

**Western Mining Action Network (WMAN)
Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)
Western Organization of Resource Councils Education Project
(WORCEP)
Mini-Grant Recipients
October 2018**

1. Advancing Communities Foundation, Arizona

The Advancing Communities Foundation (ACF) was founded in 2014 by experienced leadership that previously founded a now-thriving American Indian Resource Center at a high-ranking research university. The mission of the ACF is to provide on-the-ground training to individuals and organizations already working on the betterment of their community, particularly focusing on environmental stewardship, leadership development, educational attainment, and public health

The Advancing Community Foundation will use their mini-grant to address contamination of Hopi springs from coal mining by providing structured capacity building training, monitoring tools, and culturally appropriate methods to Hopi community members, organizations, and tribal government stake holders. This will include research on testing kits and purification systems, and documentation of the effects of arsenic when consumed.

2. 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 well being of citizens by working to reform the 1872 Mining Law and improve state mining rules and regulations, and by opposing irresponsible mining.

Mini-grant funding will be used to produce and distribute a series of three expert reports to highlight why Rio Tinto's proposed mine at Oak Flat should not be approved, and to generate public opposition during the next public comment period scheduled for late spring 2019. A series of public meetings and media work will be conducted to publicize the results of the reports.

3. Carrizo/Comecrudo Nation of Texas, Texas

The Carrizo Comecrudo Nation of Texas, as an organization, was founded in 1998, but the tribe has existed since time immemorial. The name Carrizo/Comecrudo, in colonized nomenclature, is used to assure that the state and local governments are aware of the presence of the Nation in Texas. The Carrizo/Comecrudo Nation seeks to maintain the constant connection to and preservation of their ancestors and relatives by sustaining Carrizo/Comecrudo language and ways.

The Carrizo Comecrudo Nation of Texas will use mini-grant funding to hold Dos Republicas, San Miguel Mining, and other mining entities accountable for disturbing sacred grounds and burial sites in Texas by strengthening efforts

to restore the archeological artifacts and remains to their original sites where possible, and focusing efforts towards closing mining ventures that disturb the sacred ancestral Esto'k Gna lands. Specifically, funding will cover legal fees, travel, monthly podcasts, and other outreach expenses.

4. Comstock Resident's Association, Nevada

The Comstock Resident's Association was formed when the Comstock communities became concerned about the loss of community and the natural environment and animal habitats, and were promoted into action by the fear of significant health hazards caused by industrial scale mining within a Superfund Site and the Virginia City National Historic Landmark. Their mission includes protecting historic communities, cultural resources, watersheds, biodiversity and wildlife; building strategic alliances; ensuring sustainable environmental protections; and advocating for clean air and water.

Mini-grant funding will be used for legal remedies to oppose the proposed open pit Comstock mine, and for public relations and community outreach costs, as Silver City and Gold Hill Nevada actively resist the continued threat and development of open pit mining within their communities.

5. Dogwood, British Columbia

Dogwood was formed in 1998 when First Nations, labor, environmental and community leaders came together to help local communities decide their own future, collaboratively and democratically. Dogwood works on resource extraction issues and democratic reforms to promote government accountability and transparency, with a goal of reforming the free entry mining regime and the lax environmental assessment process that together allow corporate interests to put communities and cultures at risk.

With their mini-grant, Dogwood will use previously filmed interviews in communities in northern B.C. affected by mining and a library of video images and still photographs, including extensive drone footage of mine sites and proposed mine sites, to produce two or three short videos. These videos will be promoted on social media to create broader awareness of the impact and injustice of the existing regulatory environment.

6. Fair Mining Collaborative Society, British Columbia

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 building capacity to make informed land-use decisions that foster healthy sustainable communities and ecosystems.

Fair Mining Collaborative will use their mini-grant to hire a web hosting company to design, implement, and upload an "IAV calculator" on their website. This calculator allows a user to input parameters of a mine or

mining project and output an amount of natural capital cost in the currency of their choice. This figure can then be used to assess the cost of local and regional environmental damage, offset for industry annual production values, used as leverage in negotiations, and used in other applications.

7. Great Basin Resource Watch, Nevada

Great Basin Resource Watch was founded in 1994 by representatives from the environmental, Native American, and scientific communities. Their mission is 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.

Great Basin Resource Watch will use their mini-grant to fund their Water Protection Campaign. This campaign involves a number of mine operations in the Great Basin, and seeks to prevent excessive groundwater use and water pollution by the mining industry, and to protect the cultural value of water. The program also will involve efforts to reform Nevada mining law regarding perpetual water treatment. Funding will cover technical analyses, travel, organizing work, and litigation.

8. Highland Stewardship Foundation, British Columbia

Highland Stewardship Foundation promotes ecosystem conservation and stewardship and environmental activities in the District of Highlands in British Columbia. Other projects include preparing a legal challenge of the OK Industries mine permit application for the Highlands property, water quality monitoring, weather stations, and invasive species removal.

Mini-grant funding will be used for air quality testing to detect airborne silica dust in the vicinity of an existing OK Industries “All Fun” aggregate quarry and rock processing facility in a Langford BC residential area. This work is critical to inform opposition to a proposed mine pit application by the same company in nearby Highlands BC. Funding will be used to hire a professional firm to conduct the testing, and to host a community information event featuring Dr. Peter Barss, MD (former BC Medical Health Officer) who will speak to the dangers of silica dust and other airborne pollutants.

9. Indian Country Grassroots, New Mexico

Founded in 2016, the mission of Indian Country Grassroots is to develop Navajo Nation grassroots empowerment through education and capacity building. A member of the cooperative law network of the Sustainable Economies Law, Indian Country Grassroots provides legal and development knowledge and tools for individuals and communities to navigate interrelated federal and tribal laws that apply especially to reservation-based developmental efforts.

Mini-grant funding will be used to facilitate three community gatherings on the Navajo Reservation regarding settlement funds granted to the Shiprock,

NM community to deal with the legacy of uranium mining and milling. The gatherings' goal will be to aid the Navajo Nation in making sound decisions regarding the disposition of these funds by educating communities in the region about the history and the impacts of the massive uranium tailings piles situated in Shiprock, and by documenting the communities' ideas regarding the fate of these tailings.

10. Klawock Cooperative Association, Alaska

The Klawock Cooperative Association is a federally recognized Tribal Government located in the community of Klawock, which is a mixed Tlingit and non-native city. Klawock Tribe has over 500 Tribal members. Most pursue a subsistence lifestyle to provide food sources.

Klawock Cooperative Association will use their mini-grant to collaborate with the Organized Village of Kasaan to hold a mining symposium, which will highlight the issue of mining's effects on the environment. Funding will entail chartered flights to assist with field trips to mining sites for participants, tribal staff, and council members.

11. Limerick Area Conservation Association, Ontario

Limerick Area Conservation Coalition is a grassroots organization organized by community members in 2018 to stop a mining project in the middle of their cottage country community. They are concerned that the proposed low-grade, potentially acid generating, nickel-cobalt-copper mining project would irreparably alter or destroy their area.

Limerick Area Conservation Coalition will use their funding for outreach activities and to secure an attorney to challenge exploration plans and permits for the McBride Mining Project, which threatens the Limerick and Crowe Valley Watershed Conservation area, which is home to numerous wetlands, lakes, and rivers that provide essential habitat to many species of fish, mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians, including several threatened and endangered species. The area also is a source of drinking water, and provides recreational and tourism opportunities to thousands of Ontarians.

12. Maverick County Environmental & Public Health Association, Texas

The Maverick County Environmental and Public Health Association was formed in 2011 to oppose the open pit coal mine in Maverick County then being proposed by the Dos Republicas Coal Partnership. Their goal is to halt the operation of the Dos Republicas mine and to prevent its further expansion.

Mini-grant funds will be used to cover attorney fees in a contested hearing opposing a renewal permit for the mine at a Railroad Commission hearing in Austin, which, if successful, will keep the mine from operating. Funds also will cover travel expenses for members to attend the hearing.

13. New Energy Economy, New Mexico

New Energy Economy was founded in 2004 by Dr. John Fogarty following his involvement in the defeat of two proposed uranium mines in Crownpoint and Church Rock with a mission to create a fossil and nuclear-free energy. The organization focuses on combining legal interventions at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission; public policy campaigns; and grassroots organizing to advance renewable energy and challenge the continued investment in coal, nuclear, and natural gas energy by New Mexico's investor-owned utilities.

Mini-grant funds will support the development and implementation of a Health Impact Assessment, which will analyze the long-term social, economic, environmental, and health consequences of the San Juan Coal complex on residents and workers and create an avenue for the community to articulate its needs, rights, demands, and aspirations for the transition. These will be the center of legal and policy work scheduled for the 2019 NM legislative session to force regulators, policy-makers, and participating parties to include directly impacted communities in the decision-making process and also document the need for investment in a comprehensive transition planning process.

14. Ontarians for a Just & Accountable Mineral Strategy, Ontario

Ontarians for a Just Accountable Mining Strategy is made of people from diverse communities and interests who want to see a mineral strategy and laws that sustain the environment and the resources for future generations; protect the public from the risks associated with mining, smelting and refining; heal the damage already caused by the industry; capture a fair share of the revenues generated by the industry for Ontarians and First Nations; and respect the rights of First Nations to free, prior, informed consent to development on their lands.

Funding will be used to support organizing and participation in at least two workshops and media/communication work to support Indigenous community members affected by the Ring of Fire nickel-chromium mining projects in Northwestern Ontario. One workshop will raise public awareness and funds in support of Neskantaga and Eabametoong First Nation communities and will be followed by a two-day research and strategy workshop in Toronto. A follow-up workshop in, or near the affected communities in Northwestern Ontario, will train community members about specific mining issues, share knowledge of other projects' impacts, and contribute to a community response strategy.

15. Organized Village of Kasaan, Alaska

The Organized Village of Kasaan is a federally recognized tribe of the Haida people of Kasaan in southern Southeast Alaska established in 1938 to promote the protection, preservation and education of its village and citizens by developing economic opportunities; promoting education; and utilizing cultural, natural, and social resources.

Mini-grant funding will be used by the Organized Village of Kasaan, which is hosting the Prince of Wales Island Wide Mining Symposium under the Natural Resources Department (Brownfields), for field trips to surrounding mines and other activities. This will involve chartered flights to areas with no road access.

16. Orutsararmiut Native Council, Alaska

The Orutsararmiut Native Council is a federally recognized governing body for the community of Bethel, Alaska. The mission of the Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council is to promote general welfare; enhance independence; encourage self-sufficiency/self-motivation; improve the quality of life; preserve cultural and traditional values of the tribe; and exercise tribal authority over resources through educational, economic, and social development opportunities.

The Orutsararmiut Native Council will use their mini-grant to pay for a hydrologic expert to examine stream bank erosion of the Kuskokwim River from the proposed Knik port facility in Bethel over the life of the proposed Donlin Mine. Funding also will cover outreach expenses to expand the public's understanding of the impacts of the Donlin Gold Mine.

17. Radiation Monitoring Project, New Mexico

Radiation Monitoring Project was founded in September 2014 by three grassroots organizations: Diné No Nukes, a Diné (Navajo) and indigenous-led initiative in the Southwest; Nuclear Energy Information Service, a non-profit organization based in Chicago; and Sloths Against Nuclear State, a Japanese initiative based in Brooklyn. The collaborating groups work separately to address various sources of ionizing radiation and radioactive contamination caused by active and closed nuclear facilities. Collectively, this includes: uranium mines, mills, and processing facilities; nuclear weapons facilities and testing sites; nuclear power reactors; nuclear and radioactive waste sites; and transport.

Funding will be used by Radiation Monitoring Project to conduct a radiation monitoring training in Flagstaff, Arizona for individuals living or working in communities impacted by uranium mining and milling, and for the purchase of Geiger counters. Funding also will cover materials development including production of a training video.

18. Rethink 150, British Columbia

Rethink 150 was founded in 2017 by members of the Okanagan Syilx community. through a desire to provide an alternative to the colonial celebration of Canada's 150 "birthday." Rethink 150 uses stories about communities and lands, experiences of contact and colonization, and cultural and political resurgence to generate cross-cultural listening and learning, to develop visions of new ways of living together, and to leave a lasting, material legacy that can guide the communities of the Okanagan. They believe there is no possibility of reconciliation or decolonization

without disrupting the power of “Canada” to claim ownership over what stories matter and whose stories are heard.

Funding will be used for outreach costs including the design, printing, and production of two billboards, and for travel, meetings, and organizing. The purpose of the billboards is to spread the message about the impacts of colonial mining, and locations will be chosen based on the people and areas impacted by mining, highway traffic, and the support of the land donor for the billboard.

19. Save Our St. Vrain’s Valley, Colorado

Launched in 2017 by Boulder County, Colorado residents, Save Our St. Vrain’s Valley’s mission is to advocate for the environmental protection and conservation of the geologically unique, historic St. Vrain Valley and its healthy development for residents, wildlife, visitors, and future generations. Their goal is to protect local land, water, and air from the industrial threat proposed by Martin Marietta Materials, and to pass local community rights ordinances that will permanently ban mining in the St. Vrain Valley.

Save Our St. Vrain’s Valley will use their mini-grant to support a legal challenge in a district court to a land use permit for Martin Marietta’s proposed 800-acre open pit gravel mine. Funding will be used for attorney and consultant fees, court documents, and outreach.

20. Sierra Club Canada Foundation, Ontario

Founded in 1971, Sierra Club Canada Foundation is a volunteer-led organization whose work is grounded in the values and principles as expressed through the UN Earth Charter process and document. Sierra Club Canada Foundation empowers people to protect, restore and enjoy a healthy and safe planet. At its heart, it is a grassroots organization with a “think globally, act locally” philosophy, and members are encouraged to actively contribute to environmental causes that engage or inspire them, in a capacity that best suits their capabilities.

Sierra Club Canada Foundation will use their mini-grant to organize a gathering of settlers and indigenous community members and leaders in Nova Scotia to identify ways to better work together to address the impacts of mining on communities and the environment. They also will review legislation and policy relevant to mining and indigenous rights to develop draft recommendations to change provincial policies with respect to mining. Funding will cover event costs, honoraria, travel, and law and policy analysis.

21. SOS Grenville-sur-la-Rouge, Quebec

SOS Grenville-sur-la-Rouge is a citizen-driven organization. Their goals are to raise public and political awareness, force the Provincial government to act in favor of their small community to stop a graphite mineral project, and change provincial laws so that this type of mining will no longer be possible in Quebec, Canada

Mini-grant funding will be used to obtain a legal opinion about the validity of existing mineral rights, and to build a public awareness and media campaign to denounce the \$96 million industry lawsuit brought against their municipality for passing resolutions to limit mining, and to gain state government support for changes in the laws to avoid future law suits. The awareness campaign would encompass newspaper ads, social media, media events, and action items.

22. St. Mary's River Association, Nova Scotia

St. Mary's River Association is a non-profit organization providing leadership and engaging partners to enhance, protect, and promote the St. Mary's River as a healthy ecosystem for Atlantic salmon and other native animals and plant species, as well as providing a rich community resource.

Mini-grant funding will be used to review geotechnical information provided by Atlantic Gold for a proposed open pit gold mine in the St. Mary's River Watershed to determine where data are missing and the potential risks the mine will have on the water table and health of the river.

23. Tashanuk Watershed Council, Alaska

Takshanuk Watershed Council provides stewardship for the Chilkat, Chilkoot and Ferebee River systems. Through restoration, education, research, and community involvement they work to benefit the natural ecology, economy, and quality of life valued by all residents. Takshanuk Watershed Council was formally incorporated in 2003 via the Community Watershed Project, a cooperative agreement with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, to administer Southeast Sustainable Salmon Funds and to help establish community-based watershed councils.

Takshanuk Watershed Council (TWC) will use their mini-grant, in partnership with Chilkat Indian Village (CIV) and Lynn Canal Conservation (LCC), to develop and host a lecture series to discuss the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of a 6,765-acre mine proposed within the headwaters of the Klehini River, a major tributary of the Chilkat River in Southeast Alaska. This lecture series will include presentations and community discussions with experts to help ensure the community is appraised with a comprehensive suite of perspectives to guide natural resource decisions. Additionally, TWC will work with CIV and LCC to house mining presentations and related information on the TWC website.

24. Upper Similkameen Indian Band, British Columbia

Upper Similkameen Indian Band (USIB) is a First Nation Government with membership at 213 members, whose head offices are located in the town of Hedley. They are part of the Okanagan Nation Alliance. In recent years, the Upper Similkameen Indian Band has increasingly become involved in the business community and has become one of the largest employers in the area.

Mini-grant funding will be used for legal services to negotiate an agreement with the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources to fund a USIB-led Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment. The assessment will determine the impacts to the surrounding people, lands, animals and water of an abandoned heap leach facility near the Similkameen River that is draining cyanide at a rate of 209,000 ppm. Thus far, the Ministry has been uncooperative in funding the assessment.

25. Uranium Watch, Utah

Uranium Watch was established in 2006 as a citizen information, research, networking, and environmental action project. The organization addresses the health, safety, and environmental issues associated with uranium mining and milling—the front end of the nuclear fuel cycle; educates and advocates for protection of public health and the environment; and promotes informed public participation related to the uranium and nuclear power projects in Utah.

Uranium Watch will use their mini-grant funding to address a number of uranium mining and milling issues in the Four Corners Region, primarily in Utah, especially the White Mesa Uranium Mill and most of the mines that have fed the mill, including hundreds of abandoned uranium mines. Specifically, funding will be used for field trips, educational meetings, and presentations, including food and venue rental; radiation monitoring; hearings; and copies and publications.

26. What Matters in Our Valley, British Columbia

What Matters in Our Valley was founded in 2017 by a group of Telkwa, BC and other Bulkley Valley residents who share a deep commitment to the conservation of their rivers, water, fish, wildlife, air and quality of life. They work to inform the public about the of the proposed Telkwa coal mine, and to protect the interests of the environment, the economy, and the social fabric of the community of Telkwa and the Bulkley Valley.

What Matters in Our Valley will use their mini-grant to respond to an Environmental Assessment Application by Allegiance Coal, which plans to establish an open pit coal mining operation adjacent to the confluence of the Bulkley and Telkwa Rivers near Telkwa B.C. The mini-grant will provide partial funding to retain an attorney and a consultant.

27. Wild Horse Education, Nevada

Wild Horse Education is dedicated to protecting America's wild horses from abuse and slaughter and to preserving our herds and the land they stand on for future generations. Wild Horse Education was founded in 2008, during a time when nearly ten thousand wild horses were being removed from open range each year. Wild Horse Education advocates for wild horses and works with large environmental groups to expand their reach and education not only regarding wild horses, but the land they stand on and the environment and watershed they need to survive.

Wild Horse Education will use their funding to address the Final EIS and pending R.O.D. for the Gold Rock Mine Expansion Project during the BLM objection period. They will obtain and share data related to the expansion of mineral extraction, which is leading to extraordinary habitat loss that will force removals of wild horses and will threaten the entire ecosystem and watershed. Specifically, funding will allow the organization to obtain current drone footage of all wildlife and conditions in the area, including wild horses and sage grouse, and will include a media campaign.

28. Wildsight, British Columbia

Wildsight, founded in 1987, works locally, regionally and globally to protect biodiversity and encourage sustainable communities in Canada's Columbia and Southern Rocky Mountain region. They focus on the four main areas of conservation, water, community, and education.

Funding will be used for water sampling and analyses done in conjunction with University of Montana to test for selenium levels in the transboundary Kootenai Reservoir during the winter. Teck's Elk Valley coal mines in B.C., send this pollution downstream, but the mining company does not test selenium levels during the crucial winter months, when they are highest. Testing will fill in missing data gaps to bring to light likely permit violations, and to build pressure for more testing and permit enforcement to protect aquatic life.