

Montreal Gazette

Miner wrongly blamed for destroying rare desert plants; Nature

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Widespread damage to rare Nevada wildflowers was due to ground squirrels, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has said, not an Australian lithium developer, Ioneer Ltd. Conservationists found "someone had dug up and destroyed" more than 17,000 Tiehm's buckwheat plants, which may need protection under the Endangered Species Act. But analysis shows that ground squirrels, seeking moisture in the drought from the plant's shallow taproots, were likely responsible.