

## How current environmental law is too often ineffective

- The U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Sackett v. EPA has dramatically weakened the Clean Water Act deciding for themselves, without any scientific support, what wetlands deserve protection from pollution and destruction.
- The failure of federal and state governments to keep contaminants out of the environment calls into question their commitment to protect Indigenous rights such as those of the Ojibwe tribes in Wisconsin.
- A massive gold and zinc sulfide mine 150 feet from the Menominee River was given preliminary approval to Aquila Resources by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality without regard for the Menominee spirit and culture or the environment of northeastern Wisconsin. In 2021, a Michigan administrative law judge revoked that permit. A Michigan judge ruled in April 2021 that the permit should be sent back for further review. Aquila eventually withdrew those permits, but now Gold Resource Corp., who acquired Aquila, is currently conducting a feasibility study of the Back Forty mine.

## How Rights of Nature achievements are transforming environmental law

- In Montana, a case over state government obligations to protect people against worsening climate change is the first of dozens of similar lawsuits to reach trial.
- United Nations members have agreed on a unified treaty to protect biodiversity in the high seas – representing a turning point for vast stretches of the planet where conservation has previously been hampered by a confusing patchwork of laws.
- A group of young Colombian plaintiffs filed a special constitutional claim alleging that their fundamental rights to a healthy environment, life, health, food, and water were threatened by climate change and the government's failure to reduce deforestation in the Amazon. The Colombian Supreme Court recognized that "fundamental rights of life, health, the minimum subsistence, freedom, and human dignity are substantially linked and ordered the government to develop and implement action plans to halt deforestation. It also recognized the Colombian Amazon as a "subject of rights".

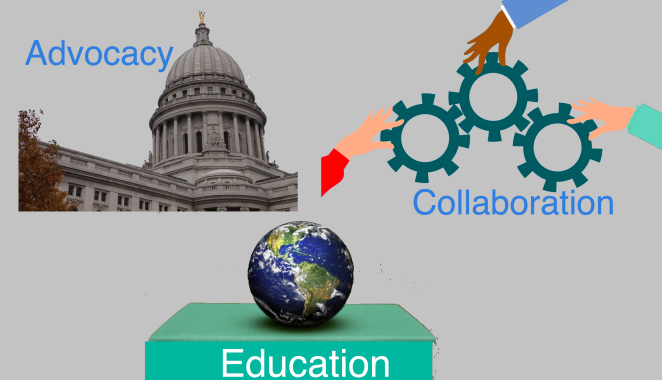
[www.rightsofnaturewi.org](http://www.rightsofnaturewi.org)  
info@rightsofnaturewi.com



## Rights of Nature Movement

We recognize the legal rights of the natural world - eco-systems, resources, species.

Nature - water, land, animals - have a right to exist and to be healthy. The natural world does not exist solely to be exploited for economic gain. Humanity is part of the natural world, not its owner.



Our mission is to recognize that nature has inherent rights that must be respected and protected. We believe that all living beings, including ecosystems, have the right to exist, flourish, and evolve, and that humans have a responsibility to act as responsible stewards of the natural world, emphasizing the overwhelming impact human activity has already played and offering alternative paths for human development which are aligned with all living systems.

We seek to codify the rights of nature in our legal system, transforming our legal and economic systems to reflect this understanding. Through education, advocacy, and collaboration, we aim to build a world where the rights of nature are recognized and upheld, and where humans live in respectful kinship with the natural world.

We recognize the wisdom and worldview of indigenous people, whose cultures already incorporate nature as a living partner, as leaders and teachers of a reciprocal human relationship with nature.

We are...



A team coordinating efforts to build understanding, generate commitment, and implement actions supporting the Rights of Nature movement



Our sponsor, WISDOM, is a statewide network, committed to bringing diverse communities together to work for racial, environmental, and economic justice.



Our partner, Menominee Rebuilders, is committed to rebuild and reconnect our sacred relationships with our people, plants, places and animals.



The Center for Democratic and Environmental Rights is the originator of this effort in Wisconsin, elevating environmental protection to a level comparable to human civil rights laws. with our people, plants, places and animals.