

# 2017 Annual Report

## Year in Review

Last year, we added a new member to our Board of Directors: Cherry Smiley. We are so happy to welcome her to Fertile Ground! Cherry, who comes from the Nlaka'pamux (Thompson) and Diné (Navajo) Nations, is a researcher, feminist activist, and artist who is working to end male violence against women and girls, particularly sexualized male violence against Indigenous women and girls. She is co-founder of Indigenous Women Against the Sex Industry, former member of the Aboriginal Women's Action Network and the Native Women's Association of Canada, and a PhD candidate at Concordia University in the field of Communications.

A number of allies in France have translated speeches from the Earth at Risk Conferences, and made them available in book form. Check out [Editions Libré](#) for the 2-volume set *Écologie en Résistance!*

We've also begun supporting two other organizations as fiscal sponsors. The Good Grief Group, based in Salt Lake City, "is a network of individuals and groups refusing to settle with the status quo. We work for social, political, and spiritual change. Good Grievors treasure critical thinking, nuanced dialogue, and coloring outside of the lines." The second organization, the Mountains and Waters Alliance, is based on a small farm in Minnesota. Their mission is "to heal the mind of separation, the cause of our time's unthinkable violence, and to ally with forces of nature to protect and restore the wholeness of life. Releasing human arrogance, with love and beyond conventional wisdom, we seek and follow guidance from those forces: land care, growing food, teaching, writing, retreats, and whatever is required. This is our intervention on climate catastrophe, while we prepare to offer hospice if needed."

We provide these groups with support, accounting, and 501c3 fiscal status, and in return take a small portion of their income.

In 2017 we also supported a national first: a groundbreaking federal lawsuit for the Rights of Nature. The case centered around suing the State of Colorado on behalf of the Colorado River. The lawsuit was eventually dismissed, but experts in the field say even this is a victory. More lawsuits will be filed, and more—and eventually, the legal doctrine may well shift. Until then, we keep fighting.

On a negative note, in 2017 we were sad that a planned conference in cooperation with members of the Diné (Navajo) Nation was canceled. Our partners lost funding, without which we were unable to proceed. We'll keep this opportunity in mind for the future. Also on the negative note, we applied (with help from a professional and friend) for two grants—one of them for the Diné event—neither of which were successful.

## Outlook for 2018

In the coming year, we plan to continue our base work, engaging with allies and partners engaged in grassroots organizing and resistance work. In the short term, Dillon Thomson is working on a new grant to support our internal development, and we're planning to support Cherry Smiley in finishing her PhD project—a forthcoming film that we will be highlighting. We also continue to plan and dream for our next Earth at Risk event, which remains un-funded for now.

## Financial Summary

### Income

- Donations: \$976.41
- Earth at Risk video sales: \$38.22
- Earth at Risk book royalties: \$100.00
- Mountains and Water Alliance project income (Oct. – Dec.): \$100.75

Total gross income: \$1,215.38

### Expenses

- Colorado River lawsuit support: \$500.00
- Mountains and Waters project expenses (Oct. — Dec.): \$1,039.14
- Filing Fees: \$150.00
- Administrative costs (website, PO box, etc.): \$493.46
- Retreat: \$656.30
- Accounting: \$285.00

Total expenses: \$3,123.90

### Assets

Total end of year assets: \$7,975.87