

Press Release

Thursday, 17 September 2020 - ioneer Ltd (ioneer or the Company) (ASX: INR), an emerging lithium-boron supplier, provides the following statements with regard to the discovery of the destruction of a large number of Tiehm's buckwheat, a rare plant found in the Rhyolite Ridge Project area.

Last week there was a survey of the *Eriogonum tiehmii* (Tiehm's buckwheat) at Rhyolite Ridge conducted by UNR personnel under the direction of the NDCNR. UNR noted significant destruction of Tiehm's buckwheat by herbivory in four of the known populations. While an investigation by various government offices, and by ioneer's botanist team is ongoing, initial reports show that the cause of this unfortunate situation is a rodent attack.

There is no suggestion nor indication that this attack was perpetrated by humans as falsely stated by Center for Biological diversity. This is a baseless accusation and strikes at the heart of CBD's credibility. While CBD is making these outlandish claims, our company is working hand in hand with state and federal authorities to get to the bottom of this situation. If CBD was serious about actually protecting the species, they would commit to joining the effort to address the problem, rather than spreading false information that only impedes our efforts.

Our company is deeply committed to the long-term viability of Tiehm's buckwheat in its natural habitat, and accordingly has offered the NDF and other regulatory bodies its unwavering attention and assistance to facilitate a thorough investigation of this rodent attack. ioneer is providing transect information, equipment, and access to the Company's botanist and geologic experts to ensure the appropriate steps are taken to learn more about the nature of the event, and to find constructive and hopefully effective measures we can take together to address this latest threat from natural causes. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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About Tiehm's Buckwheat

Tiehm's buckwheat (*Eriogonum tiehmi*) is a low, cushion-forming perennial herb. Individual plants can be up to 12 inches in diameter and most plants are less than ten inches high. It was first identified at Rhyolite Ridge in 1983 by Arnold (Jerry) Tiehm and later described and named as a new species by James Reveal in 1985. Tiehm's buckwheat occurs as a single population within the Rhyolite Ridge area. The total number of plants is estimated to be just under 44,000. The plants occur in nine discrete subpopulations. All nine subpopulations are within a 3km by 0.4km area, and collectively cover approximately 4 hectares. Of the nine sub-populations, five have been disturbed during past mineral exploration (prior to ioneer), and the plants have colonized disturbed ground at these sites. No other occurrences of the plant are known in Nevada.

Tiehm's buckwheat is classified as a BLM Sensitive Species meaning it requires special management to ensure its protection and preservation. As part of its commitment to the environment, ioneer has developed and implemented a comprehensive Tiehm's buckwheat management plan that includes strict environmental protection measures. These protection measures have been in place since ioneer commenced exploration at Rhyolite Ridge in 2016. The goal of these voluntary protection measures is to ensure that the plant and its habitat are protected, and that the potential impacts caused by development of the Rhyolite Ridge Project are minimised. Through this comprehensive protection plan, ioneer aims to conserve the Tiehm's buckwheat population at Rhyolite Ridge and ensure the survival of this species in its natural habitat.