



Western Mining Action Network - 2022 Biennial Conference

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

FIELD TRIPS

Anaconda - In this half-day field trip on **Thursday October 13**, learn of the legacy of the 1872 mining law and the Anaconda mine, an abandoned open pit copper mine in Lyon County, NV. Started in 1918, the mine was eventually abandoned with Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) subsequently acquiring the liability. Throughout the mine operation, toxic tailings material was used for road and foundation construction throughout surrounding communities. As a result of this mine, a dangerous plume of uranium in the groundwater has been mobilized and is flowing north under the Yerington Paiute Tribe's reservation lands.

The EPA lists Anaconda as a Superfund site on the national priority list. Though, a 2018 agreement between the state of Nevada and ARCO deferred federal oversight and funding. Ongoing cleanup efforts under this state-private partnership are focused on recontouring and capping waste rock material, but is not expected to address the groundwater issue or the use of mine waste in construction. In addition to this cleanup, the state environmental agency has proposed administrative action to privatize the abandoned mine. If the land is privatized there would be no environmental review. This abandoned mine is one of multiple copper mines and proposed mines in the area.

Peehee Mu'huh / Thacker Pass - On **Sunday October 16** join us on a full day field trip to the proposed Lithium mine at Thacker Pass, NV. Better known as Peehee Mu'huh (Rotten Moon) by the Paiute and Shoshone people, the mine will be just 15 miles from the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes reservation border. This fast-tracked mine was permitted by the federal government in under one year, and so rushed that the mine plan approved by the federal government (allowing mining below the water table) is different from the mine plan approved by the State (mining below the water table is NOT allowed).

Lithium Nevada/Lithium Americas estimate the mine will produce 152,703 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year. In full operation, the mine plans to use 1.7 billion gallons of water per year in a hydrographic basin that is already over allocated. The mine will use a clay extraction method of lithium mining similar to open pit mining, and will have a tailings facility that will be the first of its kind. To extract the Lithium from clay the mine will have an onsite Sulfuric Acid Plant that will produce 2900 tons of Sulfuric Acid per day and burn 680,000 tons of sulfur per year.

Atsa Koodakuh wyh Nuwu (People of Red Mountain) are a group of Fort McDermitt tribal descendants that deeply oppose the Lithium mines threatening homelands. Peehee Mu'huh has sacred burial sites and holds the history of two massacres. One oral history massacre and a massacre of women and children on September 12, 1865. There are 923 cultural sites at Peehee Mu'huh, 56 of them are eligible for the National Register of Historical Places. Atsa Koodakuh wyh Nuwu are deeply concerned that the mine will threaten the community with man camps and large labor forces, stated in the FEIS, Lithium Nevada will have 1,250 workers at the mine. Join us to show solidarity and learn more about how to Help protect Peehee Mu'huh / Thacker Pass, sacred land of the Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone and other tribes.