Tribal Environmental Justice and Mining Sites Resources (last updated 2003)

1. Montana Tribal Mining Resource
   http://www.indianlaw.org/min/
   Indian Law Resource Center, Montana Contact
   Fort Belknap, sacred land case, photos of cutaway

2. Tribal Mining Resources
   http://www.indianlaw.org/
   Link to activist groups, Indian Law Resource

   http://www.bullitt.org/main.htm
   Bullitt Foundation, serves MT, and Pacific NW

   http://www.mineralpolicy.org/
   Will provide advertisement and advocacy for Tribes

   http://www.pblaw.com/practiceareas/a-z/36.html
   Attorneys, advocates of Native and mining issues – one example

   http://washburnlaw.edu/library/collections/nalm/subj_co.php
   Legal publications

   http://www.lannan.org/ICP/grant/legal.htm
   Northern Plains Indian Law Center
   University of North Dakota
Lannan Foundation recognizes that the U.S. legal system can be an important means to advance the rights of indigenous peoples who are fighting to protect their traditional ways of life. The foundation supports legal efforts that benefit Native issues and causes, particularly in the area of environmental protection. Grants have been awarded to support various legal rights cases, and to provide general support for Native-led law and advocacy organizations.


The Midwest Treaty Network is an alliance of Indian and non-Indian community groups that support the sovereign rights of Native American nations. While founded in the context of the Chippewa (Ojibwe) treaty struggle, it is concerned generally with defending and strengthening Native cultures and nationhood, protecting Mother Earth, and fighting racism and other forms of domination throughout our region. The Network has taken a stand against economic and political pressure on indigenous nations to give up their rights.

http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/cfda/p15038.htm - This seems to be for Tribes that choose to Mine or people that want to mine on Tribal or Federal lands

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE

15.038: Minerals and Mining on Indian Lands
Objectives: To assist and support the inventory and prudent development of energy and mineral resources on Indian lands.

3. Mining Law and Revisions to 3809 Mining Regulations
Hard Rock Mining on Federal Lands, National Research Council Executive Summary

Encyclopedia.com – Rare Earth Metals descriptions

http://www.ienearth.org/norton1030.html
3809 Regs, Norton letter to Congress

3809 Environmental Impact Statement

Changes to 3809 Regs

http://www.sso.org/nevada/mining.html
Changes to 3809 Regs with link to final revisions
BLM Publishes Final "3809" Surface Mining Regulations

The Bureau of Land Management today published a final rule that updates and strengthens the agency's "3809" surface mining regulations. The final rule, which takes effect January 20, 2001, will enable the agency to fulfill its duty under Federal law to prevent "unnecessary or undue degradation" of BLM lands from hardrock mining. The final rule appears in today's Federal Register and follows closely a "Preferred Alternative" course of action, as set forth in a Final Environment Impact Statement that the BLM published last month.

• 43 CFR Parts 2090, 2200, 2710, 2740, 3800 and 9260--Mining Claims Under the General Mining Laws; Surface Management. (Federal Register, 11/21/00, 65 FR 69997-70132). The text of the final regulation is in three segments as follows--
  o Page 69997-70046
  o Page 70047-70096
  o Page 70097-70132
  o <>Final 43 CFR 3809 Environmental Impact Statement
  o Final 43 CFR 3809 Benefit-Cost Analysis/Unfunded Mandates Reform Act Analysis
  o Final 43 CFR 3809 Small Business and Regulatory Flexibility Act Analysis

This final rule amends the regulations to--

  o Improve the clarity and organization;
  o Address technical advances in mining;
  o Incorporate policies developed after we issued the previous regulations 20 years ago; and
  o Better protect natural resources and our Nation's natural heritage lands from the adverse impacts of mining.

We intend these regulations to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of BLM-administered lands by mining operations authorized under the mining laws.
Bush Administration and Clinton rules

Impact to sacred sites, list of involved agencies

Search on BLM web site 3809 + revisions

4. Environmental Impact Statements for Mine Projects

Note: Most Tribal arguments against any federal action are won on basis of impact to natural and cultural resources, including water. Subsistence concerns or concerns related to use of land, water and life for survival provides most productive argument, see Targ/Hill paper. To date, protection of sacred sites as reason not to take an environmental action has never been upheld in a Court of Law. However, attention to protection of sacred sites prior to mining action can add to the value of Environmental Justice (EJ) and quality of life arguments. Community claim of Environmental Injustice calls for involved agencies to make evaluation – contacts provided. Fort Belknap case provides an important example of loss of sacred site and is one our Nation’s greatest examples of Environmental Justice concern.

Information leading to formulation of Draft Environmental Impact Statement involving Alaskan Tribal concerns and government-to-government consultation – is still in progress, no record of decision signed to date.

Pogo Gold Mine EIS/NEPA Project for mine life estimated at 11 years, cleanup 30 years. NEPA is National Environmental Policy Act, which requires community involvement in proposed government action, as EPA and Army Corps of Engineers are involved. Note that NEPA requires community involvement, which is separate from government-to-government relations, and allows grassroots organizations to be involved in decision-making processes. Community involvement is essential to success of a government action and is sometimes be overlooked by Tribal Council who are not looking out for best interest of the people.

Follow links to see project description, environmental impact statement process, draft EIS, schedule of events, definition of impact statement, opportunities for public involvement and government-to-government consultation procedures for this EPA Region, which may be slightly different than EPA Region 8 for Montana Tribes.

Pogo Gold Mine Project, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Delta, Alaska for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Application No. AK-005334-1, released March of 2003, currently still open to public comment. This document is approximately 1,400 pages long with 900 pages of tables and figures (technical and scientific information that requires interpretation).
The impact statement addresses the need to monitor discharge of mine waste in surface waters, and does not address other factors. It is does not address environmental concerns outside of stream discharge and will utilize cyanide vat leaching, which could substantially impact stream water quality.

Other than general environmental considerations addressed, part of chapter 3 briefly discusses subsistence concerns and cultural resources, including plants, animals, cultural activities and cultural sites that are used by the Tribes or were historically used. This is where community input would provide the greatest value.

http://www.epa.gov/region3/mtnstop/progress.htm
Mountaintop Mining Environmental Impact Statement Process for surface coal mining in Appalachia to assist protecting stream water quality
The first EIS process for any mining action in US, a two year study
Documents comprehensive plan, invitation of public comment, notice in Federal Register, progress reports, work plans and documents (technical studies to support EIS)

Shows that Mountaintop mining action was stopped due to possible litigation in October, 2000, however studies continued.
Briefs on type of environmental considerations being addressed

5. Environmental Considerations in Mine Waste Cleanup – One Action
Note: In cleanup processes, environmental impact assessments are conducted and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) are created. This has not been the case for first proposal of a mining action, because federal agencies do not lead mining action. This is why the 3809 Regulations make provisions for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to take trust responsibility and for evaluate impact statement. This is because, it has not been prosperous for the government to pay millions in cleanup where mining companies close and take no responsibly for restoring the environment. So BLM can be involved and provide protection to critical sites, including scenic rivers and designated parklands, areas used for scientific purposes, areas that harbor endangered species and possibly for sacred sites, though this is yet to be proved.

For the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Elko, Nevada example linked below, mine cleanup is in place and the proposed action (burying a pipeline) is supplemental to other cleanup monitoring and processes already in place. The EIS is provided as example to lend to understanding of general EIS process and level of technical issues involved. Entire process of cleanup can involve multiple EISs and community involvement at each step. It is beneficial to the Tribe if the Tribal Environmental Protection Agencies are directly involved with technical aspects of monitoring contaminants and managing resources. Good advice is always to plan for future and keep cleanup action efforts in forefront of decision-making, as it will impact future generations. Responsible mining accounts for the entire cleanup action taken. Most cleanup processes at mine sites last a minimum of 30 years.

Example Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Elko, Nevada Good example of Tribal and community involvement in EIS process - consultation and coordination. Shows that proposed pipeline was withdrawn from plan, but still applies to monitoring of current cleanup process. Note: over 90% of preferred alternatives to proposed action are selected.

6. Tribal Environmental Justice Resources Related to Mining

The Indigenous Environmental Network is an alliance of grassroots indigenous peoples whose mission is to protect the sacredness of Mother Earth from contamination and exploitation by strengthening maintaining and respecting the traditional teachings and the natural laws.

Tom Goldtooth, is Director of IEN, Tribal member of White Earth, Former NEJAC (President’s Advisory Council of EJ) and lead Tribal EJ expert from community and grassroots perspective.

Honor the Earth – National Native grant-making and political advocacy

Impact Research for Social Justice: Tribal Case Examples of Mining and EJ Most outreach is free of charge to Grass Roots Organizations.

Dept of Interior Office of EJ

Native Americans and the Environment

St. Regis Mohawk, Akwesasne Environmental Task Force
Example of Tribal Resource Management Action – Grassroots based. Though not mining based, this Tribe shows high level of involvement in resource management. Note: This Tribe holds an Environmental Justice Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with EPA.

http://www.indians.org/library/
EPA link to Native American EJ References

http://www.tosnac.org/
Technical Outreach Services for Native American Communities
Haskell Indian Nations University, Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center
Tribal Environmental Justice and Cultural Risk Management

http://www.riskworld.com/Nreports/1997/risk-rpt/miscinfo/nr7mi001.htm
Commission on Risk Assessment and Risk Management
Memorandum Regarding Tribal Risk Issues


http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/law/lwsch/journals/bcealr/28_1/28_1_toc.htm
Link between Protecting Natural Resources and the Issue of Environmental Justice
Barry Hill and Nicholas Targ, Boston College Environmental Affairs
Legal Basis of Argument based on Protection of Natural Resources

7. Tribal Health Impacts due to Mining
General Health Impacts to Mining – Tribal and Impoverished Community Relevance

http://www.icehouse.net/fredk/mining.htm
Associated Environmental Scientists (AESE), Inc

Environmental Professionals with Experience working with Tribes Impacted by Mine
Sites, Natural and Cultural Resource Damage.

Gen AESE, Inc.
P.O. Box 50392
Henderson, NV 89016-0392
702.458.2025

General Disciplines

- Toxicology
- Human Health Risk Assessment
- Ecological Risk Assessment
- Hydrogeology
- Surface Water Hydrology
• Multimedia Contaminant Transport and Fate Modeling
• Geology
• Geotechnical Evaluations
• Geochemistry (solid and aqueous phases)
• Radiochemistry
• Biological and Ecological Systems
• Hazardous Waste Management
• Nuclear Waste Management
• Mine Waste Management
• Site Characterization and Monitoring
• Environmental Law
• Computer and Computer Aided Design (CAD) Services
• Audio/Visual Presentation Services
• Quality Assurance/Quality Control
• Database Management

8. Indigenous Community Mining Articles
http://www.hcn.org/servlets/hcn.Article?article_id=4402
1998 Colville Tribe, WA Mining Rights, water concerns, interviews using Traditional
Ecological Knowledge as argument against mining

http://www.1849.org/ggg/newgold.html
Shoshone Gold Mine, reference to sacred sites

http://www.miningwatch.org/emecb/mapping/activemaps/pnwmining.html
Interactive map

http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/resources/democrats/pr2002/20020718NativeAmeri
canSacredLandsActIntro.html
SACRED SITES ARE MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD’
Bill introduced to Protect Native American Sacred Lands, July 18, 2002
News from the Democrats

9. Fort Belknap Tribal Mining References- Zortman-Landusky Mine
Public record of Fort Belknap Trust Case, Pegasus Gold Corporation Law Suit
Article about Fort Belknap Law suit
Federal and State Water Violations

http://www.indiancountry.com/article/1031140745
Article about Fort Belknap Law suit
Violation of Water Quality Laws

http://www.indianlaw.org/body_trust_suit.htm
Public Notice of Law Suit

“For as long as the grass shall grow and the rivers shall flow,” Windy Boy said.

Today, the mine waste runs onto tribal land and threatens the shallow aquifer that many tribal members tap for their drinking water. The mine is a blight on the land that tribal members once used for everything from gathering medicinal plants to picnicking.

Mineral Policy Center Report
Reference to payment of $5.00 per acre to Tribe by Zortman-Landusky Mine
Reference to Spirit Mountain, desecration of sacred site
20 violations to Clean Water Act

Information about 1872 mining laws and no provision for cultural resources and non-existence of environmental standards.

Zortman-Landusky Mine Company Statement
Reference to denial of responsibility for environmental (water quality) damage

Contend that increased blood/lead levels at Fort Belknap are not related to mine

Says that the Tribe did not object to mine until it had been 1990s, indicates that the mine was in operation 20 years until the Tribal community complained of threat to water and health

The Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes at the Fort Belknap Reservation raised no objection to the mine when it was constructed and began operating in the early 1980s. In 1991, after the mine had been operating for nearly 20 years, the Tribes raised their concerns about cultural impacts for the first time in an appeal of a mine expansion permit. The Interior Board of Land appeals found no merit to that claim.

High Country News article, May, 1993
Reference to elevated blood level of lead in children and elders
Community interviews and cry for outreach
"It's a long time overdue for the BLM and the Department of State Lands to finally open their eyes to the problems going on here," says Joe Azure, founder of the reservation-based Red Thunder Inc., a group which is fighting the proposal. "We've been losing our sacred mountains to mining, and now our streams are being destroyed as well."

Shows problem with lack of community involvement in first environmental impact statement by BLM, which came 30 years after mine operations began.
They never got the people together," said Virgil McConnell Sr., a tribal elder. "We'd be more than willing to share knowledge, but it would take a year to make a good survey. I ask the mining company and the BLM to hold off until a full cultural survey is done. Otherwise, Pegasus will just pay somebody to come in and say nothing's there."

http://www.hcn.org/servlets/hcn.Article?article_id=3859
Community Profile and Miners response to Fort Belknap cultural concerns
Tribal History of Mountain being sold for $36,000
Total of 40,000 acres
"We realized they wiped out a whole mountain, he says. "(Spirit Mountain) no longer exists."
"I was looking at a company that treated me so well and then to see the company treated so unfairly, well, I needed to stand up and fight," he says. "We needed to get together."

http://www.montana.com/wwfe/wwferthn.htm
Red Thunder, copyright 1997, World Wide Film Expedition

This video chronicles the courageous work of the Gros Ventres and Assiniboin Indian tribes of Montana to stop this irresponsible exploitation and abuse of the land and protect their families, traditions, sacred sites, wildlife and their remaining pure water.

http://www.menominee.com/nomining/mp071802.html
Reference to Fort Belknap case and Sacred Sites
Reference to Rahall Bill introduced to Protect Native American Sacred Lands

Fort Belknap case review of cyanide spray process

9. Rocky Boy, Chippewa Cree Resources
http://montanakids.com/db_engine/subcat.asp?Subcat=Mining
http://montanakids.com/db_engine/presentations/presentation.asp?pid=176&sub=Tribal+Histories
MT kids and mining stories

http://www.mnisose.org/profiles/chippewa.htm
Chippewa Cree community profile

http://www.cradleboard.org/sites/rocky.html
MINING
While the tribe is not presently involved in mining on reservation lands, the U.S. Bureau of Mines conducted a phase III study to determine the content and mining feasibility of minerals on the reservation. Minerals present with mining potential include: gold, silver, copper, iron, lead, and zinc. The bureau also discovered rare earth minerals upon the reservation such as thorium, niobium, lanthanum, scandium, neodymium, and yttrium.
The results of past oil exploration on the reservation suggest the likelihood of oil reserves. The tribe is presently seeking further seismic studies and oil exploration.

http://www.mtsbc.org/rocky_boy's.htm

http://indiannations.visitmt.com/rockyboy.shtm

**ECONOMY**

Rocky Boy's residents who work on the reservation are employed by the schools, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service and tribal government. There is also some wheat farming and post and pole production. The tribe is actively working toward development of its natural resources to be able to provide more jobs and income for its people.

http://www.fema.gov/regions/viii/tribal/rockyboybg.shtm

FEMA Reference

http://www.nathpo.org/THPO_Members/state_list.htm

Contact for National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

**Montana**

Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation
Joan Mitchell, THPO
R R 1 #544
Box Elder, Montana 59521
Telephone: (406) 395-4147
Fax: (406) 395-4195


**PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNS INTO LAW ADMINISTRATIONS FIRST INDIAN WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT**

President Clinton today signed into law the Chippewa Cree Tribe of The Rocky Boy's Reservation Indian Reserved Water Rights Settlement and Water Supply Enhancement Act of 1999. The agreement marks the successful completion of negotiations among the United States, the State of Montana, and the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation that have been on-going for more than eight years.


Signing of Water Rights document

http://www.mnisose.org/

Mni Sose Water Rights Coalition – 27 member Tribes including Chippewa Cree

The Mni Sose Intertribal Water Rights Coalition assists Tribes in the protection of their rights to the use of Missouri River water, tributaries, and groundwater located on, near,
and under their respective reservations. The Coalition also addresses all issues and matters related to their reserved water rights in a broad and comprehensive manner.

http://thinkcycle.media.mit.edu/thinkcycle/notes/chippewa_cree_tribal_members_empowerment.html

Think Cycle Notes: Chippewa-Cree Tribal Members Empowerment Soliciting experts to help accomplish our challenges based upon environmentally friendly ideas, which create opportunities to empower tribal members to live a more resourceful and healthy lifestyle. Updated by Jolene Crebs on 2002-02-12

http://tlc.wtp.net/na_web_links.htm
Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders: Link to Native American Ethnobotany Database - Foods, Drugs, Dyes, and Fibers of Native North American Peoples

http://www.forestry.umt.edu/research/cesu/NEWCESU/Expertise/University/UMT/Anthro.htm

THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
CULTURAL HERITAGE OFFICE

2001: Survey of Selected Archaeological and Historic Sites on Rocky Boy Reservation, Montana. The Chippewa-Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy Reservation contracted the Cultural Heritage Office to complete a cultural resource inventory of a 52 mile water-pipeline project (The Chippewa-Cree Tribe Municipal, Rural and Industrial Water Supply Project). This project, directed by Cultural Heritage Office staff members William C. Prentiss and Thomas A Floor, resulted in the recording of 21 cultural resource sites ranging from historic cabins and roads to prehistoric tipi-rings and lithic artifact scatters. A number of important ethnographic sites were encountered but not formally recorded at the request of the tribe. The project included substantial participation from tribal elders and concluded with a summary presentation and feast. Cultural Heritage Office Contact: Professor William A. Prentiss.

http://www.ethnoscience.com/arch.html
Ethnoscience provides consulting services for the management of cultural resources for private industry and government agencies.
Express Pipeline, 1993-2000: Ethnoscience conducted survey, testing and mitigation of historic and prehistoric sites along 305 miles of the Express Pipeline route through central Montana as well as proposed access roads, pump station locations, pipe storage yards, contractor yards and other ancillary facilities. Mitigation of impact associated with the pipeline construction was conducted for historic, prehistoric and paleontological sites located within Montana. Extensive excavations were conducted at five prehistoric sites including two bison processing sites, two stratified multi-component sites and a pit house site. Ethnoscience examined stone features within 20 counties of central Montana and provided a context for stone feature investigations. In addition, Ethnoscience recommended the development of the Lonesome Lake District for both its research potential and as a Traditional Cultural Property of the Blackfoot, Chippewa-Cree and Gros Ventre. Ethnoscience also conducted extensive Native American consultation for both the Montana and Wyoming portions of this project.

http://leg.state.mt.us/css/publications/research/past_interim/handbook.asp
State of Montana Tribal History and its significance – References used by the State

10. EPA Environmental Justice Contacts and Resources
http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/
Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. EPA has this goal for all communities and persons across this Nation. It will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

EPA Region 8, Denver, CO
http://www.epa.gov/Region8/
EPA Region 8 Homepage

EPA Region 8 Environmental Justice Program
http://www.epa.gov/Region8/ej/
EJ Grants available

http://www.epa.gov/Region8/ej/ejcontact.html
EPA Region 8 Environmental Justice Program

- National EJ Hotline: 1-800-962-6215
- Region 8 Toll Free Number: 1-800-227-8917
- Region 8 Denver Number: 303-312-6312
- Region 8 EJ Fax Number: 303-312-6191
- Si usted tiene una pregunta en español por favor llama:
o Art Palomares  
Director, Programa de Justicia Ambiental  
303-312-6053  
Palomares.Art@epa.gov

o Elias Balbinder, SEE  
303-312-6008  
Balbinder.Elias@epa.gov