

PRODUCING CRITICAL MINERALS & PROTECTING A UNIQUE ECOSYSTEM



Environmental stewardship of all resources is at the core of Ioneer's mission to develop the unique Rhyolite Ridge Lithium-Boron Project that will produce large quantities of vital materials critical to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Ioneer is expending considerable effort to minimizing potential impacts to Tiehm's buckwheat associated with project development and ensuring the survival of this species.

ABOUT TIEHM'S BUCKWHEAT

[Tiehm's buckwheat](#) (*Eriogonum tiehmi*) is a low, cushion-forming perennial herb that was first identified in Esmeralda County, Nevada in 1983. The total number of plants is estimated to be just under 44,000, and no other occurrences of the plant are known in Nevada at this time. Tiehm's buckwheat is classified as a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Sensitive Species, meaning it requires special management to ensure its protection and preservation.

HOW IONEER IS PROTECTING TIEHM'S BUCKWHEAT

Ioneer has always been firmly committed to the long-term viability and reduction of the risk of species extinction of Tiehm's buckwheat and has worked in the following ways to protect, conserve and expand this sensitive species in its natural habitat:



ESTABLISHING PROTECTION PLAN:

Ioneer has developed and implemented a comprehensive Tiehm's buckwheat protection plan that includes strict measures that have been in place since Ioneer commenced exploration at Rhyolite Ridge in 2016. The goal of these voluntary measures is to ensure that the plant and its habitat are protected, and that the potential impacts caused by development of the Project are minimized.



ENHANCING PLANT POPULATION THROUGH EXTENSIVE RESEARCH:

Ioneer is engaging with researchers at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) to conduct a propagation and transplant trial for Tiehm's buckwheat. The project successfully grew over [1,000 Tiehm's buckwheat seedlings](#) in the UNR greenhouse from seeds collected at Rhyolite Ridge, which were [planted in three test sites](#) in the Project Area in April 2020. That same month, Ioneer expanded its research

agreement with UNR, funding a five-year study that will focus on the successful propagation and growth of Tiehm's buckwheat at its Rhyolite Ridge Project.



MINIMIZING POTENTIAL OPERATIONAL IMPACTS:

Ioneer initiated a full survey of the existing Tiehm's buckwheat population and has taken great care to avoid the buckwheat subpopulations in completing various field activities. These efforts included modifying locations of boreholes to avoid the plants, drilling boreholes in several directions from a common drill pad to reduce the total amount of surface disturbance, educating employees and contractors about the plant, and other avoidance measures.



WORKING WITH REGULATORS:

Ioneer submitted a robust [Project Plan of Operations](#) to the BLM in May of 2020, which includes nearly two years of research and

protection strategies formulated by a collaboration of experts. Implementing the proposed measures described in these plans will protect the air quality, biology, groundwater, soils, and rangeland around the Rhyolite Ridge facility – not just maintaining the Tiehm's buckwheat habitat but improving its ability to survive and thrive.



ENGAGING WITH SPECIALISTS:

Ioneer retained the services of two [botanical experts](#) to augment its biological team and develop protection measures that will ensure the persistence of the plant in natural conditions. These specialists are well-respected within the botanical sciences and all are members of the [Eriogonum Society](#), a professional association whose members have expertise in evaluating, propagating, and protecting various types of buckwheat.