

**Western Mining Action Network (WMAN)
Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)
Western Organization of Resource Councils Education Project
(WORCEP)
Mini-Grant Recipients
February 2020**

1. Arizona Mining Reform Coalition, Arizona

The Arizona Mining Reform Coalition was formed in 2006 to coordinate information among Arizona groups working on hard rock mining issues, and to work on reforming the 1872 Mining Law and Arizona's own mining laws. The organization works to protect Arizona's environment and to preserve the health and economic wellbeing of their citizens.

Arizona Mining Reform Coalition will use an emergency mini-grant to help cover travel, in collaboration with the San Carlos Apache Tribe, to attend a hearing in Washington, DC held by the House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee on the Resolution Copper Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). It also will cover travel to London, England for meetings and events to be held in collaboration with the London Mining Network that pertain to the Rio Tinto Annual General Meeting.

2. Black Mesa Trust, Arizona

Black Mesa Trust was founded in 1999 to address the environmental impacts that Peabody Western Coal Company's (PWCC) groundwater withdrawals were having on the environment and the cultures of Hopi and Dine people living on Black Mesa. The mission of Black Mesa Trust is: "To safeguard, preserve, and honor the sacred land, culture, and water of Black Mesa and our Mother Earth for future generations to come."

Black Mesa Trust will use their mini-grant to conduct a workshop to educate Black Mesa Trust and other relevant regional organizations (35-40 expected attendees) about the permit revision, pending bond release, and reclamation process for Peabody Western Coal Company 's (PWCC) Kayenta-Black Mesa mine complex. The workshop will host legal and hydrology experts familiar with PWCC's permit revision application and this information will help guide their organization in its efforts to ensure that affected communities (particularly Hopi and Dine) will have a voice in reclamation, and that PWCC is held accountable for the permanent reclamation of mined lands and water on Black Mesa.

3. Cabinet Resource Group, Montana

Cabinet Resource Group was founded in 1976 and works in northwestern Montana to educate the public on environmental and community issues. The Cabinet Resource Group supports responsible use of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness in the best interest of citizens today and in the future. They oversee corporate,

government, and private interests' proposals to guarantee the integrity of the environment.

Funding will be used by Cabinet Resource Group for continued monitoring, legal challenges, and public participation on three distinct mine related issues: the Troy Mine, the proposed Rock Creek Mine, and OU-3 the W.R. Grace mine site and tailings impoundment. The mini-grant will support the purchase of computer equipment for monitoring, a community meeting to discuss the W.R. Grace Vermiculite mine, and scientific review and analyses related to the W.R. Grace Vermiculite mine feasibility study and the Troy mine tailings impoundment.

4. Coal River Mountain Watch, West Virginia

The mission of Coal River Mountain Watch is to stop the destruction of their communities and environment by mountaintop removal mining (MTR), to improve the quality of life in their area, and to help rebuild sustainable communities. The organization was formed in 1998 by citizens concerned about the growing problem of MTR.

Coal River Mountain Watch will use mini-grant funding for their Citizens' Enforcement Program, which monitors the active and pending mountaintop removal (MTR) coal mines and other coal operations on and around Coal River Mountain and assists residents monitoring and opposing the sites near their homes. Their project includes ground monitoring and aerial drone and plane surveillance for boundary violations, sediment ditch condition, and other potential permit violations; monitoring administrative actions and violations; community organizing; and opposing new and revised permits.

5. Coalition to Save the Menominee River, Wisconsin

The Coalition to Save the Menominee River, Inc. is a grassroots organization founded in 2017 with a mission to preserve and protect the freshwaters of the Menominee River system. They are working with the indigenous people of the Menominee Indian Tribe in efforts to stop the proposed mining operations by the Aquila Mining Company of Canada.

Mini-grant funding will be used by Coalition to Save the Menominee River to hire Dr. David Chambers to review and create a written report on the dam permit application of Aquila Resources to mine next to the Menominee River.

6. Comité Arrêt des rejets et émissions toxiques de Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec

Comité Arrêt des rejets et émissions toxiques de Rouyn-Noranda (ARET) was founded in 2019 following a biomonitoring study by the Public Health Department in the district of Notre-Dame in Noranda demonstrating chronic arsenic impregnation in children living near the Horne Smelter with 4 to 40 times higher arsenic concentrations than those of a similar unexposed population. Their mission is to enforce the Quebec standard of 3 ng/ m³ annually of arsenic in ambient air, as

the smelter has the legal authorization to reach up to 200 ng/ mA3, and to require the Canadian government to impose a standard limiting arsenic in complex metals.

ARET will use their mini-grant for outreach activities related to the public health issues posed by arsenic, which will include presentations by independent specialists. Specifically, funding will be used for consultant fees, meeting room rental, and materials.

7. Friends of the Stikine, British Columbia

Friends of the Stikine is a grass roots organization founded in 1980 to protect caribou , moose, Stone sheep, goat, bear, bird, salmon, and oolichan fish habitat. For 21 years, they have worked to keep mining to a sane cultural, social, and environmentally secure level in the Stikine, Iskut, Unuk, Skeena, Nass, Taku, & Finlay watersheds, focusing on monitoring, remediation, and education.

Mini-grant funding will be used by Friends of the Stikine to circuit ride electronically and on the ground in Northwest BC to further networking, collaboration, and liaisons 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. They also will use water and sediment testing to help establish baselines to inform and encourage communities to adopt more extensive testing.

8. Headwaters Montana, Montana

Headwater Montana formed in 2007 to protect the water, wildlife, and traditional quiet outdoor recreation opportunities in the Crown of the Continent region of Northwest Montana, including the transboundary landscape connected to Southeast British Columbia.

Headwaters Montana will use their mini-grant to create a video to motivate citizens to protect the Kootenai/Kootenay River in Northwest Montana from Teck Resources' coal mining pollution of the river by supporting a scientifically rigorous regulatory standard for selenium at the international border. The video will highlight the extensive terrestrial and aquatic damage of Teck's coal mining operations.

9. Kamloops Moms for Clean Air, British Columbia

Kamloops Moms For Clean Air is a not-for-profit organization that began in 2012 out of a growing concern for air quality within their valley-based community where the annual average of Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5) air pollution sits at or above the provincial guideline, and an open pit copper and gold mine is proposed. Kamloops Moms For Clean Air raises air awareness and education by connecting with the Kamloops Air Quality Round Table and attending mining law reform meetings.

Mini-grant funding will be used by Kamloops Moms for Clean Air to hire professional designers and printers to produce an educational brochure about mining claims that have been staked in Kamloops and the way in which the "free entry" system of staking claims (which hasn't changed since the gold rush era) is detrimental to indigenous and non-indigenous people alike. If there is enough funding, they will produce a short (1.5-to-3 minute) video, which will promote the need for meaningful changes to the BC Mineral Tenure Act.

10. Kentucky Headwaters, Kentucky

Kentucky Headwaters was founded in 2005 to improve local water quality and watershed management in Letcher County, Kentucky, which is the headwaters of three major rivers- North Fork of the Kentucky, the Big Sandy, and the Upper Cumberland.

Mini-grant funds will be used by Kentucky Headwaters for their community-based water testing program, which collects data to support legal and community organizing efforts around clean water in the East Kentucky coalfields. The cost of supplies, mileage, and lab fees will be covered.

11. Lynn Canal Conservation, Alaska

For over 45 years, Lynn Canal Conservation has been committed to protecting ecosystem integrity and fostering responsible stewardship of the Chilkat Valley watersheds as well as the coastal areas of the upper Lynn Canal. They monitor proposed projects that could have an impact on the integrity of ecosystems and work to mitigate potential environmental impacts, build coalitions with other concerned groups, and increase community awareness.

Lynn Canal Conservation will use their funding to develop and implement a marketing strategy to advertise the proposed Constantine/Palmer sulfide mine as "not economically viable," target investors to prevent mine funding, and educate the public to prevent Constantine Metals from gaining social license to operate. Funds will be used for outreach materials, ads, a mailing, and events support.

12. Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho

The United States negotiated treaties with the Nez Perce tribe in 1855, 1863, and in 1868, and the Tribe is a sovereign government. Today, the Tribe plays a crucial role in the management and the preservation of cultural and natural resources, the operation of health and judicial systems, and the development of economies within the reservation boundaries. The Tribe's Department of Fisheries Resources Management's mission will protect and restore aquatic resources and habitats.

Mini-grant funding will be used by the Nez Perce Tribe to obtain technical expertise that will assist them in understanding Midas Gold Corporation's proposed mining project - the Stibnite Gold Project in the South Fork Salmon

River watershed as well as the proposed mine's potential impacts on the Tribe's treaty-reserved resources. Specifically, funding will be used for outside contractor help in writing draft EIS comments for the proposed Stibnite mine.

13. Northern Confluence Initiative, British Columbia

Northern Confluence Initiative was founded in 2018 and is dedicated to conserving the salmon watersheds that sustain their communities, economies, and shared futures. They are based in northwestern British Columbia and draw together perspectives from across the region. Northern Confluence Initiative works to improve land use decisions that respect Indigenous laws and rights and are based on sustainability principles.

Northern Confluence Initiative will use their mini-grant in an effort to raise awareness about the need to change BC's Mineral Tenure Act and create long-term benefits to conservation efforts (including Indigenous-led) and land-use planning that are currently prevented due to mineral tenures. They will develop a short animated video on the need to reform BC's gold-rush era staking laws.

14. Orutsararmiut Native Council, Alaska

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

The Orutsararmiut Native Council will use their mini-grant funds to acquire outside professional expertise (i.e., from a hydrology/fisheries consultant) to support the contention of a local fisheries biologist that the rainbow smelt monitoring scheme proposed by Donlin Gold, and approved by the COE, is not adequate to protect the unique smelt population of the Kuskokwim River.

15. Royal Gorge Preservation Project, Colorado

The Royal Gorge Preservation Project was founded in January 2019 and is a registered nonprofit organization created to protect and educate the public regarding the value of tourism in the Royal Gorge area as a viable public goal and to preserve the natural beauty of the Royal Gorge region from environmentally destructive human activity. Leading projects include tracking the activities of Zephyr Minerals, Ltd., a Canadian exploratory company currently exploring for gold and other mineral resources in Fremont County, and educating the community regarding the resultant damage from mining.

The Royal Gorge Preservation Project will use their mini-grant assistance to help fund an educational campaign including radio ads; a website; public

signage, including a large (8'x28') billboard; news advertising; membership with the local Chamber of Commerce; and mass mailings.

16. SalmonState, Alaska

Founded in 2015, SalmonState is an initiative that works to protect wild salmon habitat and promote policies that guarantee Alaska remains home to the world's largest, healthiest, and most abundant wild salmon runs. These wild salmon populations 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-British Columbia border with the goal of defending and sustaining the health of the watersheds of the Taku, Stikine-Iskut, and Unuk Rivers.

Mini-grant funding will be used by SalmonState to communicate to North American audiences the individual people, communities, rivers, and vast landscapes of the Alaska-B.C. transboundary region. Funds will be used for jet boat and small plane travel in April-September 2020 to help journalist(s), photographer(s), and/or videographer(s) convey through social and earned media the magic of this region (the Stikine-Iskut watershed, in particular), and the existing and potential impacts the under-regulated B.C. mining industry pose to it.

17. Save Our St. Vrain Valley, Colorado

Save Our St. Vrain Valley (SOSVV) was founded in 2017 to oppose Martin Marietta Materials' decades old, Special Use Permit to spot zone 800+ acre of agricultural land with open-pit, gravel mines in the St Vrain Valley-- the least developed river valley in the Front Range of Colorado. SOSVV is working to protect invaluable archeology, agricultural land, riparian habitat, and protected species from industrial deep-pit gravel mining.

Mini-grant funding will be used by SOSVV to help register protect, and preserve the archeological sites in the St Vrain Valley, primarily owned by Boulder Parks & Open Space land and Martin Marietta Material, which are threatened by a defacto rezoning/ spot zoning of ~300 acres for mining.

18. Save the South Fork Salmon, Idaho

Save the South Fork Salmon is a small grassroots group, based in McCall, Idaho that formed in 2018 to respond to community concerns about the proposed Stibnite Gold Project. Their mission is to protect public health; community well-being; and water, land, and wildlife from the potential effects of the proposed mine.

Save the South Fork Salmon will use their emergency mini-grant to hire a technical expert to provide analysis and comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Stibnite Gold Project, a large cyanide leach open-pit gold mine that threatens wilderness, clean water, threatened species, and wildlife in the South Fork Salmon River

watershed in Idaho. After repeated delays, the Forest Service suddenly announced that the DEIS would be released with a 60-day comment period.

19. Silver Valley Community Resource Center, Idaho

Silver Valley Community Resource Center (SVCRC) was founded in 1986 by nontraditional leaders in the Silver Valley including church, union, social service groups, affected citizens, and senior citizens who came together and decided to work for accountability in the EPA environmental cleanup of the Bunker Hill Superfund Site. SVCRC's Mission is to improve the quality of life for people of the Silver Valley, epicenter of the nation's largest lead site, with the goals of economic development, safe housing/ending homelessness, adequate health care and environmental justice.

A mini-grant will be used by SVCRC in collaboration with ResponsibleGrowthNEW, which is opposing a smelter in Newport, WA., and Society, Sovereignty, Health, Air, Water, Land (SHAWL), which watchdogs the Midnite Copper Uranium mine on the Spokane Tribal Reservation of Wellpinit, WA. Funding will be used to create a joint resolution; meet with congressional delegates; attend conferences, meetings, and events; and conduct media work.

20. Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission, Alaska

Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission (SEITC) is a consortium of 15 federally recognized Tribal governments, which formed in 2014 to protect their customary and traditional ways of life from large-scale mining development in the Canadian headwaters of transboundary rivers. SEITC's mission is to protect their lands and waters for future generations.

SEITC will use their funding to hold a rally in June 2020 during "Celebration," which is one of the largest gatherings of Southeast Alaska Native peoples and the second-largest event sponsored by Alaska Natives in the State of Alaska, to highlight mining projects, which threaten the last of undeveloped salmon rivers in North America in Alaska and BC.

21. Takshanuk Watershed Council, Alaska

Takshanuk Watershed Council's mission is to promote the conservation of healthy and self-sustaining ecosystems in the Chilkat Valley and surrounding areas. They strive to attain a better understanding of their watershed's ecology and use this information to foster good stewardship of the streams, rivers, lakes, and lands through research, restoration, education, and community involvement.

Takshanuk Watershed Council will use their mini-grant to host an event that will include presentations and discussion of the recently-released Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) for the proposed Palmer Project. Experts in the field of mining socio-economics will be brought to the Chilkat Valley to provide the community with comprehensive and non-biased

information and perspectives, specifically focusing on this Palmer Project PEA report.

22. White Mesa Concerned Community, Utah

White Mesa Concerned Community is a grassroots organization of White Mesa Ute Community/Ute Mountain Ute Tribal members, founded over 16 years ago. Their mission is to protect health, environment, and sacred sites, and to close the Energy Fuels uranium mill.

White Mesa Concerned Community will use their funding to build membership and capacity, strengthen and expand alliances, conduct a community health survey, and expand their campaign to close the uranium mill. Activities will include advocacy work to address the mill and its operations, health survey training, a spiritual walk and protest, and a regional conference.

23. Wildsight, British Columbia

Wildsight was founded as the East Kootenay Environmental Society in 1987. The organization works locally, regionally, and globally to protect biodiversity and encourage sustainable communities in Canada's Columbia and Southern Rocky Mountain region. Wildsight focuses on conservation, water, community and education.

Mini-grant funding will be used by Wildsight to build awareness of the problem created by Elk Valley coal mines in British Columbia, which are slowly building a water pollution disaster that will affect fish in BC and Montana for at least a thousand years. They will create short videos that illustrate the problem and drive citizens throughout BC and in bordering US states to ask their governments to stop the problem from getting worse, and to build a broader constituency for mining reform in BC.

24. World Mine Tailings Failures, Maine

World Mine Tailings Failures was formed following five years of research on the causes of tailings failures. The organization houses a failures database to provide a more complete analysis of causes and consequences for the use of stakeholders around the world in preventing future failures.

World Mine Tailings Failures will use their mini-grant to organize data sets & information resources for online instant download access and the creation of anniversary "in memoriam" for all major catastrophes. Funding will cover curating images and voices and names of the deceased and presenting them in a simple eloquent tribute, computer technical preparation, and posting of twelve memorials.

25. Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, Alaska

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC) is an Indigenous grassroots non-profit organization established in 1997 by Indigenous leaders concerned about safeguarding and cleaning-up the Yukon River Watershed. YRITWC is a coalition comprised of 74 Indigenous governments in Canada and Alaska with a vision to be able to drink water directly from the Yukon River. The YRITWC coordinates efforts to protect, clean, and maintain the health of the Yukon River and its diverse peoples.

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council will use their emergency mini-grant to support an Indigenous representative and a YRITWC staff member to attend a meeting about mining activity in the upper Yukon River region being coordinated by YRITWC, a Native Corporation, an Alaska Native Tribe, and the University of Alaska Anchorage. Information shared at this meeting will likely impact future decisions about mining on Alaska Native lands by allowing important information sharing, and a more balanced perspective to be presented at a meeting dominated by pro-development interests.

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June 2020**

1. BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council, British Columbia

The BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council (FNEMC) is a provincial First Nations non-profit organization. FNEMC's mandate is 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 and Mining Council will use their mini-grant to hire consultants to research the wastewater discharge practices associated with placer mining in BC. They will develop a strategy to halt the discharge of tailings directly into streams, which will be discussed with provincial, territorial and federal governments.

2. BC Mining Law Reform Network, British Columbia

Founded in 2019, the BC Mining Law Reform Network promotes changes to mineral development laws and mining practices to ensure they are environmentally sound, do not pollute waters, respect community decisions, and account for the costs to clean up toxic mine waste sites. The network represents nearly 30 local, provincial and national organizations from a wide range of sectors, including citizen and community groups, First Nations, academics, and social justice and environmental organizations.

Mini-grant funding will support the development of communication materials through the use of a graphic designer, community presentations and webinars, and the promotion of the report "Safety First: Community Guidelines to Responsible Mine Tailings Management," which represents multi civil-society efforts to prevent future mine waste disasters in Canada, the U.S., and the world.

3. Black Hills Clean Water Alliance, South Dakota

Founded in 2009, the mission of the Black Hills Clean Water Alliance is 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.

Grant assistance will be used for start-up costs for a project aimed at passing congressional legislation that would create a recreation area and mineral

withdrawal for the upper Rapid Creek watershed in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Funding will be allocated for TV ads, yard signs, outreach materials, and banners.

4. Cascade Forest Conservancy, Washington

Since 1985, the Cascade Forest Conservancy has been focused on protecting and sustaining the forests, streams, wildlife, and communities in Washington's South Cascades. The organization focuses on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and surrounding areas, including unique ecosystems and iconic peaks like Mount St. Helens and Mount Adams, as well as popular wilderness and recreation areas that receive over a million visitors per year.

Grant support will be used for a grassroots campaign to protect 11,000 acres of land adjacent to the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument in the Green River Valley, which is subject to a mineral exploration proposal from a Canadian mining company. Funds will be used for an economic report, outreach and communication expenses, and legal consultation on mineral withdrawals.

5. Coalition Quebec Meilleure Mine, Quebec

Founded in 2008, Coalition Quebec Meilleure Mine is composed of 30 organizations from the environmental, labor union, health, academic, and citizen sectors across the Quebec State/Province (the second largest mining jurisdiction in Canada, after Ontario, and on-par with British-Columbia). Its core mission is to support mining-affected communities and promote better laws, policies, and practices to ensure the protection of the environment and people. Coalition Quebec Meilleure Mine is the leading group on mining issues in Quebec.

Mini-grant funding will be used by Coalition Quebec Meilleure Mine to support grassroots mobilization and communication material for their State/Provincial campaign "Stop Undermining the Climate." Launched in Fall 2019 in the Quebec Legislature, the campaign aims at promoting and legislating "Five core conditions to avoid undermining the energy transition" in order to ensure that minerals used for energy transition technologies (e.g. wind, solar, batteries) do not further impact people and the environment.

6. Concerned Citizens of Quesnel Lake, British Columbia

Concerned Citizens of Quesnel Lake was founded 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 monitoring equipment that will assist in assessing inputs to Quesnel Lake from Hazeltine Creek now that the creek and disturbed terrestrial area have undergone remediation work post spill, and to assess the recovery of the lakebed and its ecosystem in the west basin.

7. Dogwood, British Columbia

Founded in 1998, Dogwood works to protect the environment by tapping into the universal human desire for self-determination, and endeavors to change how decisions are made in B.C. The organization also works on reforms to promote government accountability and transparency. By linking grassroots organizing efforts and First Nations rights and title with the ability to influence money flows, they strive to connect British Columbians to important points of power and create real leverage for a more just, equitable, sustainable and democratic future.

Mini-grant funding will be used by Dogwood to produce and distribute graphic videos of the impact mining has on people and the environment to build a political constituency to demand change in partnership with MiningWatch, Northern Confluence, and other allies in the B.C. mining reform sector. Videos will highlight BC Mining Law Reform, polluter-pay issues, and Mineral Tenure Act reforms.

8. Flathead Valley Trout Unlimited, Montana

Founded in 1972, the Flathead Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited has more than 300 members dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring cold water fisheries and their habitat in Northwest Montana. Each year, they provide funding, volunteer workers, and other support to various organizations and state and federal agencies around Northwest Montana. Their key priorities are maintaining and restoring threatened native trout species and their habitat.

Flathead Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, working in partnership with the Kootenai Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Montana Trout Unlimited, will use their funds to pay for the development and distribution of communication materials to educate and raise awareness about the issue of selenium pollution in Lake Koocanusa, (a 90-mile long transboundary reservoir in northwestern Montana and southeastern British Columbia) with the goal of compelling their membership and the public to support a scientifically rigorous regulatory standard for Selenium at the international border.

9. Kootenai Valley Trout Unlimited, Montana

The Kootenai Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter's mission is protecting and enhancing the overall health of the mainstem of Montana's Kootenai River drainage. Over the years, the chapter has provided funding and volunteer hours for projects centered around the protection and recovery of native species including westslope cutthroat trout, inland redband rainbow trout, and bull trout.

Mini-grant funding will be used by Kootenai Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited to pay for the development and distribution of communication materials to educate and raise awareness about the issue of selenium

pollution in Lake Koocanusa, (a 90-mile long transboundary reservoir in northwestern Montana and southeastern British Columbia) with the goal of compelling their membership and the public to support a scientifically rigorous regulatory standard for Selenium at the international border. The chapter will work in partnership the Flathead Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Montana Trout Unlimited.

10. LEAD Agency, Oklahoma

Since 1997, LEAD Agency has been leading the way for environmental justice by educating the community on environmental concerns in Northeast Oklahoma, bringing actions to counter environmental hazards that put Northeast Oklahoma's residents at risk financially and physically, taking the lead conducting environmental workshops and seminars concerning environmental issues in Northeast Oklahoma and other areas, and providing a linkage with other environmental organizations throughout the State of Oklahoma and the Nation.

Emergency mini-grant funds will be used by LEAD Agency to hire several technical advisors to evaluate new documents produced by EPA regarding remedial investigation of off-site contamination from the five Superfund Sites in the Tri-State Mining District (MO, KS, OK), which include the Tar Creek Site, and to create a report. Their goal is to force EPA to hold a public webinar to include participation by LEAD Agency's experts.

11. Montana Trout Unlimited, Montana

Founded in 1964, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU) is a statewide grassroots organization dedicated to the mission of conserving, protecting, and restoring Montana's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. MTU's conservation activities are achieved by balancing advocacy with habitat restoration and educational outreach and always applying the best available science. MTU is made up of 13 volunteer chapters and approximately 5,000 members and supporters.

Montana Trout Unlimited will use their grant assistance for legal fees, as well as expert review and testimony in their pending litigation challenge to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality hardrock mining permit recently approved for a major copper mine in the headwaters of Montana's Smith River. This permit fails to safeguard the water quality and quantity of Montana's most treasured river and its rich fishery, cultural values, and recreation economy.

12. New Mexico Environmental Law Center, New Mexico

The mission of the New Mexico Environmental Law Center (NMELC) is to protect New Mexico's communities and their air, land and water in the fight for environmental justice. Since their founding in 1987, they have provided free and low-cost legal representation to individuals, neighborhood associations, grassroots organizations, Tribes, and Pueblos across New Mexico. They also serve as a hub for public education and outreach on issues impacting communities across the state,

specifically Indigenous communities and communities of color. Current casework includes preventing future uranium and copper mines, remediating uranium waste pollution in Indigenous communities, and preventing privatization of New Mexico's water.

Mini-grant funding will be used by NMELC to retain expert consultants to help them advocate for groundwater quality standards that reflect the priorities and meet the needs of Indigenous communities in cleanup operations for the Homestake uranium mill's large and small tailings piles in northwestern New Mexico, which have exacerbated water quality issues originally created by the mill's operation from 1958-1990. Expert assistance will help NMELC examine the inaccuracy of Homestake's claims, review anticipated EPA drinking water standard decisions, and clearly communicate about the highly complex process with community members and organizations.

13. Patagonia Area Resource Alliance, Arizona

Patagonia Area Resource Alliance was founded in 2011 in response to increased regional mining activity. Their community did not want to let mining go unchecked, so six local citizens created the watchdog organization to: 1) monitor the Patagonia region (which includes the Patagonia Mountains and Sonoita Creek Watershed) for any signs of acid drainage, water pollution, habitat degradation, and species decline caused by mining companies, and 2) provide the public with trustworthy resources on the dangers mining poses to the region's wildlife, water, and ecotourism.

Patagonia Resource Alliance will use their mini-grant for an educational campaign targeting the general public on the risks of 21st-century industrialized mining and the tactics mining companies use (greenwashing, social license to operate, arguments that appeal to guilt - e.g., "you have a cell phone") to gloss over the realities of mining. Specifically, funds will pay for a communications expert, design consultant, printing, and presentations.

14. Powder River Basin Resource Council, Wyoming

Powder River Basin Resource Council, formed in 1973 by ranchers and other concerned citizens, is a grassroots community organization that works 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 impact their lives.

Powder River Basin Resource Council will put their grant funds towards the cost of hiring a subsidence expert and a hydrogeologist to help challenge the permit for the proposed Brook Coal Mine in Sheridan County, Wyoming, which is up for public review by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality.

15. San Juan Citizen's Alliance, Colorado

Founded in 1986, San Juan Citizen's Alliance advocates for clean air, pure water, and healthy lands -- the foundations of resilient communities, ecosystems and economies in the San Juan Basin. Representing more than 1,000 members and thousands more supporters, they work to protect water quality and quantity, healthy public lands, and safe energy development in Southwest Colorado and Northwest New Mexico.

San Juan Citizen's Alliance will utilize their mini-grant to enlist hardrock mining bonding expert Thomas Bloomfield to help guide their coalition's comments to the state of Colorado during the rulemaking process following House Bill 1113, which modernized Colorado's Mined Lands Reclamation Act. San Juan Citizen's Alliance worked closely with their partners in 2019 to introduce and finally pass critical amendments to the Colorado Mined Lands Reclamation Act, which 1.) end the practice of permitting mines that would have perpetual liabilities after closure 2.) codify by statute the prohibition of self-bonds (also known as corporate guarantees) and 3.) tier bonding requirements to water quality realities and predictions. Their grant will further this work.

16. Sierra Club of British Columbia Foundation, British Columbia

Sierra Club BC is a registered Canadian environmental charity. For the past 50 years, they have advocated for science-based policy and ecosystem conservation, and inspired passionate commitment to environmental stewardship, engaging and mobilizing citizens in constructive action to protect wild spaces and ecosystems.

Mini-grant funding will be used by Sierra Club BC to educate the BC public, especially those in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island, about the significant climate impacts of Elk Valley coal and tie those impacts to the other serious impacts of coal mining in BC, which include impacts on fish and clean water and on terrestrial ecosystems. Their work will include production of explanatory graphics / animations, and short videos and written material to be distributed on social media, web, email newsletters and through traditional media.

17. 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. Their regionally-based organization is focused on the effective use of science, laws and convening to empower communities to protect and strengthen vulnerable salmon populations, improve management decisions and deepen people's connection with wild salmon.

Mini-grant funding will be used by SkeenaWild Conservation Trust for a helicopter tour to collect photos and videos of operating and decommissioned mines in Northwest BC to show indigenous and local communities the impact of mining in their backyard. They will collect images of the Huckleberry Mine, Equity Silver Mine, Bell and Granisle Mines, as well as images of the sites for the proposed Morrison and Telkwa Mines. Imagery will be used to develop and unroll a communications strategy.

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

St. Mary's River Association has been the keeper of the St. Mary's River for 41 years. Their vision: "health for the river, the Atlantic salmon, and our community."

St. Mary's River Association will use their mini-grant to create a public digital video of the proposed Cochrane Hill gold mine tailings impoundment and the worst case scenario of a breach. They currently have a draft completed through STFX University and will use their funds to hire a videographer to turn it into a public two to three minute short video. The release of the video is planned to coincide with Atlantic Gold's EIS submission.

19. Sustainable 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 ecologically-friendly economy.

A mini-grant will be used by Sustainable Northern Nova Scotia to launch a strategic communications campaign aimed at consciousness-raising and information-sharing focused on three principal tactics: the creation of a provincial-wide website, targeted social media advertising, and, if time and resources allow, billboards. Their goal is to build the necessary grassroots support to advocate for an end to open-pit gold mining in Nova Scotia.

20. Watershed Protection Advocates of Northwestern Montana, Montana

Watershed Protection Advocates (WPA) of Northwestern Montana is an environmental advocacy organization formed in 2016 to protect one of the most ecologically intact watersheds in the lower continental U.S. including the transboundary Flathead and Kootenai systems. WPA pursue their objectives through education, advocacy, research, capacity-building and collaboration with a diverse array of stakeholders. They seek solutions to natural resource issues through innovative partnerships and providing data needed to facilitate administrative and statutory remedies that governmental agencies are often constrained from pursuing.

Watershed Protection Advocates of Northwestern Montana will use mini-grant funding to begin organizing a local stakeholder group consisting of

communities directly impacted by mountain top removal coal mining in the Elk Valley in British Columbia, Canada. The purpose of the stakeholder group is to increase awareness of economic and environmental threats to Lake Koocanusa and the Kootenai River region and promote effective implementation and enforcement guidelines and criteria for the selenium standard to be adopted by the state of Montana in December 2020.

**Western Mining Action Network (WMAN)
Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)
Western Organization of Resource Councils Education Project
(WORCEP)
Mini-Grant Recipients
October 2020**

1. Comité citoyen de protection de l'esker, Quebec

Founded in 2018, Comité citoyen de protection de l'esker is a committee composed of citizens of La Motte, Amos, Val-d'Or and Saint-Mathieu in Abitibi, Québec concerned about the proximity of an open pit lithium mining project to a majestic geological formation called the esker Saint-Mathieu-Berry, which acts as a giant filter for water that local communities depend upon.

Comité citoyen de protection de l'esker will use their mini-grant to hire a technical expert to review Sayona Mining's lithium open pit project, focusing on water pollution risks, hydrogeology, wetlands, biodiversity protection, and social license issues, as well as providing a review of other hard rock lithium mining impacts worldwide. The review will inform public hearings and submissions to the State's Environmental Review Panel.

2. Dasiqox Tribal Park, British Columbia

Dasiqox Tribal Park is a proposed land, water, wildlife and wild plant management area declared in 2014 in traditional Tsilhqot'in territory. Located about 125 kilometres southwest of Williams Lake, BC, it includes about 300,000 hectares of unique wilderness and wildlife habitat, connecting a number of existing parks and protected areas. The Tribal Park is an expression of Indigenous governance initiated and led by the Tsilhqot'in communities of Xení Gwet'in and Yunesit'in in their shared caretaker areas and supported by the Tsilhqot'in National Government and Tsilhqot'in Nation.

Mini-grant funding will support a series of helicopter flights aimed at assessing abandoned mining and exploration sites within Dasiqox Tribal Park, including Battlement Creek/Battlement Ridge, Pollaire Mine, Galore Explorations and Granite Creek Exploration. This assessment will build capacity through training and mentorship to carry on the work of assessing and developing a plan to clean up, report on, and set up continued monitoring of such sites. This will involve assessment and clean up crews.

3. Defenders and Friends of Admiralty Island, Alaska

Defenders and Friends of Admiralty Island was incorporated in 1997 as a public interest group to promote the scientific and educational values of Admiralty Island National Monument and Kootznoowoo Wilderness.

Grant assistance will be used for a citizen-financed scientific overview of Hawk Inlet marine and upland environments, adjacent to Hecla's Greens

Creek Mine, to prove the feasibility of replicating pre-mining biological baseline conditions, which has never been used in assessing the mine's environmental impacts. Lead and zinc stable isotopes of uplifted clam shells that are pre-mining will be compared to contemporary clams living in the intertidal zone to demonstrate that clams that were deposited prior to the mine development and operation, over time have a consistent lead and zinc load.

4. Eau Secours!, Quebec

Founded in 1997, Eau Secours' mission is to promote the protection and responsible management of water from a perspective of environmental health, equity, accessibility and collective defense of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the general population in the State of Quebec, Canada.

Grant support will be used to retain the services of a technical expert to review Champion Iron mine's Lac Bloom project proposal and to demonstrate that it is technically and financially feasible to backfill the open pit with the mine's waste in order to reduce the project's massive footprint and to avoid the destruction of lakes and other water bodies, which would potentially set a bad precedent in the State of Quebec and throughout Canada. This review would be submitted to Quebec State's Environmental Review Panel.

5. Fondation Rivières, Quebec

Since its creation, the Rivers Foundation has been working to preserve, restore, and enhance the natural and ecological character of rivers, as well as water quality. This mission is not only environmental, but also social and educational. Since 2020, la Fondation Rivières has worked with Coalition Québec meilleure mine to protest the Bloom mining project.

Mini-grant funding will be used by Fondation Rivières to identify the water treatment processes used in different mining facilities and whether these processes meet environmental objectives. These objectives will be compared to the standards prescribed in Directive 019 of the Government of Québec. The Champion Iron mine's Lac Bloom case will be evaluated based on these results. The results will be the subject of recommendations to the Minister of the Environment and will be made available to the public.

6. Fair Mining Collaborative, British Columbia

Founded in 1999, Fair Mining Collaborative is an NGO charity that provides guidance to communities, First Nation leadership, political decision-makers, citizens' groups, individuals, and others, to help them make informed land use decisions, and make sense of mining in B.C., and worldwide.

Grant assistance will be used for Phase II (of IV) of the Fair Mining Calculator with the objectives of making it a publicly accessible and user-driven

database and expanding the input fields for specific technical mine infrastructure and operational data. These will include Tailings Storage Facilities design data, sub-surface geological, pre-crushing methods, flotation, chemical types and concentrations, conveyor and pipe quality, inclinometers, piezometers, water usage by volume, water management technologies, and more. Enhancing the Calculator will give users the ability to accurately assess a mine's ever-present risk and Impact Area Value on its surrounding environment.

7. Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs, British Columbia

The Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs Office formed the Gitanyow Huwilp Society in the 1990s to represent the Gitanyow Huwilp. The goal of the Gitanyow Huwilp Society is to establish government to government agreements over time to form the foundation of a modern day treaty through an Incremental Treaty Approach, on behalf of the Gitanyow Huwilp membership. Their mission is to protect the Lax 'Yip for the Wilp membership through land protection.

The Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs will use their mini-grant for a professional review of dam failure scenarios of the Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell (KSM) Project and methods for using animation to illustrate the extraordinary ecological and cultural impacts of a failure on the Bell-Irving and Nass Rivers. The KSM Project is one of the largest proposed mines in North America and would directly impact the Gitanyow's Territory. The analysis will include potential losses of salmon spawning habitat from a tailings dam failure.

8. Great Basin Resource Watch, Nevada

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

Mini-grant funding will be used for Great Basin Resource Watch's "Making Renewable Energy Tech Extraction Accountable" work to ensure that no shortcuts are taken in the permitting of "green tech" minerals, such as lithium, that compromise affected communities and their environment. Their goals include holding "green tech" extraction corporations to their rhetoric about responsible replacement of fossil fuels; ensuring they maintain the same standards as other mining projects; making "green tech" extraction an example of responsible mining, IRMA certified; and preventing "green tech" extraction from becoming a wedge issue within environmental communities.

9. Livingstone Landowners Group, Alberta

Livingstone Landowners Group is a nonprofit organization representing landowners and supporters of the Livingstone – Porcupine Hills area in southwest Alberta,

practicing principles of sustainable stewardship to safeguard the unique land and water resources of the area. Created in 2004, their mission is to promote responsible planning, use, and protection of the rare and irreplaceable land and biodiversity of the Eastern Slopes of southwestern Alberta.

Mini-grant funds will support a public awareness campaign to promote the concerns and issues related to large scale open pit coal mines proposed in the environmentally sensitive Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta. There are currently six areas in exploration or application for open-pit coal mines in the headwaters of the Oldman River, which supplies much of the clean water for Southern Alberta. Specifically, funding will be used for outreach and informational materials, as well as billboards.

10. Magpie Buffalo Organizing, South Dakota

For more than ten years, Magpie Buffalo Organizing has been working to protect Pte Oyate land and water. Magpie Buffalo is Lakota-led and operates under spiritual law with community, elder, spiritual, and youth support. They work on the Pine Ridge Reservation, often partnering with the Oglala Sioux Tribe and other Tribes and interested groups.

Mini-grant funding will be used to raise awareness about desecration and destruction of land and water resulting from various mining projects in the Black Hills. Specifically, grant assistance will be used to continue hosting a weekly show on KILI-FM Radio, Pine Ridge's radio station, to educate listeners about threats from proposed and currently operating gold and uranium mines, and for travel and communication related to their advocacy work.

11. MiningWatch Canada, Ontario

Founded 20 years ago, MiningWatch Canada works in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous communities who are dealing with potential or actual industrial mining operations that affect their lives and territories, or with the legacy of closed mines, as well as with mineworkers and former workers seeking safe working conditions and fair treatment.

Mini-grant funds will be used by MiningWatch to retain the services of researchers and mining analysts Joan Kuyek and Matt Corbett at Ontarians for Just Accountable Mineral Strategy to research and prepare a submission for the Ontario consultations on an Environmental Assessment list. In 2020, Ontario made substantive changes to the Environmental Assessment Act, including a "project list" for private projects for the first time, but mines are not on it. The goal of the analysis is to have new and expanding mines placed on the list to be subject to environmental reviews and public consultations.

12. Montana Environmental Information Center, Montana

Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC) is a 501(c)(3) education and advocacy organization founded in 1973 with the 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.

Montana Environmental Information Center will use their grant assistance for their Smith River campaign to prevent the development of an underground copper mine that poses significant risks to Montana's Smith River, renowned for its clean water, rugged canyon scenery, and excellent trout fishery. Funding will be used for commissioning and refining expert opinions challenging permitting decisions, and to publicize the value of the Smith River and the threat of the mine amongst the public and decision-makers through a targeted public relations and media campaign.

13. Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment, New Mexico

Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment (MASE) was founded in 2007 to address the legacy of the uranium industry in New Mexico through the framework of environmental justice principles. They are a network of five organizations - Laguna Acoma Coalition for a Safe Environment, Red Water Pond Road Community Association & Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining located on Navajo Nation, Post 71 Uranium Workers, and Bluewater Valley Downstream Association.

Mini-grant funding will be used by MASE to help with the costs of a technical expert to produce a report for EPA and the New Mexico Environment Department in an effort to force the Homestake Barrick Gold corporation to clean up their uranium Superfund site near Grants, NM to a more protective level. The mining company has engaged in a range of failing clean up approaches that have left several aquifers contaminated with uranium exceeding the New Mexico drinking water standards.

14. Snake River Waterkeeper, Idaho

Snake River Waterkeeper was founded in 2014 with the mission of "applying science and law to protect, restore, and sustain waters of the Snake River Basin." They monitor water quality at more than 25 sites from the headwaters in Grand Teton National Park to its confluence with the Columbia River near Kennewick, Washington. Using those data, they establish citizen standing and bring lawsuits to protect and restore the river's water quality to ensure the Clean Water Act's guarantee of "fishable, swimmable, drinkable water" to residents of Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington, and Native American Indian Reservations is a reality for subsistence, survival, and recreational use by communities in the Snake River Basin.

Snake River Waterkeeper will use their mini-grant for ongoing water quality sampling and monitoring in a coordinated advocacy campaign to halt Midas Gold's Stibnite mining proposal near Yellow Pine, Idaho. This would include patrol activities and investigation of illegal suction dredge mining attempts and exploratory mining operations of Midas Gold on the South Fork Salmon River.

15. WaterLegacy, Minnesota

WaterLegacy was founded in 2009 by activists concerned that sulfide mining proposed for Minnesota's Lake Superior, Boundary Waters, and Mississippi River watersheds would discharge toxic pollution, harming health, climate, and environmental justice.

WaterLegacy will use their grant funds to challenge the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) failure to protect northern Minnesota clean water and communities from pollution and environmental injustice that would result if MPCA's weak permit for the PolyMet copper-nickel mine is not overturned. Funding will support litigation in the Minnesota Court of Appeals, and organizing efforts to support policy change to block sulfide mining and reduce regulatory conflicts of interest in Minnesota.