

### **Indigenous Peoples Unite to Oppose Destructive Mining Practices across North America**

In the wake of the U.S. Congress' passage of the Bush Administration's highly controversial energy bill on Thursday, Indigenous Peoples from across the United States and Canada completed the first North American Indigenous Peoples Mining Summit in the traditional territory of the Cree Nation (Edmonton, Alberta CA). The summit was organized for Indigenous representatives and organizations from across Great Turtle Island (what is now referred to as the United States and Canada) to share information, strengthen networks, and develop strategies to combat destructive mining operations in their territories.

“As Indigenous Peoples, we have a responsibility to speak up on the issues that impact those things that are sacred – the air, the land, the water and all life. Governments and industries, are placing money above life – that is totally crazy. This madness is not just affecting us here – but it affects all peoples and all life around the world,” stated Carrie Dann, Western Shoshone grandmother.

Wrapping up their three day summit, conference attendees passed a resolution vowing to work together to support each other's efforts to stop destructive mining operations harming their symbiotic relationship with the earth, including the air, water and homelands connected to their cultures and spirituality.

The Summit also concluded by agreeing to begin strategic planning to address immediate situations, including:

- The proposed Northern Dynasty Mining corporation Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska affecting the Southwestern Alaska Indigenous Peoples,
- The Placer Dome/Kennecott Cortez mining activities at Mount Tenabo/Horse Canyon in Nevada affecting the Western Shoshone people,
- The Northgate Minerals Kemess North Mine Project in British Columbia affecting the Carrier and Sekani peoples,
- The Redfern proposed Tulsequah Chief Mine in Taku River in British Columbia affecting the Tlingit peoples,
- The Peabody Coal Company Black Mesa operation affecting the Navajo and Hopi peoples, and
- The continuing legacy of the nuclear fuel cycle adversely impacting indigenous nations.

“The passage of the U.S. Energy Bill represents a massive escalation of the ecological genocide for Indigenous Peoples across Turtle Island. It is critically important that Indigenous Peoples share information about the environmental and cultural impacts that these mines and other industries have on our communities and on the natural world that we all live and share,” said Robert Shimek, the Indigenous Environmental Network Mining Coordinator and one of the conference coordinators. “We know these mines have devastated our communities. We need to know what the impacts are and what options we have to stop them.”