



EARTHWORKS

Earth Notes



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Fracktivist wins prestigious Goldman Prize

Dear [[First_Name]],

That people are willing to work hard to save the places they know and love has long been a pillar of the environmental movement.

So it's no wonder that this principle also figures in efforts to prevent the damage caused by mining and oil and gas development—and one of this year's winners of the venerable [Goldman Environmental Prize](#), attorney Helen Holden Slotte, has been saying it since the Marcellus shale boom began.



Already in 2009, just as New York State was launching its study of fracking's environmental impacts, Helen and her legal partner (and husband) David Slotte saw the writing on the wall. They dug into the state's oil and gas laws and saw a gaping hole: the right of communities to say no. Then they got very busy, launching the Community Environmental Defense Council, Inc. (CEDC), a pro bono, public interest law firm based in Ithaca, New York.

You can [read more about Helen's success on EARTHblog](#).

But with their success often comes personal risk. Former Goldman Prize winner TS Munkhbayar, the [Mongolia mining activist](#) was jailed for protesting in support of his country's bedrock environmental law that he helped pass.

Earthworks members wrote over 6,000 letters demanding a fair trail as world watched. We're happy to share with you that he [was granted a reduced sentence](#).

The Goldman Prize reminds us that grassroots activists just like you can make a big difference. Congratulations to [all of this year's recipients](#)!

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Best wishes,

All of us at Earthworks

Rio Tinto withdraws from the Pebble Partnership



We traveled to London to thank the British mining giant, Rio Tinto, for its recent decision to pull out of the Pebble Mine.

In another major blow to what would be North America's largest mine, built on top of the world's largest wild sockeye salmon fishery, Rio Tinto announced last week it was divesting from the project and donating its shares to two Alaska charities.

The company held 19.1% of Northern Dynasty - the sole owner of the Pebble Project.

The company's divestment from the project is a significant development in the effort to protect the world's most productive wild salmon fishery, and the 14,000 jobs, and Alaska Native communities that rely on it.

Now, Northern Dynasty is alone -- a company with no mines, no operational experience, and no investors with the financial resources to move the project forward.

[Read our [press release](#) and find out more on [EARTHblog](#)]

Jury awards fracking victims \$3 million in damages

In 2008, Bob and Lisa Parr, along with their 7 year old daughter Emma, moved to Wise County, Texas.

Their home was surrounded by 21 gas wells.

Soon after, they started experiencing serious health effects including bloody noses, nausea and neurological problems.

After three years in Wise County they petitioned the court to sue Aruba Petroleum, the company they thought was responsible.



Last week, the case was decided by a jury of their peers in Dallas, TX. The jury awarded the Parrs \$2.925 million in damages. The suit specifically sought compensation for intentionally causing a nuisance on the Parr's property which impacted their health and ruined their drinking water.

According to a blog post by their lawyer the verdict included \$275,000 for the Parr's property loss of market value and \$2 million for past physical pain and suffering by Bob and Lisa Parr and their daughter, \$250,000 for future physical pain and suffering, \$400,000 for past mental anguish.

Aruba Petroleum plans to appeal the verdict.

[Read the [press release](#) and more about [the Parr's story](#)]

50+ groups from around the world urge an end to violence & intimidation of Peruvian mining protestors



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Your donation of just \$35 gets you a year long membership with Earthworks

Say NO to Dirty Gold!



Newmont Mining Company is proposing to build a second gold mine in the highlands of Cajamarca province, Peru. It's a project that has caused much divisiveness and conflict in the region.

Mining protesters in Cajamarca have been subject to intimidation and harassment at the hands of both private and official security forces. On March 18, 2014, campesino communities from the towns of CelendÃn and Bambamarca filed an appeal with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights regarding the forced displacement of community members from the areas near the proposed mine.



We joined over 50 organizations in urging the Peruvian government to:

- promote peaceful solutions to social conflicts,
- include dialogue with communities, and
- guarantee an end to persecution and harassment of environmental and human rights defenders.

We also asked Newmont Mining Co. to:

- ensure that protesters are not subject to intimidation and violence, and
- not proceed with any aspect of the project without first obtaining the free and informed community consent of affected communities.

Earthworks supports peaceful and non-violent communication and free speech, and urges all parties concerned to seek opportunities for dialogue and engagement wherever possible.

[[Read more on EARTHblog](#)]

Lawsuit gets results for Smith River

A small Canadian company, Tintina Resources, proposed to dig a nearly mile long tunnel, called the Black Butte Project, to explore for copper along Sheep Creek at the headwaters of the Smith River in central Montana.

The Smith River is renowned for its blue ribbon trout fishery and spectacular scenery. The Sheep Creek drainage is responsible for 55% of the tributary spawning. Due to enormous public demand, the Smith River is the only river in the state managed by Fish Wildlife and Parks through a permit system. The annual revenue generated for the state economy from fishing and recreation on the Smith in 2011 was \$1.7 million.

Earthworks and the Montana Environmental Information Center filed a legal challenge in March, asking the court to require more rigorous analysis of the likely impacts of the project, including dewatering and water quality.

As a result of the lawsuit, Tintina withdrew their proposal for the tunnel, agreeing to submit a full mine proposal that will



[Sign the pledge](#) to end dirty gold mining practices.

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Earthworks is proud to be a member of EarthShare and

the Combined Federal Campaign!

submit a permit proposal that will undergo a complete environmental review.



[\[Read more about the Smith River and join us on Facebook\]](#)

Earthworks Executive Director inducted to County Hall of Fame

Earthworks is proud to announce that Executive Director Jennifer Krill was inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame for her commitment to protecting the environment.



The Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame was established in 1993 through a partnership involving the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, the Alameda County Health Care Foundation, and the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women.

The Women's Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding women for their achievements and contributions to the Alameda County community and its residents.

[\[Hear what Jennifer has to say about environmental leadership\]](#)

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[EARTHWORKS](#) | 1612 K St., NW, Suite 808 Washington, D.C., USA 20006 | 202.887.1872