

# ALASKA MINING IMPACTS NETWORK CHARTER

## NETWORK FORMATION

In March 2022, Alaska Conservation Foundation hosted the Alaska Conference on Mining Impacts and Prevention - A Gathering of Land and Water Guardians. The conference brought together over 150 Indigenous leaders, community members, conservation advocates, and foundation representatives. After the conference, Alaska Conservation Foundation (ACF) heard from grassroots partners that there is a need and desire for ACF to play an ongoing supporting role in state-wide mining work. The following spring and summer, ACF designed a visioning process in which 57 individuals from 20 Alaskan communities, 38 organizations, 8 tribal affiliations, and 15 mining/advocacy focuses participated. In October 2022, 25 individuals representing 17 Indigenous and conservation organizations met in person to refine the visioning process. Coming out of the October in-person meeting, ACF partners and individuals finalized the necessary pieces to form this charter.

**THE CHARTER FOR THE ALASKA MINING IMPACTS NETWORK WAS APPROVED ON JANUARY 17, 2023. THE CHARTER IS A LIVING DOCUMENT AND WILL BE REVISITED AT A MINIMUM OF ONCE A YEAR.**

## NETWORK PURPOSE

Alaska Mining Impacts Network establishes a convening space for conservation, tribal, and community leaders to create and share resources, build relationships, foster collaboration and strengthen advocacy efforts focused on the impacts of hardrock mining in Alaska.

## VISION STATEMENT

We envision an Alaska where stewardship of the land is prioritized and where local communities have the power to ensure that mining and associated development happens only with their free, prior, and informed consent, under rigorous protective policies and practices, enabling a future where the land, air, and water will continue to provide traditional and cultural livelihoods for present and future generations.

## VALUES

### **Inclusion:**

Create space and dialogue for a diversity of perspectives.

### **Respect:**

Listen to learn both culturally and ecologically.

### **Trust & Transparency:**

Voice and acknowledge disagreement. Stories stay, lessons leave.

### **Care:**

Value network participants holistically; people hold competing responsibilities and bring a wide range of experiences to their work.

### **Integrity:**

Self and group accountability.

### **Interconnectedness:**

Our work recognizes and prioritizes the relationships between Alaska's unique landscapes and peoples.

## GOALS

### **BUILD POWER THROUGH INFORMATION, SUPPORT, AND COLLABORATION**

- We will be a resource for any Alaskan who is concerned about a mining project. We will prepare communities to the extent that we are invited to do so and build on our existing collaboration so that relationships can endure beyond addressing an immediate threat.
- We will build awareness through education and advocacy at all levels of power, including state and federal officials. We will advocate for greater public engagement and fund work that emphasizes the preservation of our state's cultures and ways of life.

### **CHAMPION STANDARDS AND INNOVATION**

- Current mining standards are outdated and ineffective when it comes to protecting the health and well-being of our lands and communities. We will work to champion rigorous mining policies and standards that protect Alaska communities and subsistence resources and promote policies and innovation to reduce the demand for new mining.

### **PRIORITIZE CONSENT AND THE RIGHT TO SAY NO**

- We acknowledge that many processes do not allow for everyone that will be impacted by a project to participate, and there is a need to strengthen consent processes (consultation is not consent). We will facilitate conversations that inform consent, more holistically elaborate on the pros and cons of proposed projects and ensure communities know that they have the authority to say no to any project.

### **UNIFY OUR VOICE AND NARRATIVE**

- We envision a future where the narrative of Alaska is not based on an extractive economy. Our network represents diverse voices united under a coordinated effort to share resources and provide support to communities and each other.

## NETWORK STRUCTURE

**Coordinator:** Alaska Conservation Foundation staff will serve as the coordinator of the network. The coordinator will support and coordinate network members, the council, and project teams as needed.

**Network Council:** The council will support and assist the coordinator in serving the network members and project teams as needed. The council has 7 members: The coordinator and six volunteer members.

- 2 members of tribes or tribal organizations
- 2 frontline community members
- 2 conservation groups

**Project Teams and Team Leads:** Network members use network meetings to suggest a project and form a team as needed.

- Projects should be based on a specific need and timeline that aligns with the network's vision, values, and goals.
- Two Project Team leads will volunteer and act as points of contact for the Network Council and support the broader project team.

**Funding:** Project Teams can apply for funds through ACF Mining Impacts and Prevention Fund - application process/criteria launching in spring 2023. Honorariums are available to Network Council members, and project team leads as needed.

[More details related to the structure can be found here.](#)

## NETWORK COMMUNICATION

- Listserve
- Monthly virtual network meetings
- Monthly network council meetings
- Two in-person meetings a year
- Shared drive

## DECISION MAKING

The network will use a series of criteria (primary, secondary, and additional considerations) when making decisions. [The full list of criteria can be found here.](#) The primary decision-making criteria are as follows:

<b><i>Will this action...</i></b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Uphold the power of local people?		
Foster just, regenerative, and equitable economies?		
Do no harm to frontline communities?		
Align with our network's vision, values and goals outlined in the charter?		

## PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The Alaska Mining Impacts Network is open to anyone who identifies with the purpose, vision, values, and goals above and is interested in actively participating in addressing mining issues in Alaska. To begin participating in the network, please fill out the [sign-up form.](#)