot'in National Government, British Columbia**

The Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) was established in 1989 to meet the needs and represent the six Tsilhqot'in communities of Tl'etinqox, ʔEsdilagh, Yunešit'in, Tšì Del Del and Xeni Gwet'in in their efforts to re-establish a strong political government structure. TNG has an obligation to its people to establish programs that reflect Tsilhqot'in Culture and Customs in every aspect of governance, and advocates on behalf of all Tsilhqot'in in the aspects of health, stewardship, education, and more.

The Tsilhqot'in National Government will use mini-grant funding to respond to Taseko Mine's attempt to overturn the historic decision of 2014 in which the B.C. Government turned down the proposed "New Prosperity" mine in the heart of the Tsilhqot'in territory. The mining company is challenging the legitimacy of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) process. Tsilhqot'in Nation Elders participated in court hearings in the past to oppose the proposed open-pit copper and gold mine, and will travel to court again to testify on behalf of the CEAA process and their Aboriginal Rights and Title.

## **27. Mining Action Group of the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition, Michigan**

The Mining Action Group (MAG) is a grassroots effort to defend the clean water and wild places of Michigan's Upper Peninsula from the dangers of sulfide mining. MAG was previously known as Save the Wild U.P. At the end of 2016, Save the Wild U.P. merged with the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition (UPEC) to form the Mining Action Group (MAG), leveraging a combined 52 years of environmental stewardship. Founded in 1976, the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition's purpose remains unchanged: to protect and maintain the unique environmental qualities of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan by educating the public and acting as a watchdog to industry and government.

The Mining Action Group will use their mini-grant to secure an independent technical review of a wetlands permit application for the proposed Aquila Resources Back Forty mine project – an open-pit sulfide mine planned for the banks of the Menominee River in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The technical review of the wetlands permit will help MAG identify and publicize significant threats to groundwater and surface water as they oppose the Aquila Back Forty project, and lend weight and credibility to their concerns.