

**EARTHWORKS Update:  
Fall 2008**



## **Saving Shoshone Sacred Lands in Nevada**

EARTHWORKS is working with the Western Shoshone Defense Project to protect Mt. Tenabo and its surrounding areas in Nevada. Tenabo is a sacred site for the Western Shoshone but Canadian Barrick Gold's plans to expand the Cortez mine would threaten Shoshone gravesites, disturb ritual grounds, and dry up and pollute important water sources.

The Western Shoshone people have conducted ceremonies at Mt. Tenabo for centuries and mining this area would destroy one of their most sacred sites. De-watering for the mine and probable water pollution would also ruin precious water resources. Proceeding with the mine without Shoshone consent would also violate their rights as expressed under the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and by the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.



Mt. Tenabo. Credit: Western Shoshone Defense Project

Over 4,000 EARTHWORKS members sent letters to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) opposing Barrick Gold's proposed expansion of its Cortez Hills mine onto Mt. Tenabo. In apparent disregard of Native American rights and thousands of comments, the BLM gave its go-ahead for the mine in November. But our members' letters did let the BLM know that the public is against this project and that we will not allow our concerns to remain unaddressed. Indeed, a lawsuit has since been filed in federal court to stop the mine.