

**Western Mining Action Network (WMAN)
Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)
Western Organization of Resource Councils Education Project
(WORCEP)
Mini-Grant Recipients
February 2019**

1. Black Hills Clean Water Alliance, South Dakota

The Black Hills Clean Water Alliance (Alliance) was founded in 2009 to prevent radioactive and destructive mining in the Black Hills region and protect valuable resources, especially water, for future generations. The Alliance is a diverse collection of citizens concerned about the health, environmental, and economic impacts that proposed mining projects would have on communities, people, the economy, and natural resources. They work to coordinate and facilitate the activities of grassroots groups

The Black Hills Clean Water Alliance will use their mini-grant for two projects aimed at stopping new uranium, rare earths, and large-scale gold mining in the Black Hills. The first project will provide activists with in-depth training about the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The second project is the creation of an interactive, web-based educational map about mining issues in the Black Hills that will provide information on arsenic, radioactivity, mercury, and other heavy metals. It will be made available to educators, tribes, and disenfranchised communities affected by mining in the Black Hills region to assist them in identifying problems and taking action.

2. Cedar Tree Institute, Michigan

The Cedar Tree Institute, founded in 1995, is a small, nonprofit organization based in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, providing services and initiating projects in the areas of environment, religion, and mental health. In collaboration with regional Native American tribes and faith communities they have coordinated the planting of 23,000 Northern white cedar trees across the Upper Peninsula. They also provided leadership for the interfaith Earthkeepers Initiative that brought together 250 faith communities to focus on environmental issues. One of their current initiatives, "The Gift of Water," is part of the Northern Great Lake Water Stewards Project (2016-2020), a 4-year interfaith initiative to establish a collaborative partnership to monitor, restore, protect, and sanctify the lakes and rivers of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The Cedar Tree Institute, in partnership with the interfaith Northern Great Lakes Water Stewards and the Center for Native American Studies at Northern Michigan University, will use their funding to support community organizing efforts and three public awareness presentations regarding sulfide mining initiatives in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. They will focus on Aquila Resources' proposed sulfide mine on the Menominee River, now in the permitting process. Presentations will target community activists;

students, faculty, and staff of Northern Michigan University; and the interfaith community to mobilize action and create awareness.

3. Coal River Mountain Watch, West Virginia

The mission of Coal River Mountain Watch, formed in 1998, is to stop the destruction of mountaintop removal mining and help rebuild sustainable communities. From bare-bones beginnings as a group of grassroots volunteers, they have become one of the major forces fighting to end mountaintop removal and to restore the quality of life in their small communities. In 2003, their Director, Judy Bonds, won the Goldman Environmental Prize, providing a major boost to the group's efforts to publicize the devastation of MTR.

Coal River Mountain Watch will use their mini-grant for their Coal River Intensive Monitoring Project to aggressively monitor active and pending mountaintop removal coal mines and other coal operations on and around Coal River Mountain. The project includes ground monitoring and aerial drone and plane surveillance for boundary violations, sediment ditch condition, and other potential permit violations; community organizing; and opposing new and revised permits.

4. Coalition to Save the Menominee River, Wisconsin

The Coalition to Save the Menominee River was founded in 2017. Its mission is to preserve and protect the Menominee River and its associated freshwater resources. The organization's long-range goal is to build advocacy and increase the number of voices to speak for responsible, respectful behavior towards the river and all habitat that is essential for a healthy freshwater system. Their immediate goal is to stop the threat of destruction of habitat and pollution of the Menominee River and associated waters posed by the Aquila "Back Forty" sulfide mining project.

Mini-grant funding will be used for outreach activities in furthering a public awareness campaign. Specifically, funding will be used for advertising, printed materials, guest speaker fees, and related expenses.

5. Dakota Rural Action, South Dakota

The Dakota Rural Action (DRA) was formed in 1987 to respond to the devastation wrought by the 1980's farm crisis on farmers, ranchers, and rural main street businesses in South Dakota. DRA organizes people and builds leadership while developing strong allied relationships. They protect environmental resources, advocate for resilient agriculture systems, and empower people to create policy change that strengthens their communities and cultures.

With their mini-grant, Dakota Rural Action will raise local awareness of the environmental, health, and social consequences of pending conventional and modern gold and uranium mining. Funding will be used to build a new website to increase the understanding of Black Hills citizens about the dangers of uranium and gold mining; provide lectures, discussions, and

outreach to educators; and conduct monitoring and mapping of radiation levels in the Black Hills from historic mining operations.

6. Dena Keyah Institute, British Columbia

Dena Kayeh Institute (DKI) was established in 2004 as a charitable foundation to act on behalf of the Kaska Dena to facilitate education programs; to develop protocols, policies, and practices in regards to traditional knowledge; to promote cultural preservation and land management; and to advocate for conservation of special sites and areas within the Kaska Territory. Currently, DKI is seeking to have designated an Indigenous Protected Conserved Area under a federal initiative (Nature Canada) to protect lands to contribute to Canada's biodiversity target, as committed to under International Convention of Biological Diversity (2014).

Mini-grant funding will be used to help support a two-day workshop on mine remediation for the Dena community of Ross River, and, more broadly, the Kaska Dena affected by the abandoned Faro Mine and the Faro Remediation Project. The workshop will bring together elders, youth, and other community members to share historical experiences of the Faro Mine and its impacts on Ross River/Kaska Dena, and to contribute to the development of community objectives and strategies for final mine closure, remediation, and long-term monitoring. The results of the workshop will inform Kaska Dena engagement in the Yukon territorial environmental and socio-economic assessment Faro Remediation Project slated for 2019.

7. Duluth for Clean Water, Minnesota

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

Duluth for Clean Water will use mini-grant funding to generate and leverage public concern about the proposed PolyMet mine using marketing strategies that challenge well-funded narratives generated by the mining industry. Their marketing campaign will include ads on Facebook and other social media platforms, billboards, and television ads framed around a "Clean water, strong Minnesota" theme.

8. East Coast Environmental Law Association, Nova Scotia

The East Coast Environmental Law Association, founded in 2007, is an environmental law charity that responds to community inquiries, carries out legal and policy research, and presents educational resources and opportunities to increase public awareness of environmental laws in Atlantic Canada. Their objective is to build capacity in the public and among legal practitioners to work together to ensure that environmental laws are effectively used and strengthened.

East Coast Environmental Law regularly engages with mining issues throughout the Atlantic region.

Mini-grant funding will be used for to conduct a free public legal education workshop related to the environmental assessment (“EA”) process in Nova Scotia to provide citizens with hands on legal tools and to answer legal questions about EAs for gold mining projects. The workshop will help affected communities and Indigenous Peoples in the area better understand their roles and rights during the EA processes for anticipated gold mining projects in Colchester County and the surrounding area. Funding will cover research, materials, and the cost of the workshop.

9. Friends of the Stikine, British Columbia

Friends of the Stikine Society (FOSS), founded in 1980, is a grass roots organization with success in helping stop five devastating hydro dam proposals through the creation of parks, which increased protected areas from 18% to 26% in the Stikine, Iskut, and Unuk watersheds. For the past 21 years, they have been working to help keep mining development to a sane cultural, social, and environmentally secure level in the Stikine, Iskut, Unuk, Skeena, Nass, Taku, and Finlay watersheds, focusing on monitoring, remediation, and education. FOSS aims for 50% protected areas including no go mineral development zones and tribal parks with full, prior, and informed consent from First Nations and Tribes.

Mini-grant funding will be used to circuit ride electronically, and on the ground, in Northwest BC to further networking and collaboration among First Nation, Tribes, NGO’s, and settler communities to stop inappropriate exploration and mine proposals, and to help ensure best available practices and remediation on projects that proceed. FOSS will use water and sediment testing to help establish baselines to inform and encourage communities to pick up more extensive testing. They also will consult with Tahltan storytellers & collectors about addressing grief and loss that comes with mineral exploration & mining development.

10. Keepers of the Athabasca Watershed Society, Alberta

Keepers of the Athabasca formed in 2006 as an Indigenous led environmental organization brought together by the shared realization that traditional knowledge and Indigenous philosophy must be allowed to affect western science and world culture. They are First Nations, Métis, Inuit, environmental groups, and watershed citizens working together for the protection of water, land, air, and all living things in the Athabasca River Watershed.

Mini-grant funding will be used to create a data visualization tool that, with a click on a map, identifies groundwater and surface water quality along with information about how the groundwater and surface water may be interacting at that location. This new tool will help address data gaps about the way in which tailing ponds leak, engage indigenous communities, and

allow communities to expand their water monitoring programs. Funding will help pay for a team of hydrologists that approached Keepers of the Athabasca with the project idea.

11. Menikānaehkem-Community Rebuilders, Wisconsin

Menikānaehkem is a grassroots community organization based on the Menominee Reservation in Northeast Wisconsin working to revitalize their communities. One of their initiatives includes resistance to the Back 40 mine.

Mining grant funding will be used to host cultural events, speaking tours, and physical tours of the Menominee Cultural sites that would be destroyed by the Back 40 mine. Participants in physical tours will receive a historical overview of the site that includes Menominee Burial mounds, raised garden beds, and sacred dance rings. To generate awareness, a social media campaign will be launched to include regular updates about the Back 40 project, resistance efforts, and ways to link potential allies.

12. Mining Action Group, 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. Previously known as Save the Wild U.P., the group was founded in 2004 and reorganized in 2016 when it merged with the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition. MAG's informed activism continues as a semi-autonomous arm of UPEC: the leadership team is comprised of grassroots activists who also serve as UPEC Board Members.

Mini-grant funds will be used to secure an independent technical review of the Aquila Resources Back Forty Mine Permit Amendment application, a sulfide mine project threatening the Menominee River. Review will be completed by the Center for Science in Public Participation (Dr. David Chambers, Dr. Kendra Zamzow); CSP2 analyzes mining applications in order to "provide objective research and technical advice to people impacted by mining."

13. Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho

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

Mini-grant funds will be used to retain an expert mining consultant who will help the Tribe understand the impacts of the proposed Stibnite Project, including those to the Tribe's fishery in the South Fork Salmon River Watershed, and assist in reviewing and commenting on the draft EIS while the Forest Service develops the Project's EIS.

14. Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Alaska

Since 1971, the Northern Alaska Environmental Center has employed grassroots activism, legislative advocacy, legal intervention, and public education to protect the ecological integrity of public lands in Northern Alaska. Their mission is to promote conservation of the environment and sustainable resource stewardship in Interior and Arctic Alaska through advocacy and education, and includes their Clean Water & Mining Program.

Northern Alaska Environmental Center will use their mini-grant for a multi-day Juneau outreach trip focused on bringing in-region voices to the Alaska Legislature and Governor's Office to educate on the impacts of the proposed Road to the Ambler Mining District and proposed Donlin Gold Mine. Funding will be used to help pay for travel and some food costs for their indigenous partners.

15. 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 (ONC) will use their funding to present the aquatic-related environmental concerns of the proposed Donlin Gold Mine to be located in the Kuskokwim River drainage in Southwestern Alaska, along with the deficiencies in the project's EIS, to the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Backing by the American Fisheries Society will help ONC in its efforts to demonstrate the impacts from barging activities on bank erosion downstream of Bethel and on the unique population of rainbow smelt, which is the species most at risk, that spawn in the vicinity of the Kalskag villages.

16. Quesnel River Watershed Alliance, British Columbia

The Quesnel River Watershed Alliance was founded in 1994 with a mission "To enhance, maintain and protect the overall health of the Quesnel River Watershed through education and awareness." Projects include Sockeye Salmon festivals and paddles and working with First Nations, Endangered species (mtn. Caribou), Sustainable Leadership Project working with the "Rivershed Society" annually (providing our 34' voyageur canoe through the summer months), and mining issues on the Quesnel River System.

Mini-grant funding will be used by Quesnel River Watershed Alliance to cover travel expenses for a local expert to attend appeal hearings of a 2015,

permit amendment allowing the discharge of mine effluent directly into the formerly pristine waters of Quesnel Lake. This permit was approved by the BC Ministry of Environment following the Mount Polley dam breach.

17. Red Water Pond Road Community Association, New Mexico

Red Water Pond Road Community Association, a Diné organization led by Navajo Nation members, was founded in 2007 and is located near Church Rock, NM in the Coyote Chapter of the Navajo Nation. The Association was formed by community members to ask for a cleanup from a 1979 tailing spill and mine and mill tailings in their village. The community lives between two Superfund sites—the Northeast Churchrock Mine and the Quivera/Kerr McGee Mine and the uranium mill Superfund site known as the United Nuclear Corporation Churchrock Mill.

Red Water Pond Road Community Association will use their funding to hold a two-day commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the largest radioactive accident in the US at Church Rock, NM on Navajo Nation. Activities will include a spiritual walk and large gathering in Red Water Pond Road Community, and a second day with educational workshops, films, activities, and media work in Gallup, NM. Outreach will include indigenous communities, spiritual leaders, youth, and the general public.

18. SalmonState/Salmon Beyond Borders, Alaska

Founded in 2015, SalmonState is an initiative that works to protect salmon habitat and promote policies that will guarantee the Pacific Northwest remains home to the world's largest, healthiest, and most abundant wild salmon runs, which provide culture, food, income, employment and recreation to Alaskans, British Columbians, and the rest of the world. One of SalmonState's signature efforts is the Salmon Beyond Borders campaign, which engages local people on both sides of the Alaska-BC border with the goal of defending the health of the watersheds of the Taku, Stikine, and Unuk Rivers (all transboundary rivers shared by the United States and Canada that provide globally significant wild salmon habitat) against reckless and poorly regulated large-scale mining in Northwest BC.

SalmonState will use their funds to build on a 2018 storytelling tour and for travel to support part of the community engagement portion of the performance and archive project, "People of the Transboundary Salmon Rivers," an ambitious collaborative effort between individuals at the Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission, Ping Chong & Company, SalmonState, and community members in Central and Northwest BC. The key focus of People of the Transboundary Salmon Rivers is live performances featuring theatrical storytelling in the focal communities of Wrangell and Telegraph Creek, in which individuals share their personal stories about how their lives are impacted by mining.

19. San Juan Collaborative for Health Equity, New Mexico

The San Juan Collaborative for Health Equity's purpose is to work with rural and metropolitan communities that are impacted by social, economic and health disparities stemming from environmental racism and from lack of unity or apathy in tribal and urban communities. Specifically, they work to address issues of the disadvantaged Native Americans/Navajos/Dine'.

Mini-grant funding will support capacity building among grassroots Dine' community organizers of the Be' ak'id ho'teeli Grass-root Organization (BGO) in Mariano Lake Chapter, where they are organizing to hold Chevron and the U.S. government accountable for cleaning up the Gulf uranium mine. BGO will hire a Dine' trainer to conduct a 2-day capacity building workshop to develop a strategy to: a) educate the Mariano Lake community about the impacts of uranium contamination and ongoing remediation efforts and b) be an active and engaged watchdog of the cleanup process for the Gulf Mine.

20. Save the South Fork, Idaho

Save the South Fork is a small grassroots community group, based in McCall, Idaho, that formed in 2018 to respond to community concerns about the proposed Stibnite Mine. Their mission is to protect public health; community well-being; and water, land, and wildlife from the potential effects of the proposed Stibnite Mine. They are working to counter Midas Gold's efforts at promoting community buy in of the mine, and to ensure that a rigorous review of the proposed mine is conducted.

Save the South Fork will use their mini-grant to organize workshops and generate grassroots participation at public hearings, and to hire a technical expert to provide analysis and comments on the DEIS for the proposed Stibnite Mine, a large cyanide leach, open pit gold mine, that threatens the South Fork Salmon River Watershed in Idaho.

21. Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission, Alaska

The Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission (SEITC) is a coalition of fifteen federally recognized Tribes in Southeast Alaska working to protect ancestral lands and waters. They have lived in the transboundary area between Alaska and Canada for thousands of years, and want their traditional experience and cultural values included at the decision table, especially regarding several large-scale mines.

The Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission will use their mini-grant to host an Indigenous gathering between Alaska Tribes and Canadian First Nations to strategize on mining threats in the Transboundary region. Their goals are to create a unified voice for the Tribes and First Nations across the border that are facing impacts from development and rapidly occurring industrialization, and to advocate for inclusion of culture-based protections that will prioritize traditional knowledge and promote free, prior, and informed consent. Funding will be applied to travel costs.

22. United Tribes of Bristol Bay, Alaska

United Tribes of Bristol Bay (UTBB) was founded in 2013 by six Bristol Bay tribes and has since grown to represent fifteen tribal governments in the region. UTBB's member tribes represent over eighty percent of the population of the Yup'ik, Dena'ina, and Alutiiq indigenous communities in Bristol Bay. UTBB is governed by a 15-member board of tribal representatives, nominated from each tribal council to serve on their behalf. Their mission is to protect the lands and waters that support the traditional way of life of Bristol Bay's indigenous people, which are currently under threat by the proposed large-scale, hard rock metallic-sulfide Pebble Mine.

Mini-grant funding will be used to fund a community outreach and education project in Southwest Alaska, the "Pebble Mine Draft EIS Public Engagement Program," regarding the proposed Pebble Mine's progression through the Army Corps of Engineers permitting process and development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the proposed Pebble Mine. The program will inform tribal and non-tribal members of Bristol Bay of the approximately four dozen state and federal permits that will be required prior to the establishment of a mine, and will assist local residents in responding effectively throughout the NEPA process. Specifically, funding will cover travel costs for UTTB representatives.

23. White Mesa Concerned Community, Utah

White Mesa Concerned Community was formed fourteen years ago by Ute Mountain Ute tribal members from the White Mesa Ute Community, which is located in southern Utah adjacent to a working uranium mill. Their mission is to protect the health, environment and sacred sites of their people, with a focus on closing the Energy Fuels uranium mill and getting contamination cleaned up.

White Mesa Concerned Community will use their funding to build on recent successful work to educate, organize and mobilize tribal members, tribal government, Indigenous, environmental and environmental/social justice allies, and nearby non-Native neighbors in the escalating and timely campaign to oppose the proposed expansion and continued operation of the Energy Fuels LLC uranium mill and dump. Activities will include a Spiritual Walk and Protest, the third annual Environmental Justice Leadership Academy to educate and empower tribal members, and a Community Health Survey.