

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

1. Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners Coalition, 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 funding to conduct regional public outreach meetings, produce educational materials, and contribute to the cost of producing a documentary film entitled “An American Battle Cry.” Funding also will help cover travel costs for members to attend meetings.

2. Dine Care, Arizona

Dine Care has been operating within the Navajo Nation since 1988. Their mission is to support local activists who seek to defend their communities from the adverse effects of outside economic and fossil fuel energy development including coal mining and coal fired power generation, uranium mining and milling, oil and gas exploration, ground and surface water extraction, and other environmental assaults. Dine Care helped organized the Western States RECA Reform Coalition that amended the 1990 Radiation Exposure Compensation Act in 2000.

Grant money will be used for technical training of two staff members to increase their abilities in using many digital formats to engage and mobilize a broader audience, including remote Navajo communities, in environmental and social justice issues.

3. 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 help pay for a hydrologic consultant to carry out an on-site geological and hydrological study and analysis of the

impacts of Canadian 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.

4. Eyak Preservation Council, Alaska

The Eyak Preservation Council (EPC) is a grassroots organization dedicated to protecting and preserving wild salmon habitat and Indigenous culture while promoting sustainable communities in the Prince William Sound and Copper River Watersheds of Alaska. For 26 years, EPC has achieved major grassroots-led conservation victories that include blocking oil and gas development on 65,000 acres the Copper River Delta and thwarting the federal government's and Native Corporation's plan to build a 55-mile road across the Copper River Delta to access coal, oil, gas and 10,000 acres of old growth timber.

The Eyak Preservation Council will use its mini-grant funding to continue a campaign to retire the Bering River coalfields and return them to the Chugach National Forest so they will never be mined and subject to mountain-top removal, and to save wild salmon habitat with conservation protections in place. Activities will include producing conservation booklets and a multimedia presentation, conducting strategic outreach, and building their high profile team of supporters.

5. Fair Mining Collaborative, British Columbia

Fair Mining Collaborative (FMC) will work with the Xat'sūll First Nation of the Great Secwepemc Nation and the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw (NStQ) and with First Nations Women Advocating Responsible Mining. The Xat'sūll is the largest Nation in interior BC, and the territory includes the location of the Mt. Polley Mine disaster. First Nations Women Advocating Responsible Mining is a coalition of First Nation women leaders from northern BC with extensive experience in mining. Their goal is to protect their culture and traditional lands from destructive mining practices. FMC provides technical and strategic guidance to communities, First Nation Leadership groups, and political decision makers to build capacity to manage the full spectrum of mining life cycle concerns (mapping traditional resource inventories, staking, exploration, permitting, operation, closure and reclamation), and to make informed land-use decisions that foster healthy sustainable communities and ecosystems.

Grant money will be used to hire a consultant to review best practices from the three areas in the world with the most active placer industry; Yukon, Alaska, and New Zealand, and to summarize them for inclusion in B.C.'s Fair Mining Practices Code, which currently does not include placer mining. Their goal is to strengthen the under-regulated placer mining industry, and to reduce the cumulative impacts to wildlife, fish and water resources, and Aboriginal rights from the more than 1500 operating placer

mines within the Traditional territory of the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw (NStQ).

6. Gifford Pinchot Task Force, Washington

Since 1985, the Gifford Pinchot Task Force has been working to protect and restore riparian and terrestrial ecosystems in Washington's South Cascades by defending against irresponsible management practices and harmful resource extraction projects, and by advocating for proactive conservation initiatives. For the last decade, the Task Force has successfully defeated proposals to conduct hard rock mining exploration and development adjacent to Mount St. Helens.

The Gifford Pinchot Task Force will use their funding to continue their campaign to protect Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument and the Green River Valley from hard rock mining exploration and development. The mini-grant will help finance outreach and organizing efforts aimed at halting exploratory drilling by utilizing the NEPA process, mobilizing strong opposition to Ascot's revised permit proposal, and using legal means if necessary.

7. 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). Currently, the primary focus of their organization is preventing pollution from proposed sulfide mining projects and mining exploration that would impact area waters, cultural resources, human use and enjoyment of the region, and wilderness character.

Mini-grant funding will finance a "Closing Argument Campaign" to mobilize communities across Minnesota in a final push to prevent PolyMet Mining Corp from being granted a permit to open a sulfide mine in northeastern Minnesota. When PolyMet's final EIS is released, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness will mobilize 100,000 people through the activation of lists, a media push, community organizer training, and partnerships with key constituencies.

8. Grassy Narrows Youth Organization, Ontario

Also known as Asubpeeschoseewagong Oshkaadiziwag Kagobewat (AOK), the Grassy Narrows Youth Organization was formed in 2013 to empower a new generation of youth leaders in the community with the skills and support needed to protect land in Anishinabe traditional territory, while promoting and empowering traditional land use activities. AOK was also created to address some of the specific environmental threats including a planned rare earth mine at Separation Rapids, and the expansion of Goldcorp's (and other) gold mining operations around Red Lake and elsewhere on the territory.

Grassy Narrows Youth Organization will use their grant to fund the planning and launching of a new campaign, Stop Goliath, to work collaboratively with Goliath Mine Stakeholders, a group of Dryden residents who have already started organizing to stop the proposed mine from gaining approval. Funding will be used to help cover the cost of educational materials, event facilities, and transportation for a series of meetings and events focused on strategic planning, education and reconciliation.

9. KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, Ontario

KAIROS, founded in 2001, is a grassroots organization based in Toronto and made up of eleven national churches and church organizations, twenty-three international partner organizations, and Indigenous partner organizations in Canada. KAIROS works for Indigenous rights, ecological and social justice, and human rights in Canada and globally, relying on our strong international partnerships.

KAIROS will use their funding to bring together Indigenous women from Canada, Latin America, and the Philippines to lead a public symposium entitled Gendered Impacts of Resource Extraction in Vancouver; attend the GEMM conference (Global Energy, Minerals and Markets); and meet and strategize with Indigenous communities and the KAIROS grassroots network in British Columbia. Grant money will assist with travel costs for the Indigenous delegates from Canada, their registration for the GEMM conference, and their participation in the public symposium

10. New Mexico Environmental Law Center, New Mexico

The New Mexico Environmental Law Center is a nonprofit, public interest law firm founded in 1987 that provides low-cost and free legal services to primarily low-income and minority clients on environmental matters throughout the state of New Mexico. The Law Center's mission is to protect New Mexico's natural environment and to achieve environmental justice for the state's communities through legal representation, policy advocacy, and public education.

The New Mexico Environmental Law Center (Law Center) will use their mini-grant to hire a Community Liaison for McKinley County, including Navajo Chapters within the County. This Community Liaison will contribute to the Law Center's efforts to pass a uranium-mining moratorium ordinance in McKinley County and to urge the County to fund a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment of the effects of uranium mining and milling legacy waste on community members. Funding will cover the cost of travel-related expenses, outreach materials, and radio airtime.

11. Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, Minnesota

Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness (NMW) was founded in 1996 by local citizens from wilderness-edge communities to protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Today, NMW is the lead organization in a national coalition known as the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, which seeks to protect Boundary Waters, its watersheds, and Voyageurs National Park from proposed large-scale sulfide-ore copper mining projects in the Superior National Forest.

Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness will use their mini-grant award to expand outreach to sportsmen and women and to raise the prominence of their issue in support of legal, legislative, and administrative strategies to protect the Boundary Waters from proposed sulfide-ore copper mining. Funding will cover the cost of educational materials for the Minnesota State Fair.

12. Northwatch, Ontario

A founding member of MiningWatch Canada, Northwatch was founded in 1988 to provide a regional voice on environmental concerns in northeastern Ontario. Work over the last two decades has focused on mining, forestry, and energy issues, both at the policy and project level, as well as successfully campaigning against a series of proposals to bring foreign wastes – solid waste, medical waste, toxic waste and nuclear waste – for dumping in northeastern Ontario. Northwatch holds a seat on the Ontario Minister’s Mining Act Advisory Committee, and works with local groups and concerned residents, including trade unions and First Nations, in responding to mining-related projects.

Mini-grant funding will be focused on addressing Ontario Regulation 308, which sets out the rules for mineral exploration in Ontario. Northwatch will conduct a field assessment of the regulation as enforced over its first three years (using an audit tool they developed with a mini-grant in 2010), conduct research to update their inventory of mineral exploration “best practices” assembled in 2010, and produce a review of Regulation 308 that will support the case for a regulation with increased protection of environmental, social and cultural values. The mini-grant will fund the field audits and report production.

13. Owe Aku/Bring Back the Way & Prairie Dust Films, South Dakota

Owe Aku, ("Bring Back the Way") was founded in 1997 by Alex and Debra White Plume and their families. They are a grassroots social change organization dedicated to the preservation and revitalization of the Lakota Way of Life, Treaty Rights, and Human Rights. Recent work includes: Crying Earth Rise Up, an educational campaign to protect sacred water and stop uranium mining on the Great Plains; Mocassins on the Ground non-violent direct action trainings; the no KXL Pipeline;

and the Lakota Media Project, an initiative with Prairie Dust Films to train youth and women to document Lakota issues in a Lakota perspective. Prairie Dust Films (founded in 2002) creates entertaining and engaging documentaries of contemporary human rights and environmental justice conflicts.

Prairie Dust Films and Owe Aku will use their funding for educational outreach, community engagement, expert testimony and advanced documentary skills-building in support of their uranium mining prevention and sacred water protection work in South Dakota and Nebraska. Specifically, in advance of federal hearings on the expansion and permit renewal of the Cameco Uranium Mine in Crawford, Nebraska, they will host a series of environmental film forums and discussions featuring their documentary, *Crying Earth Rise UP* (a current day look at a Native American and white rural ranchers' fights to protect the water from further uranium mine contamination).

14. Purpose Focused Alternative Learning Corporation, Arizona

Purpose Focused Alternative Learning Corporation was founded in 2008 in the State of Arizona and is also a registered Charitable Corporation on the Navajo Nation. The organization was developed around the concept of creating synergies between committed and engaged people to implement sustainable change in their communities. To accomplish their goal, Purpose Focus engages in incorporating Alternative Education in the Environmental Sciences, Advanced Remediation Technologies and Renewable Energies that will promote environmental, social and economic justice.

Purpose Focused Alternative Learning Corporation will use their mini-grant to support education and outreach to Cameron community members to educate them about the EPA Region 9 Uranium Mining Superfund Clean Up process, and to solicit their participation. This will include visits to families in remote areas of the Navajo nation and communication in the native Dine' language.

15. Southern Appalachian Labor School, West Virginia

The Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS) was founded in 1981. Its board makeup represents the individuals and communities it serves: those facing health and economic crises, the disabled, and those affected by toxic wastes. Members include also civil rights activists, union members, and veterans. SALS is involved in community development, housing, and youth transformation.

SALS will use their funding for their Coalfield Environmental Health Project to educate residents in the Loop and Laurel Creek area on the health impacts of large-scale surface mining, and to empower them to use the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and Clean Air Act to protect

their property and quality of life from surface mining. Their goal is to create a permanent group of citizens to enforce laws and share information. Funding is for materials creation, training, and community meetings.

16. To Nizhoni Ani, Arizona

To Nizhoni Ani (TNA) was founded in 2001 in response to Peabody Coal Company's excessive use and waste of the only potable water source the Navajo people have on Black Mesa. TNA is working to educate young people about coal, and is developing solar projects at a number of sites on Black Mesa that would produce energy needed for the Navajo Nation and decrease dependence on fossil fuel and importation of electricity made elsewhere.

To Nizhoni Ani will use their funding for a campaign to educate and create awareness among the youth of Black Mesa on the harmful affects coal has on the environment and human health. Youth education and training will focus on broad solutions to the protection of water resources and aquifers and on policy and regulation. Funding will cover outreach, travel, and supplies.

17. Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, Yukon

The Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council is an Indigenous grassroots organization, consisting of 70 First Nations and Tribes, dedicated to the protection and preservation of the Yukon River Watershed. This is accomplished by providing Yukon First Nations and Alaska Tribes in the Yukon Watershed with technical assistance in: facilitating the development and exchange of information; coordinating efforts between First Nations and Tribes; undertaking research; and providing training, education and awareness programs to promote the health of the Watershed and its Indigenous peoples.

The Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council will use their mini-grant to provide training and the necessary tools to the Taku River Tlingit First Nation to be able to develop their own community based monitoring program to address water quality and environmental concerns from placer mining on their traditional territory. Funds would be used for the workshop, sampling process, travel, and supplies.