

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

**1. Association pour la protection du lac Taureau Inc., Quebec**

Founded in 1981, the mission of the Association for Protection of Taureau Lake is to establish and maintain an official association of residents to make proper representations to municipal and provincial state authorities when required on the protection of the natural environment around the majestic Taureau Lake, which includes the quality of its water, protection of the landscape around the lake and the natural habitat of all species of wild animals, vigilant observation of on any commercial development projects in the vicinity of the lake, and protection of the quality of life of residents around the lake and in the vicinity.

Association for Protection of Taureau Lake will use their mini-grant to initiate an expert engineer review study on mine tailings storage procedures and the associated environmental risks of a proposed huge open pit graphite mine in the vicinity of the village of St-Michel-des-Saints, Quebec and two regional parks with significant water bodies. The report will be used to present the potential environmental damage and water pollution risks to the state's Environmental Panel Hearings.

**2. BC First Nations Energy & Mining Council, British Columbia**

The BC First Nations Energy & Mining Council is a provincial First Nations non-profit organization with a mandate to support and facilitate First Nation efforts to manage and develop energy and mineral resources in ways that protect and sustain the environment forever while enhancing the social, cultural, economic, and political well-being of First Nations in British Columbia.

The BC First Nations Energy & Mining Council will use their financial assistance to hire consultants to assist in researching and reforming the mineral tenure act process in B.C. to ensure that the rights of First Nations across B.C. are respected and protected, and specifically to halt Imperial Metals' Giant Copper Mine proposed for the area in and around Manning Park.

**3. Brooks Range Council, Alaska**

The Brooks Range Council is made up of Alaskans who came together in 2012 to defend the Brooks Range from the construction of a 220-mile industrial access road to promote a potential mining district. The Council is taking action because Alaska and powerful mining interests seek to exploit the southern Brooks Range with large

scale, open pit copper mining operations, which threaten their heritage; their way of life; and the fish, moose, and caribou that feed and sustain them.

The Brooks Range Council will use their funding for expert review of the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Ambler Road proposal with emphasis on issues that will pertain to the Corps' 404 permit, which would authorize fill of wetlands. The review also will be made available to local villages so they can generate their own comments.

#### **4. Cascade Forest Conservancy, Oregon**

The Cascade Forest Conservancy was established in 1985 by local concerned citizens under the name Gifford Pinchot Task Force to serve as a watchdog group for the health of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Their mission is to protect and sustain forests, streams, wildlife, and communities in the heart of the Cascades through conservation, education, and advocacy.

Mini-grant funding will be used for outreach activities in a grassroots campaign to permanently protect the Green River Valley from mining, and will include public presentations, media coverage, events, and advocacy building activities with local businesses.

#### **5. Concerned Citizens of Quesnel Lake, British Columbia**

Concerned Citizens of Quesnel Lake was formed in 2015 in response to the environmental tailings pond failure/disaster and ongoing discharge of mine waste from the Mount Polley Mine into Quesnel Lake.

Concerned Citizens of Quesnel Lake will use their mini-grant for scientific and legal assistance in responding to industry and government rebuttals of their expert evidence related to an appeal hearing of the Mt. Polley Mine discharge permit into Quesnel Lake. Funding also will be used for travel and accommodations to attend the appeal hearing.

#### **6. Idaho Rivers United, Idaho**

Founded in 1990, Idaho Rivers United has a mission to protect and restore the rivers of Idaho. The organization strives to protect Idaho's rivers by working to change unsustainable water policy and advocating for strong and effective conservation policy and law to ensure water and river quality are not degraded.

Mini-grant funding will be used to acquire expert assistance to review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Stibnite mine. Specifically, assistance will be acquired from experts in water quality modeling data, aquatic species mitigation, and geochemistry.

#### **7. Indian Country Grassroots, New Mexico**

Indian Country Grassroots was founded in 2015 by retired Navajo Nation justices and judges, a former land office manager, a former government reform commission

director, and law professors to address both federal and self-inflicted tribal constraints on community land use as well as community health impacts of both surface and sub-surface land use practices on the Navajo Nation reservation. Their goal is community empowerment based on the communities' own principles and solutions.

Mini-grant funding will be used by Indian Country Grassroots to hire experts to assess and present findings about the fate of the massive Shiprock uranium tailings pond whose liner is nearing the end of its 20-year useful life during a public scoping on the pond's future disposition. In addition, legal advocates will be provided at the meeting for collection, drafting, and submission of public input.

### **8. Ketchikan Indian Community, Alaska**

Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC) is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, incorporated in 1940. An eight-member Tribal Council, elected by the KIC membership, serves as the governing body and sets policy for programs and administration. KIC is one of the largest Tribes in Southeast Alaska. It has an enrollment of more than 6,100 tribal members, who are primarily of Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian clans, with a significant subset of Aleuts displaced to the community during World War II who chose to remain in the area. KIC desires to influence land use management policy in its designated and traditional territories to protect environmental and cultural resources.

Mini-grant funding will be used to expand public awareness in Ketchikan of the vast multitude of major economic and environmental risks that the proposed KSM mine will have on their community. To achieve this, the tribe will publish their letter nominating the Unuk River for Tier 3 protection to shield the river from the impacts of the mine that lies at its headwaters. Published in booklet form, it will be accompanied by testimonials from elders, scientists, and other stakeholders about the negative impacts of the KSM mine. Funding will provide for other outreach activities as well.

### **9. Lake Babine Nation, British Columbia**

Lake Babine Nation is situated on Babine Lake and surrounded by lush forests and wildlife. The Nation's connections to this territory date back over 1,300 years. Lake Babine Nation is made up of four traditional clans: Bear, Caribou, Beaver and Frog clans. Today, their Nation consists of five communities: Woyenne, Fort Babine, Tachek, Nedo'ats and Donald's Landing, with a population of 2400 members. Their mission is to ensure all members have a healthy, traditional, and prosperous future.

Grant assistance will support the development of a community-led Consultation and Engagement Policy. The purpose of the policy is to provide direction to industry in their engagement and consultation with Lake Babine Nation communities and government with respect to new and existing

projects. Their goal is to use this policy to ensure the communities of Lake Babine Nation and the proponent are informed and working together to protect the rights and interests of Lake Banine Nation members and traditional territory.

#### **10. Montana Environmental Information Center, Montana**

Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC) is an education and advocacy organization founded in 1973 with a mission to protect and restore Montana's natural environment. With over 45 years of experience, MEIC is Montana's lead organization specializing in state environmental policy. MEIC works to strengthen and enforce environmental regulations, serves as a government watchdog, educates the public, organizes citizens, collaborates with environmental and citizen groups, and utilizes strategic litigation. MEIC has a legacy and reputation for leading the charge on hardrock mining reform in Montana.

Mini-grant funding will be used for a multi-faceted campaign to prevent two mines under the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness: a place of rugged mountains, vital habitat, and the ancestral homeland of many Indigenous communities, including the Kootenai. Their goals are to 1) shut down mining activity at both the proposed Rock Creek and Montanore mines due to their impacts on water, and 2) set legal precedent that requires proposed mines to meet higher standards of water impact evaluation. Specifically, funding will be used for technical experts to support litigation.

#### **11. Native Village of Tetlin, Alaska**

The Native Village of Tetlin's mission is to keep and enhance the quality of life for residents by restoring the Village to a self-sustainable community that provides a home for the people and preserves their cultural heritage, values, and traditional way of life. In 1932, by Executive Order of the President, the Tetlin Indian Reserve was established. In 1971, ANSCA was signed into law, but Tetlin leaders decided to keep the land status of surface and sub-surface rights, and did not join a regional Alaska Native Corporation. In 1998, the Tetlin Native Village Corporation transferred majority of the land from the old Tetlin Indian Reserve to the Tribal Council. Therefore, the Native Village of Tetlin is unique in its land status.

Mini-grant funding will be used by the Native Village of Tetlin to host a two-day informative workshop in the village to educate the Tetlin Tribal Council and residents about Mining 101, and to establish a water quality monitoring program on Tetlin Tribal Lands, which will include mining contaminate training and a sediment monitoring program for mining contaminants.

#### **12. New Mexico Mining Action Network, New Mexico**

Led by Amigos Bravos and GRIP, New Mexico Mining Action Network (NMMAN) is an alliance of community groups, environmental law firms, mining and technical consultants, and regional and national mining reform organizations. Since 2006, NMMAN's mission is to be a statewide advocate for restoration of community land

and water affected by mining including enforcement of the NM Mining Act and of relevant water quality and quantity laws, and promotion of economic alternatives for mining-impacted communities.

In 2018, NMMAN entered into a stipulated agreement with the New Mexico Environment Department to develop a Toxic Pollutant Working Group for the purpose of identifying potential changes to regulation and standards pertaining to toxic pollutants. NMMAN's goal is to acquire new standards and regulations for toxic pollutants related to mining that currently do not have standards. Mini-grant funds will be used to hire a toxicologist to accomplish this goal.

### **13. Nova Scotia Environmental Network, Nova Scotia**

The Nova Scotia Environmental Network (NSEN) is a network of environmental organizations in Nova Scotia which aims to collect and disseminate information within its network, and to strengthen and promote environmental activities. NSEN has served as a resource for all environmental and health non-profits since 1991 by coordinating events, organizing capacity building workshops, and facilitating the formation of different caucuses. The mission of the NSEN is to connect organizations working in the environmental and health fields to help achieve a more sustainable future for Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia Environmental Network will use their mini-grant to organize a three day 'Nova Scotia Sustainability Show' in direct opposition to the 'Nova Scotia Gold Show' sponsored by the Government of Nova Scotia, the Mining Association of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Prospectors Association. As part of this advocacy campaign, they will organize: 1) direct action activities in Halifax and outside proposed and existing mine sites, 2) a public panel discussion, and 3) community workshops led by Dr. Joan Kuyek, to help foster societal discussion on issues related to gold mining and to encourage engagement with an alternative economic vision for Nova Scotia.

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

Powder River Basin Resource Council is a grassroots community organization formed in 1973 by citizens concerned about the impacts to land, water, and air resources from large coal strip mines coming into Wyoming's Powder River Basin. They work for the preservation and enrichment of Wyoming's agricultural heritage and rural lifestyle; the conservation of Wyoming's unique land, mineral, water, and air resources consistent with responsible use of those resources; and the education and empowerment of Wyoming's citizens to raise a coherent voice in the decisions that will impact their lives.

Mini-grant assistance will help fund consultation fees for a subsidence expert and a hydrologist to assist in a legal challenge of Ramaco's proposed Brook Coal Mine in Sheridan County, Wyoming, which has a resubmitted permit application.

### **15. Regroupement Vigilance Mines Abitibi et Témiscamingue, Quebec**

The Regroupement Vigilance Mines de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue (REVIMAT) was founded in 2015 by four groups in the mining region of Abitibi-Témiscamingue in NorthWestern Québec, Canada. Today REVIMAT includes 6 regional organizations and multiple external partners. REVIMAT is very concerned about the proliferation of mining projects in their region, especially the new form of large-scale, low-grade projects close to inhabited and/or sensitive environments. Their mission is to bring these issues to the attention of the public and elected representatives, to give technical and financial support to citizens dealing with problems caused by the mining industry, and to change standards and regulations under the Quebec mining law.

REVIMAT will use their mini-grant for a social media campaign. This campaign will allow them to reach a larger number of citizens to help them understand the social, economic and environmental effects of exploration and exploitation of mining resources under the Quebec Mining Act, and to publicize their struggle and put political pressure on elected representatives.

### **16. Rivers Without Borders, Alaska**

Rivers Without Borders 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 stewardship to safeguard those values.

Mini-grant funding will be used by Rivers Without Borders to assist the local Tribe, community group, commercial fishermen, and others concerned about the proposed Constantine mine. An independent expert will be retained to review the Preliminary Economic Assessment due to be released by the proponent, which will include initial engineering alternatives for mine development and ore processing, estimates of capital and operating costs, and other economic parameters. An independent review will provide an alternative view about the Constantine mine, and provide new information to potential investors.

### **17. Rivershed Society of BC, British Columbia**

The Rivershed Society of BC (RSBC) formed in the wake of Fin Donnelly's 1995 "Swim for Life" down BC's longest river, the Fraser River. Since its inception in 1996, the RSBC has been actively delivering public education programs and community initiatives, and building stewardship capacity in the Fraser River Basin. The RSBC is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health of the Fraser River. Their mission is to conserve, protect and restore the health of BC riversheds in this generation.

The Rivershed Society of BC will use their funding to promote environmental stewardship and protection and awareness of the mid-Fraser River Canyon Corridor, especially from the impact of mining. Specifically, they will co-host

a follow-up community gathering at Xat'sull First Nations' Heritage Village (Wild Salmon Feast & Performance) to bring together community members and leaders to advance the work of protecting the Fraser River Canyon Corridor and improving mining practices, which will consist of a strategic discussion and training session focusing on the negative impacts of mining, including the Mount Polley mine disaster.

### **18. Rock Creek Alliance, Idaho**

The Rock Creek Alliance (Alliance) is a non-profit public advocacy organization founded in 1997 with members primarily from Idaho, Montana, and Washington. The Alliance's mission is to protect the Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Watershed that spans the three states of Montana, Idaho and Washington, along with Montana's Cabinet Mountains Wilderness, from the impacts of the proposed Rock Creek mine. The Alliance's mission also includes ensuring the continued viability of threatened and rare species that would be impacted by the mine.

The Alliance will use their funding to hire a local photographer and social media marketing specialist to oversee a one year campaign involving Instagram that will focus on young people with the goals of introducing them to the organization and its work, educating them about the impacts of the Rock Creek mine, and inspiring them to become involved in protecting the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness and the Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Watershed. The organization also will be producing two videos to promote a connection to the special places at risk and generate enthusiasm in advocating for their protection.

### **19. SkeenaWild Conservation Trust, British Columbia**

Formed in 2007, SkeenaWild Conservation Trust is dedicated to making the Skeena River and nearby coastal communities a global model of sustainability where large human and salmon populations coexist. They work directly with First Nations, governments, communities, and individuals to sustain the long-term health and resilience of the wild salmon ecosystem. They focus on four main program areas with an emphasis on developing long-term solutions: 1) Habitat and Species Protection, 2) Science and Research, 3) Sustainable Fisheries, and 4) Community Engagement.

Mini-grant funding will be used to hire an environmental scientist to compile and update water quality and fish health data for Babine Lake - the largest sockeye salmon nursery lake in BC, where two decommissioned copper mines are located, and to make such data available to the Lake Babine Nation so that they can make more informed decisions regarding ongoing water quality remediation. The consultant also will determine how contaminant concentrations in Babine Lake compare with BC/Canada water quality guidelines.

## **20 Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing Our Environment, Illinois**

Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing Our Environment (SAFE) was founded in 2012 for the purpose of banning fracking. Since that time, they have enacted local resolutions opposing fossil fuel projects, educated communities on the impacts of fossil fuels development on health and environment, and advocated for landowners rights.

Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing Our Environment will use their mini-grant to educate and build community resilience against a mining project to extract rare earth minerals (REM) from a geologically unique area of the Shawnee National Forest in Southernmost Illinois called Hicks Dome. They will provide baseline water testing; legal advice; and information about regulations, water and air pollution, health impacts caused by REM mining, and ways to protect community health.

## **21. Sustainable Northern Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia**

Founded in 2017, Sustainable Northern Nova Scotia is a group of concerned citizens on the North Shore that has a collective vision and strategy to encourage sustainable, locally driven community and economic development. Their goals are to oppose industry that threatens their natural and lived environment, and to promote an environmentally-friendly economy.

Mini-grant funding will be utilized for the purpose of organizing a Water Walk in Warwick Mountain, Sipekne'katik District (Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia). The Water Walk has three intentions: to use ceremony to protect the water from potential mining impacts, to unite Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members under the Peace and Friendship Treaties in resistance to irresponsible extraction, and to create public awareness of these potential impacts.

## **22. Unist'ot'en Camp, British Columbia**

The Unist'ot'en Camp was formed in 2010, when the Unist'ot'en clan of the Wet'suwet'en people established an encampment in the pathway of a proposed energy corridor of four oil and gas pipeline projects. The camp is 60 km outside of "Houston, B.C." The main goal of the Unist'ot'en Camp is to re-establish indigenous governance over Wet'suwet'en territory and protect it from several proposals to construct oil and gas pipelines. By occupying the land and using their hereditary leadership system to protect it, the Unist'ot'en also hope to inspire similar actions from other Indigenous Nations and their allies.

The Unist'ot'en Camp will use their mini-grant to address proposed mining for two areas in the territory of the Unist'ot'en Clan of the Wet'suwet'en Nation, on Chism Road and the Polar Lake region. Funds will support an initial meeting and strategy session for all involved parties, including the

Unist'ot'en community and chiefs and members of neighboring nations, with the goal of building a strategy and campaign to defeat this proposed mining. It also will provide a retainer for a legal expert.