WMC's mission is to deliver the message to our legislators that a strong mining industry is vitally important to our nation, our communities, our families, and our livelihoods, and that today's regulations and modern technology ensure responsible stewardship of our lands. The Women's Mining Coalition facilitates and provides the opportunity for our grassroots members to band together for a stronger voice with their Congressional delegation.

- The 1992 election delivered an unprecedented number of women to Congress – 3 geologists (women) from Reno organized an advocacy group to specifically provide information to these new women members of Congress on the modern mining industry, organizing several “Fly-Ins” to Washington DC.

- Women involved in all facets of mining – equipment operators, engineers, executives, miners, metallurgists, geologists, environmental scientists, drilling companies, and equipment manufacturers from coast-to-coast were recruited to participate.

- WMC quickly realized the coal sector had many of the same regulatory issues as hard rock mining and recruited women from the coal industry to participate in educating our legislators.

- In 2014 the WMC developed the “Drive-In” program, organizing meetings with Congressional offices for WMC members and other interested parties during the August Congressional recess. These meetings give another opportunity to WMC members and others working in or supporting the mining industry to inform their legislators.
Accomplishments

- The WMC has been an effective and dynamic advocacy group for minerals exploration and the mining industry.

- An important part of our legacy is the several hundred women who have participated in our DC Fly-Ins during the past 24 years who have received a hands-on, real-life civics lesson about how Congress works – or doesn’t work - and how bills are passed – or not passed. These DC Fly-Ins have developed a cadre of well-informed mining industry advocates who can help deliver mining’s message to members of Congress, to state legislators, and to local officials. Particularly effective among policy makers is the fact that WMC members are not typical lobbyists; they are daughters, wives and mothers as well as highly qualified mining industry professionals.

- WMC has been instrumental in rallying legislators to reject an onerous bill to change the 1872 Mining Law. In partnership with the National Mining Association and many regional and local trade associations, WMC played a vital role in passing a national energy policy in 2005; advancing the industry’s interests on key issues including, but not limited to, mountain top mining, abandoned mines, critical minerals, Waters of the US, and CERCLA 108(b) bonding for hard rock mines.

- WMC received the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum’s 2016 Prazen Living Legend of Mining Award at the 29th Annual National Mining Hall of Fame induction banquet on September 24, 2016 in Las Vegas, NV. This award is given to an individual or entity that has demonstrated ongoing, innovative work educating the public, policy makers, educators, or related institutions about the importance of the mineral and mining industry to our everyday lives.
During our annual Washington, DC Fly-Ins, we have coordinated with the National Mining Association and other regional mining associations about the key issues to the mining industry such as (but not limited to):

- **Clean Power Plan** - regulations must provide for reliable and affordable electricity.
- **EPA’s proposed CERCLA financial assurance requirements** for hard rock mining that duplicate existing, robust, and well-coordinated state and federal financial responsibility programs which have a track record of working well.
- **Energy Policy** - all sources for generating electricity must be considered in a national energy policy.
- **Critical Minerals** - America needs reliable, economically-feasible, sources of domestic minerals. The U.S. has become increasingly dependent on foreign sources for strategic and critical minerals; this vulnerability has serious national defense and economic consequences.
- **Sage Grouse** - presenting the success of state-implemented plans for protection of habitat, eliminating the need for large scale mineral withdrawals by the federal government.
- **Waters of the US (WOTUS) regulations** - establish through consultation with state and local governments a WOTUS definition.
- **Permitting Delays** - Permitting delays unnecessarily inhibit job creation and increase our dangerous dependence on foreign sources of critical and strategic minerals.
In 2014, the WMC began a new program to provide opportunities for constituents, both WMC members and others working in or supporting the mining industry, to meet with their federal Congressional delegation at local venues during the Congressional recesses. The Drive-Ins provide additional opportunities to provide information to our legislators about the modern mining industry and to involve more supporters of our industry in taking the story to members of Congress.

Since 2014, the WMC has organized meetings in the following states with as many as 24 participants gathering to meet with their delegation; Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming, Minnesota, Louisiana, Washington.

These meetings are with the Members themselves and generally more time is allotted (up to one hour or more) for the meeting than during the trips to Washington DC. The issues discussed are the same as those presented at the meetings during the Fly-in to Washington DC.
Future

Lawmakers will continue to have a need for information on how the modern mining industry provides the building blocks of our society while caring for the environment and providing family-wage jobs to miners and the many companies that provide equipment, goods and services to the mineral exploration and mining sectors.

Because of this the WMC’s goal will remain the same –

Delivering the message to our legislators that a strong mining industry is vitally important to our nation, our communities, our families, and our livelihoods, and that today’s regulations and modern technology ensure responsible stewardship of our lands. The Women's Mining Coalition facilitates and provides the opportunity for our grassroots members to band together for a stronger voice with their Congressional delegation.