

**Western Mining Action Network (WMAN), Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)
and Western Organization of Resource Councils Education Project (WORCEP)**

**IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant Program
October 2021 Recipients**

Summary

With the generous support of True North Foundation and Cloud Mountain Foundation, WMAN, IEN, and WORCEP administered a very successful October Mini-Grant cycle.

Mini-Grant Recipients

1. Camp Morningstar, Hollow Water First Nation, Manitoba

Camp Morningstar was founded in 2019 to protect the First Nations community from a proposed silica sand mine that threatens community trap lines and homeland in Treaty 5 territory. The organization has been working on a campaign to educate the community and allies about the detrimental effects of silica sand mining; the absence of Federal protection for the First Nation from mining; their inherent Indigenous rights and those under the Constitution; and the legal loopholes that permit mining companies rights without consultation.

Camp Morningstar will use their WMAN-IEN Mini-Grant to fight the Canadian Premium Sand Corporation that indicates it will proceed with a silica sand mine in 2022, at a rate of 1.3 million tonnes per year for the next 24 years. The funds will enable the organization to hold meetings and organize submissions for a Statement of Expectations under the new Environmental Review process for the project, including the right to be consulted as Indigenous peoples. Camp Morningstar plans to release its prepared Statement in February 2022, 3 months before the corporation's license is up for renewal.

2. Takshanuk Watershed Council, Haines, Alaska

The mission of the Takshanuk Watershed Council is to provide stewardship of the Chilkat, Chilkoot, and Ferebee River systems. Through restoration, education, research, and community involvement, we seek to benefit the natural ecology, economy, and quality of life valued by all residents. Our vision for the Council is to promote the appreciation and sustainability of the healthy, natural ecosystems within the area. Through our initiatives, we obtain a better understanding of our watershed's ecology and use this information to foster good stewardship of the streams, rivers, lakes, and lands.

Takshanuk Watershed Council is challenging the Palmer Project, a large-scale zinc copper-silver VMS deposit development in advanced exploration. The Palmer Project is owned by a Japanese-Canadian partnership (Dowa Holdings and Constantine Mining), pushing forward the development of this mining project in the Chilkat River watershed near Klukwan and Haines, Alaska, and 18 miles upstream of the centuries-old Tlingit village of Klukwan, the home village of the Chilkat people. The Council will use their WMAN-IEN Mini-Grant to strategically purchase space in the local weekly newspaper to share timely and pertinent information and engage in ongoing education, community debates and discussions of the Palmer Project.

3. Kebaowek First Nation, Quebec

Kebaowek First Nation in Quebec, Canada, is part of the Anishnabeg Algonquin Nation. The mission statement and vision of Kebaowek First Nation includes to promote and protect the collective interest of all Kebaowek First Nation members through the strength and will of its people and guided by their values, culture and traditions, and to develop into a strong, unified

community whereas our rights and ownership to our traditional territory have been acknowledged by all government levels.

The WMAN-IEN Mini-Grant will enable Kebaowek First Nation to hire Joan Kuyek, a mining expert, to provide support in confronting the proposed Kipawa Rare Earth Mine development. Kebaowek First Nation do not have any resources available for mining project related research until the project is officially designated by governments for an Impact Assessment Project, and this Mini-Grant will help the community get timely research on the project, including research and education for the community and leadership on the company, the proposed mine impacts, and the regulatory environment and process, and strategic advice and accompaniment through the regulatory process, as required.

4. Fair Mining Collaborative, Victoria, British Columbia

Fair Mining Collaborative is an Indigenous-led 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 projects that affect their lives and their land.

In March, 2020, Fair Mining Collaborative launched the Fair Mining Calculator, an online tool that can help determine the cost of land and water lost to mining. Mining carries significant environmental costs beyond what the extant reclamation regime can recover, including the one-hundred-year legacy of environmental damage from mining before reclamation laws came into force. To date, these costs have been written-off by industry and government. The Calculator now makes it possible to account for the cost of land sacrificed to mining -- its impact area value (IAV) - and compare it against annual production values and profits. The WMAN-IEN Mini-Grant will enable Fair Mining Collective to hire technical expertise to add to the Calculator. Radar Hill Web Design, who collaborated on the design and launch of the Fair Mining Calculator, will engineer the upgrades and enhancements.

5. Coosa Riverkeeper, Birmingham, Alabama

Coosa Riverkeeper is a small conservation non-profit that works to protect, restore, and promote the Coosa River and its tributaries in Alabama. We patrol the waters, educate the public, and advocate for the river and the families who rely on it. We use the power of the Clean Water Act to hold polluters accountable and envision a swimmable, drinkable, and fishable Coosa River. Our organization serves as the only grassroots advocacy organization in the watershed that uses the power of the law, science, and coalition building to protect our waterways from further degradation.

Coosa Graphite Mine is looking to start a graphite mine and processing facility in Alabama in one of our last pristine areas of the Coosa River basin. The company has already purchased mineral rights for tens of thousands of acres in Coosa County. Our organization is working within a diverse coalition to address our concerns and negative impacts on the land, air, and water surrounding the proposed mine. The WMAN-IEN Mini-Grant will help Coosa Riverkeeper hire experts in preparation for public comment periods for the permits needed for the processing and mining operations. With experts to help us in the regulatory arena, we will also create print material and social media campaigns to educate and empower the communities surrounding the area, including Muskogean Ecovillage, to stand up for their rights as well as their river. Public awareness will be crucial as well as the funding to also begin background sampling on the receiving waterbody to show communities what is at stake with this proposed graphite mine.

6. Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment (MASE), Albuquerque, New Mexico

MASE is a grassroots organization rooted in the experiences of uranium-impacted communities in the Southwestern United States to restore and protect the natural and cultural environment through respectfully promoting intercultural engagement among communities and institutions for the benefit of all life and future generations. MASE member groups represent environmental justice communities that face disproportionate impacts from historical uranium mining. Our network of 5 organizations includes: 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.

The WMAN-IEN Mini-Grant will support public education campaigns, meetings, media communications, and a technical consultant for 3 MASE projects. At the Red Water Pond Road Community and the NE Churchrock Superfund cleanup site, for over 40 years, Red Water Pond Road Community Association located on Navajo Nation are demanding a cleanup of two mines and a mill surrounding their village and removal of uranium mine tailings a few hundred feet from their houses. But the EPA developed a plan to move the NE Churchrock Mine waste 1/2 mile down the road and place it on top of existing mill wastes in a flood plain. MASE are participating in the regulatory process, including the Drap Environmental Impact Statement, under consideration by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. MASE will also work to ensure the closure and cleanup of the Mount Taylor Uranium Mine owned by Rio Grande Resources Corporation that shut down in 1990. Since 1993, the mine has requested 4 Standby Permits, allowing operators to avoid cleaning up the site, and they filed to permanently close the mine in 2019. MASE will further advocate for the uranium miners that were exposed to radiation by advocating for the expansion of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act that expires in July 2022.

7. Rapid Creek Watershed Action, Rapid City, South Dakota

Rapid Creek Watershed Action is a non-profit organization working to protect America's 7th most endangered river (Rapid Creek) according to American Rivers (2020). Our group works exclusively to garnish public support and awareness to designate the watershed (our sole source of freshwater in the Black Hills) as a designated Recreational Area exempt from destructive mining activities.

Rapid Creek Watershed Alliance is fighting the F3 Jenny Gulch Gold Exploration Drilling Project for gold, silver, and platinum that would affect the cultural sites of the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota people of which the Black Hills are their ancestral homelands, including the incorporated townships of Silver City, Johnson Siding, Hisega, Rapid City, Box Elder, Ellsworth Air Force Base, and Rapid Valley. This watershed is our SOLE source of freshwater. Rapid Creek Watershed Alliance will use the WMAN-IEN Mini-Grant to hire technical and legal expertise and launch a public awareness campaign that will draw public awareness to garner widespread public opposition as we are, as of right now, within the public comment period. The ultimate goal is for the passing Congressional legislation that will designate the watershed as a Recreational Area subject to a permanent mineral withdrawal.

8. Rivers Without Borders, Port Townsend, Washington

Rivers Without Borders (RWB) is a twenty-year old non-profit conservation organization focused on ecologically rich and spectacularly wild transboundary watersheds shared by southeast Alaska and northwest British Columbia. Foremost among these watersheds, the Taku is the largest totally intact river system on North America's Pacific coast and a world-class salmon producer. The notorious abandoned and polluting Tulsequah Chief mine on the BC/Alaska border, and proposed new mining in the same place, constitutes the sole threat facing the Taku watershed. RWB raises awareness of the Taku's attributes and supports Tribes and First Nations, commercial fishermen,

community leaders, and others confronting the mining issue toward keeping the Taku wild and thriving.

The WMAN-IEN Mini-Grant will fund a lower Taku cultural property survey on behalf of the Douglas Indian Association (DIA), the Tribe to the Alaska side of the Taku watershed confronting, with RWB and others, its upstream mining issue. The project, facilitated by RWB and carried out by University of Alaska Fairbanks' experts working with the Tribe for its benefit, would go far to reaffirm the DIA's traditional watershed connection and lay groundwork for a tribal land designation initiative, thereby strengthening DIA's ability to influence a mine cleanup as well as longer term stewardship decisions transitioning the Taku beyond a mining future. The grant will cover half this project's cost, documenting and "formalizing" DIA's place in the watershed, enhancing its ability to influence the Tulsequah mine issue at a critical juncture for the Taku.

9. Brooks Range Council, Fairbanks, Alaska

The Brooks Range Council formed in the summer of 2012 as it became clear that the Alaska Department of Transportation was rapidly advancing engineering and environmental baseline studies for the road to Ambler, an industrial corridor along the southern edge of Alaska's Brooks Range to access the Ambler Mineral Belt for extraction by an unknown number of mines for an unknown length of time. We have allies within village governments, the angler and guiding community, and we've harnessed the technical resources of the conservation community with the goal of stopping the road proposal which would effectively curtail hard rock mining as well.

The WMAN-IEN Mini-Grant will enable the Brooks Range Council and our affiliated NGO's to hire Harry Douglas to reach out to the Northwest Arctic Native Association (NANA) region and organize meetings, outreach, public education and discussion of hard rock mining and road proposals in the area. This project will be a large step forward as the NANA region has been effectively silenced by proponents of extraction in the Ambler Mineral Belt. Harry Douglas is Iñupiat, born and raised in the village of Ambler where he lived for 45 years. Douglas, now 58 and living in Fairbanks, represents a critical link for the Brooks Range Council (based primarily on Athabaskan lands and with Athabaskan relationships) to reach the Iñupiat people of Ambler, Kobuk and Shungnak where the mineral belt resides. Mr. Douglas has family throughout the region, speaks, reads and writes Iñupiat, was on the City Council of Ambler for 10 years on the Advisory School Board for 8 years and is a shareholder of the (NANA). Mr. Douglas can legitimately bring our concerns about Trilogy Mining Company and the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority to the people of the region.

10. Ligue des Droits et Libertés (Civil Liberties Union), Montreal, Quebec

Founded in 1963, the Civil Liberties Union (Ligue des droits et libertés, LDL) is a non-profit, independent and non-partisan organization which aims to raise awareness, defend and promote the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of the rights recognized in the International Bill of Human Rights. Through its many actions and publications, it aims in particular to counter colonialism and extractivism. The LDL is made up of a dozen committees that are involved in several spheres aimed at social justice. These include the Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Committee on Environment and Human Rights which are planning to organize actions aimed at highlighting the consequences of mining on human rights and the rights of Indigenous peoples.

The WMAN-IEN Mini-Grant will fund two projects against mining on Indigenous lands. The first project consists of creating a comic strip publication intended for non-Indigenous children on the impacts of colonialism in Canada on Indigenous children. This comic will address the dispossession of Indigenous territories in Canada and the impacts on the land, culture and traditional knowledge caused by

mining. The funds will pay Indigenous artists who will take part in the creation process and allow for printing and distribution. The second project consists of organizing an online panel where Indigenous women from several First Nations (Anishinabe, Atikamekw, Eeyou, Innu) in so-called Quebec will be invited to share their experience about the current impacts of the mining industry on their ancestral rights, more particularly concerning the projects of "green" mines. The funds will then be used to pay the women for their contribution.

11. People of Red Mountain, McDermitt, Nevada

Atsa koodakuh wyh Nuwu (People of Red Mountain) are a group of Fort McDermitt tribal descendants that deeply oppose the Lithium mines threatening our homelands. Lithium Nevada/Lithium Americas near Thacker Pass, Nevada, or better known as Peehee Mu'huh (RoIen Moon) by the Paiute and Shoshone people, is 40 miles from the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes (FMPST) reservation. Atsa Koodakuh wyh Nuwu continue to practice traditions, language, hunting and gathering of first foods, medicines, and materials and enjoy teaching the generations now in hopes of them teaching the future Nuwu (People). For many Native people, our ceremonies, teachings, culture, and life paths are connected to the land, so by protecting the land, we protect the People. Peehee Mu'huh has sacred burial sites, which we must keep intact of utmost respect. We prohibit the desecration of our sacred burial sites. We are water and land protectors.

Atsa Koodakuh wyh Nuwu will use the WMAN-IEN Mini-Grant to continue to fight this proposed open pit Lithium Mine. The grant will help fund our physical presence at Peehee Mu'huh (Protectors Camp), which will require materials to prepare for winter; as well as offset travel expenses to other Indigenous communities to build collective support of our protectors work and participate in a coalition of other groups fighting the mine. The grant will contribute to our communications campaign to the public on the dangers of Lithium Nevada's green-washing of this proposed mine, including media and social media communications. The Mini-Grant will further contribute to our ongoing legal challenge against the mine.

12. Toohnii BinaneestĒĀ ĒĒ AĀ, taasĒĒĕĕ Alliance, Inc. (ToohBAA), Shiprock, New Mexico

ToohBAA loosely means water edge. We are an Indigenous women led organization. We have a 7 member Council of Nataani (leaders), 5 women, 2 men, and our four officers are women. All are Dine' Indigenous. Our work includes the farm revitalization project of approximately 4,000 fallow acres, some of which are not being farmed as a direct result of the physical, mental and spiritual damage inflicted by the Gold King Mine spill, where in August 2015 our community and our river was deluged with 3 million tons of toxic heavy metal mine wastewater.

With the IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant, ToohBAA will develop an education campaign about the Gold King Mine spill, including radio programming on the community radio station that is currently being established. Funds will help pay for radio announcers and the hiring of technical expertise to present information and education on the mine spill, the scientific studies and recommendations on the use of the San Juan river water that we depend on to irrigate and grow our crops. Other information we will share includes remediation methods and soil amendments that will counter the potential residual effects of the mine waste on our farms and irrigation systems.

13. Great Basin Resource Watch, Reno, Nevada

Great Basin Resource Watch's mission is to work with communities to protect the air, water, land and culture in the Great Basin from the adverse affects of mining and other resource extraction. We have four general program areas associated with mining/resource extraction: Water Protection; Environmental Justice and Support for Communities Affected by Mining; Mining Accountability and Reform; and Protection of Sensitive Lands and Environs.

Passing Nevada mining reforms continues to be a large challenge due to the leverage that the mining industry can exert in the legislature. There is a need to form a Nevada Mining Reform Coalition to create an organized collective voice and process for passing reforms. The WMAN-IEN Mini-Grant will help GBRW to form a Nevada Mining Reform Coalition composed of ally organizations, tribes, individuals, and directly affected peoples including ranchers and farmers. The purpose of the coalition is focused on legislative action. Funds will support travel and meetings among ally organizations, tribes and directly affected communities and regular coalition meetings. The grant will also enable GBRW to develop coalition educational materials about the reforms.

14. Woodland Community Land Trust, Clairfield, Tennessee

Woodland Community Land Trust was formed in 1977 by residents in response to the abuses of corporate land ownership and mining industry practices. The land trust has been able to acquire 450 acres of land and provide affordable housing to 15 economically disadvantaged families, with a fruit orchard and now a small business incubator. We have worked to educate and influence regulatory agencies and elected leaders about issues facing this community from the coal industry and its legacy. We successfully passed county resolutions that support our efforts in addressing abandoned mine lands, the need to pass the RECLAIM Act, and extending the Federal Black Lung Disability Trust Fund. In 2020 the last coal mines in Tennessee shuttered, unlikely to ever reopen. In an area that faces the end of a century-plus of coal extraction, the mining industry leaves more than an environmental legacy of abuse and disinvestment. The highly-extractive mono-economy has driven disinvestment, depopulation and poverty in this community. The coal industry extracted the mineral wealth of the area, leaving polluted environments and broken and poisoned people, with little severance tax reaching coal mining parts of these counties.

As a result, young people have limited opportunities for a decent education, training, viable employment, and leadership development, which in turn leads to the growing incidence of substance abuse and a general sense of hopelessness in these areas. The WMAN-IEN Mini-Grant will fund a youth leadership program and youth symposium, including curriculum development, meeting space rental, trainers, and workshops on team building, self-identity and educational space for 13-18 year olds to grow and learn together. The programs will provide activities for young people to get involved in community development efforts and environmental remediation of coal's toxic legacy, and trainings to empower these young people to become community organizers and improve their own communities. Working with organizers and community leaders that have been involved in environmental justice struggles in the coalfields, youth leaders will work in the leadership program to develop projects that seek to repair the social, ecological and economic damage that the coal industry has left in its wake.

15. Collective Medicine, Tuba City, Arizona

Collective Medicine is a Navajo non-profit network whose purpose is to serve our community's most in need, those that have been historically overlooked and unheard, through exercising our culture's intrinsic value of community service. In addition, we aim for advocacy of structural solutions through remediation, water and land rights acquisition, mining reparations and natural resource preservation.

A century-long legacy of uranium and coal mining has dramatically impacted the Navajo and Hopi Nation's access to clean water. The WMAN-IEN Mini Grant will help fund one of our main projects, Water Warriors, that is organizing residents within the Navajo and Hopi Nations (where approximately one in three residents do not have household running water), in part due to the toxic legacy of mining. We developed a research program to test private and public water wells across the reservation and aim to use high-quality

digital testing equipment for rapid, onsite results to share with the community and households affected. Funds will go towards testing for mine contaminants, travel, and needs assessment planning costs of the project.

16. Coal River Mountain Watch, Naoma, West Virginia

Coal River Mountain Watch formed in 1998 with the mission to stop the destruction of our communities and environment by mountaintop removal coal mining (MTR), to improve the quality of life in our area, and to help rebuild sustainable communities. MTR's threats include deadly health impacts from carcinogenic blasting dust, increased flooding, and deforestation and water pollution threatening fish and wildlife. Our late executive director, 2003 Goldman Environmental Prize winner Judy Bonds, died of MTR-related cancer in 2011. In 2009, we provided clean water to a community whose well water had been contaminated with coal waste. In 2010, 29 miners died in the Upper Big Branch explosion in our community. In 2013, the students of Marsh Fork Elementary started class in the new school that we secured for them. Their previous school was adjacent to a coal preparation plant, sludge dam, and MTR site.

The WMAN-IEN Mini-Grant will help fund our Citizens' Enforcement Program that monitors mountaintop removal and coal activities around Coal River Mountain, to find and report violations, oppose new permits, and assist residents in holding coal companies and regulatory agencies accountable. We get to sites by ATV and hiking in rugged terrain, and monitor visually on the ground and by drone and plane flyovers. Funds will go towards monitoring equipment (drone batteries, camera, video editing), and expenses for a site monitor to report regulatory violations. Funds will also help develop educational and social media information campaigns, monitor regulatory agency websites for permitting activity and inspection results, and assist residents in reporting complaints.

17. Wisconsin Conservation Voices, Madison, Wisconsin

Wisconsin Conservation Voices engages conservation-minded citizens in the policy-making process through education, advocacy, public opinion research, and the implementation of voter participation techniques. Wisconsin Conservation Voices' Native Vote Program works to combat historic voter disenfranchisement and contemporary barriers to voting by educating voters, registering people to vote, and working to improve policies that impact Native communities' access to the polls. While WCV is not an Indigenous-led organization, our Native Vote program is an Indigenous-led program and has a successful 10-year history working with Tribal partners to educate and engage voters.

The Mini-Grant will enable Wisconsin Conservation Voices to launch a mentorship program pairing a young Indigenous person with Indigenous elder to pass on skills, wisdom, and experience in the mining environmental justice movement. The grant will fund the mentorship to organize a public event to raise awareness about the proposed Back 40 Mine and how it threatens the Menominee people's sacred sites and living culture. The Mini-Grant will further allow the pair to travel to attend trainings, demonstrations, and networking events to strengthen their skillset, contacts, and relationships. The elder is Gail Danforth, a respected Oneida elder, longhouse faith keeper, life long environmental and social justice activist, and community organizer. The youth is Justice Peche, an Oneida young man, a First Nations Studies undergraduate student at the University of Wisconsin Green Bay, and a Native Vote Fellow with Wisconsin Conservation Voices. Justice is active in student organizations, a member of WMAN's Indigenous Caucus, and aspires to become more involved in the environmental justice movement.