

Western Mining Action Network and Indigenous Environmental Network Indigenous Communities Mini-Grant Program

The goal of the mini-grants program is to support and enhance the capacity building efforts of mining-impacted Indigenous communities in the U.S. and Canada to assure that mining projects do not adversely affect human, cultural, and the ecological health within their traditional territories.

The applicant must be an Indigenous led and operated organization or a Tribal program with limited funds and has demonstrated the capacity to successfully carry out the project. Individual grants will not exceed \$4,000 U.S. and cannot be used for general programmatic or operating expenses.

Applications must be submitted by October 1, 2008 or February 1, 2009. Applicants will be notified of the funding decision by the 20th of October and February. There will be an “emergency” fund for extremely time-sensitive projects that fall between grant cycles (i.e., needs that could not have been anticipated at the time of the last cycle and cannot wait to be addressed until the next cycle). These grants will be very limited and awarded on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Mini-Grant Review Committee.

WMAN/IEN Indigenous Communities Mini-grants program criteria:

- 1) Applications will be taken at fixed times during the year (February 1, 2009)
- 2) Indigenous-led, indigenous community-based organizations, and Tribes or Tribal programs in the U.S. and Canada with any budget level may apply. However, if there are more applicants than funds available, priority will be given to indigenous organizations with an organizational or mining-specific project budget under \$75,000 U.S.; priority will also be given to Indigenous community-based grassroots groups.
- 3) Requests must be project-specific for an immediate need such as legal assistance, organizing and outreach, development of campaign materials, media development, reports, travel, mailings, etc. to be fulfilled within the next four months on a specific mining campaign. Funds cannot be used for an organization’s general operating funds, staff salaries, rent or telephone bills.
- 4) Applicants who have received funds twice during the previous two grant cycles will be given lower priority than new organizations and programs. This will not apply to “emergency” grants.
- 5) Each grant issued will not exceed \$4,000.
- 6) Funding recipients must submit a brief report detailing how funds were spent before the next grant cycle begins (4 months from the grant cycle deadline). Reporting on use of grant funds is extremely important. Failure to submit a report in a timely fashion or to make arrangements for a report extension will significantly lower chances for said organization to receive grants from the Indigenous Environmental Network/Western Mining Action Network Indigenous Mining Grant funds in the future.

If an organization anticipates a project will not be completed within the 4 month time period, please note that in the application or as soon after as possible. Please also notify us as soon as possible as to when the report will be completed and submitted.

October 2006 Grantees:

Western Shoshone Defense Project (WSDP): Received \$4,000 grant to conduct a community informational meeting on the links between local issues around mining and the global indigenous rights movement.

The Mission Statement of the Western Shoshone Project is to affirm Newe (Western Shoshone) jurisdiction with Newe Sogobia (Western Shoshone homelands) by protecting, preserving and restoring Newe rights and lands for present and future generations based on Newe cultural and spiritual traditions. We work to empower, reclaim and restore Western Shoshone traditional ways and to challenge the inconsistencies of U.S. policies and international law for the recognition and protection of Newe Sogobia, Newe culture and rights. The Western Shoshone Defense Project uses capacity building, grassroots organizing, cultural and spiritual gatherings, corporate engagement strategies, outreach and education, and national and international legal strategies.

Defenders of the Black Hills: Received \$4,000 grant to host the two-day, Uranium Summit Black Hills, to increase the public's awareness of previous uranium mining, health concerns, the myriad of new plans for uranium mining in the southern Black Hills and Wyoming, and the recent South Dakota legislation that allows insitu leaching and nuclear power plants anywhere in SD.

Defenders of the Black Hills is a group of volunteers without racial or tribal boundaries whose mission is to preserve, protect, restore and respect the area of the 1851 and 1868 Fort Laramie Treaties that were made between the United States and the Great Sioux Nation. In doing this work, Defenders not only works for the good health of Grandmother Earth and all living things, but also are upholding Article VI of the Constitution of the United States, which says that "treaties are the supreme law of the land."

Save Amazay Lake Media Campaign- Tse Keh Nay: Received \$4,000 grant to begin a media campaign in support of the effort to protect Amazay Lake from 750 million tones of tailings and waste rock from the proposed expansion of a gold and copper mine.

The Takla First Nation is part of the Tse Keh Nay, comprised of Takla, Tsay Heh Dene and Kwadacha First Nations. The groups have been working together for the past three years to protect Amazay Lake. The Tse Keh Nay have occupied the land in northern B.C. for thousands of years, have never signed a Treaty and have unextinguished Aboriginal title and rights to Amazay Lake. This Nation has always been here and always will be. For this reason, they have an integral role to play in saving Amazay Lake.

Any questions? We are happy to help. Please contact either Sarah Keeney, WMAN Network Coordinator at (503) 327-8625 ~ sarahekeeney@comcast.net or Simone Senogles, Indigenous Environmental Network, (218) 751-4967 ~ simone@iearth.org.

The application below can be emailed to either Sarah Keeney or to Simone Senogles, or it can be sent by regular mail, postmarked by October 1, 2008 or February 1, 2009 respectively, to: **IEN attn: Mining Mini-grants, PO Box 485, Bemidji, MN 56619**. *If you are mailing the application, please call Simone or Sarah to let us know to expect it. Thank you!*

WMAN/IEN Indigenous Communities Mini-grants Program Application

Organization Name:

Primary Contact (this person is responsible for all reporting requirements):

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Website:

Please provide a short history of your organization (mission, goals, when founded, projects, etc.)

Total organizational budget

Total program budget if different than organizational budget

Total budget for this specific project request

Please provide a short description of the proposed project, detailing how WMAN/IEN Indigenous Mining Mini-grant funds will be used

Do you have another potential funding source for this project?

How have you participated in WMAN and/or IEN? Have you attended conferences? Are you a member of any of WMAN's or IEN's email listserves?

Do you want to be listed on WMAN's public database at www.wman-info.org?

Do you want to receive the Indigenous Environmental Network online newsletter?

How did you hear about the mini-grant program? Have you applied previously? Have you received funding from the mini-grant program previously?

Please provide the names and contact information of two references for your organization.