

Winona LaDuke scheduled to rally in Taos for Valle Vida

The Coalition for the Valle Vidal announced today that Native American environmental activist and former Green Party candidate for the vice presidency, Winona LaDuke, will join other activists, musicians, and artists on **Taos Plaza** to protest the planned drilling of the Valle Vidal in northern Taos County.

Jim O'Donnell, coordinator for the Coalition for the Valle Vidal, explains, "The oil and gas industry is targeting the Valle Vidal unit of Carson National Forest for industrialization. The Forest Service is currently engaged in a multi-stage process that will likely lead to the opening of the area to development. The people of northern New Mexico must fight back to save the sacred Valle Vidal."

There will be a fundraising reception for Ms LaDuke at Hotel La Fonda de Taos immediately following the rally. It is hosted by Yaxche Learning Center with all proceeds to benefit the Fund for the Valle Vidal.

For more information on the rally and to donate to the Fund for the Valle Vidal: www.vallevidalfund.org or contact Jim O'Donnell, Coordinator for the Coalition for the Valle Vidal 758-3874.

About Winona LaDuke:

Winona LaDuke is an Anishinaabekwe (Ojibwe) enrolled member of the Mississippi Band Anishinaabeg who lives and works on the White Earth Reservations, and is the mother of three children. As Program Director of the Honor the Earth Fund, she works on a national level to advocate, raise public support, and create funding for frontline native environmental groups. She also works as Founding Director for White Earth Land Recovery Project.

In 1994, Winona was nominated by Time magazine as one of America's fifty most promising leaders under forty years of age. She has been awarded the Thomas Merton Award in 1996, the BIHA Community Service Award in 1997, the Ann Bancroft Award for Women's Leadership Fellowship, and the Reebok Human Rights Award, with which she began the White Earth Land Recovery Project.

A graduate of Harvard and Antioch Universities, Winona has written extensively on Native American and Environmental issues. She is a former board member of Greenpeace USA and serves, as co-chair of the Indigenous Women's Network, a North American and Pacific indigenous women's organization.

In 1998, Ms. Magazine named her Woman of the Year for her work with Honor the Earth. Also in 1997, her first novel, "Last Standing Woman", was published by Voyager Press. In 1999, South End Press published "All Our Relations", a non-fiction book on Native environmental struggles. Both books are available through the Native Harvest catalog. Winona's editorials and essays have also been published numerous times in national and international journals and newspapers.

In the 2000, US presidential campaign Ms LaDuke was vice presidential candidate on the Ralph Nader Green Party ticket.