



# Western Mining Action Network - 2022 Biennial Conference

*Standing Together: Mining Affected Communities for a Just Transition  
(Protecting Sacred Places and the Next Seven Generations)*

**With our host Reno Sparks Indian Colony  
October 12-16, 2022  
Reno, Nevada, US | at the Grand Sierra**

**\*\*Register [\[here\]](#) now for the Early Bird discount and to reserve a space before August 31\*\*  
[website](#) | [facebook](#)**

## **The Conference**

Western Mining Action Network is excited that the 2022 Biennial Conference will be held this year in Reno, Nevada. The Conference will convene people from mining-affected communities and allies working in legal aid, scientific support, and environmental NGO's for cross-cultural knowledge sharing; elevating Indigenous voices; skills and leadership development; and training in environmental advocacy and democratic organizing.

Co-hosted with Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, the WMAN Biennial Conference will increase awareness of energy transition mining that is threatening local communities in the Great Basin area, while addressing the social and environmental impacts of mining across the US and Canada. The conference will address issues of concern to Indigenous Peoples, leaders, citizens, and all those working to protect water, land, air, wildlife, sacred and historic sites, community health, and future generations from the impacts of mining.

Plenaries, workshops, and panels led by Indigenous communities, grassroots organizations, and technical and legal experts will share the latest information on the social and environmental impacts of mining, and mining law and policy. Special sessions will be held to train community-based organizers in communications and environmental advocacy, and develop strategies to counter mining practices. Experts and speakers will include those in Indigenous laws and treaty rights; just energy transition; grassroots community organizing; hydrology, geochemistry, and water quality; and US and Canadian environmental law. Conference field trips to the Anaconda Mine and Peehee Mu'huh/Thacker Pass will offer on-site awareness of Superfund sites, abandoned mines, and energy transition mining for critical minerals.

## **Themes**

Conference themes include: just energy transition and mining; critical and rare earth minerals; Indigenous rights; health and environmental impacts; gender and social impacts; climate change; circular economy; Justice, Ecology, Decolonization, and Inclusion; uranium; superfund sites; mine tailings; federal, provincial and state laws and regulations; and more.

## **Reno Sparks Indian Colony and Cross-cultural Collaborations**

This year's conference will be hosted by the Reno Sparks Indian Colony, who will be participating in the Conference and hosting the Indigenous Caucus. WMAN has committed to work together with Reno Sparks Indian Colony to develop culturally appropriate protocols for the Conference and its parallel events.

### **Preliminary Program** (subject to change)

- October 12 - Indigenous Caucus meeting/Reno Sparks Indian Colony
- October 13 - Field trip to Anaconda mine/Conference opening plenaries
- October 14 - Conference plenaries/workshops/panels
- October 15 - Conference plenaries/workshops/panels
- October 16 Peehee Mu'huh / Thacker Pass field trip (optional)

### **Main Plenary Sessions** (subject to change)

Opening Remarks by Reno Sparks Indian Colony

Indigenous Caucus - JEDI

Communities Affected by Energy Transition Mining

Celebrate Wins

Forecast for Future - Just Transition - Big Picture

### **Conference Program and Schedule** (coming soon)

**Mine and Site Tours:** Conference participants are invited to join the following optional tours:

#### **Anaconda Mine Tour:** On Thursday October 13 - day trip

Anaconda mine is an abandoned open pit copper mine in Lyon County, Nevada. Operational since 1918, this abandoned mine has been designated a superfund site by the EPA. It is currently being passed between state and federal oversight.

#### **Thacker Pass Tour:** On Sunday October 16 - day trip

Join us to show solidarity and learn more about how to help protect Peehee Mu'huh / Thacker Pass, sacred land of the Reno Sparks Indian Colony, Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone and other tribes. Thacker Pass is a proposed lithium mine in Northern Nevada. If approved it will be the biggest lithium mine in the United States. The current fast-tracked mine will destroy a culturally significant site known as Peehee Mu'huh. This land was a massacre site of Paiute people by federal soldiers in 1865, and its history has been documented orally through the Paiute and Shoshone people. Departing Reno on the morning of Sunday October 16, participants will visit Thacker Pass, then return to Reno on the same day.

### **Dinner and Silent Auction**

A highlight of the WMAN Conferences - the Dinner and Silent Auction - will be held on the evening of Saturday October 15.

### **Conference costs, travel grants, passports**

Costs to participate in the 2022 WMAN Biennial Conference will be **\$225 US for an Early Bird Conference Pass** purchased before August 31, 2022, OR **\$250 US for a Conference Pass purchased after August 31, 2022**, OR **\$100 US per single day Conference pass**. Conference fees/passes cover all conference activities on October 13, 14, 15, including lunch, dinner, Conference plenaries, workshops, panels, and events, the Anaconda site tour, and the Thacker Pass tour on October 16 (including lunch). Lodging will cost about \$US100/night for single occupancy. A limited number of **scholarships** and **travel grants** will be available, particularly for delegates from Indigenous and/or small grassroots organizations.

**Passports:** participants traveling from outside the US will need a valid passport.

### **Registration**

Apply [here](#) now and reserve a space before August 31, 2022. Late applications considered pending on space availability.

### **Conference Goals**

- Raise awareness of the social and environmental impacts of mining on water, land, air, wildlife, sacred and historic sites, and human health;
- Increased and equitable participation of mining-affected communities from the US and Canada in the conference;
- Strengthening of WMAN's cross-cultural coalition building and new collaborations among Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities affected by mining and their allies;
- Increase in the environmental advocacy, media skills, democratic organizing, leadership development and technical capacity of participants;
- A reinforcement of the positive work that communities are doing on the ground at the local level;

- Increase participation in the free programs and services that WMAN offers to mining-affected communities who are often overlooked and under-resourced by mainstream funding sources and environmental organizations;
- Increase the layperson's knowledge of mining-related issues (including technical, legal, policy info.);
- Engage youth, academics and develop intergenerational collaborations;
- Highlight current and emerging local, regional, and national mining issues in the US and Canada.

The Conference is also an occasion for WMAN's regional and thematic Caucuses to meet and for new participants to join Caucuses, including the Indigenous Caucus; the US Southwest Caucus; the Great Lakes Caucus; the Alaska Caucus; the Uranium Caucus; and the Youth Caucus.

### **Covid**

WMAN takes COVID-19 seriously. WMAN acknowledges the risk and responsibility that comes with hosting an in person conference during a global pandemic. We plan to take every measure we can to ensure that this is a safe conference for participants. We will abide by the recommendations of both Washoe County, Nevada and Reno Sparks Indian Colony's COVID-19 protocols at the time of the event.

### **About WMAN**

Founded in 1997, Western Mining Action Network is a strong, diverse alliance of communities who work to protect water, air, land, wildlife, and human beings from the adverse effects of mining. More than 400 organizations and individuals from across the US and Canada participate to WMAN, including Indigenous communities, citizen and grassroots groups, technical experts, scientists, lawyers, and academics. Through free programs and services, WMAN supports Indigenous and grassroots communities threatened or adversely affected by mining in the US and Canada. Core programs include the IEN-WMAN Grassroots Communities Mining Mini-Grant program; a Biennial Conference; an Indigenous Caucus; regional and issue Caucuses and listservs for communications; a website; social media; leadership and advocacy skills training; and education workshops. As Indigenous communities are disproportionately affected by mining, at least 50% of WMAN programs and services are offered to Indigenous communities and Indigenous-led projects. An all-volunteer Steering Committee, with half of its governing seats held by Indigenous representatives, guides the Network and Conferences. WMAN's recent Biennial Conferences were Virtual (2020) and in Kamloops (2018), Arizona (2016), and Alaska (2014).

### **For information:**

Marvel Karch, WMAN Conference Lead Logistics, [marvel@worc.org](mailto:marvel@worc.org)

Sayokla Williams, WMAN Indigenous Caucus Coordinator, [sayokla@wman-info.org](mailto:sayokla@wman-info.org)

Laura Pitkanen, WMAN Network Coordinator, [laura@wman-info.org](mailto:laura@wman-info.org)