



ioneer-Funded Tiehm's Buckwheat Protection Plan Begins New Phase

University of Nevada, Reno Research Team completes first Tiehm's buckwheat planting

RENO, Nev. (June 18, 2020) – Ioneer USA Corporation ('ioneer' or the 'Company'), an emerging lithium-boron producer, announced the first planting of Tiehm's buckwheat seedlings at the Rhyolite Ridge Lithium-Boron Project (Project) site. The planting is a research component of ioneer's comprehensive Tiehm's buckwheat protection plan. The research is being conducted by the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR).

In the summer of 2019, ioneer announced a year-long grant to UNR to study the propagation, soil preferences, and pollination of Tiehm's buckwheat (*Eriogonum tiehmii*), a plant endemic to Nevada. In April of 2020 ioneer expanded its research agreement with UNR by funding a five-year study that will include monitoring and population modeling. The agreement further demonstrates ioneer's commitment to proactively protecting and ensuring a future where the Tiehm's buckwheat population at Rhyolite Ridge persists in its natural environment.

Seed was collected last summer and seedlings were grown in the UNR greenhouse. In late April, the UNR research team planted and tagged approximately 900, 4-month old seedlings in different locations at the Project site. The locations were determined by the research team based on soils and accessibility for watering.



Photo 1: Tiehm's buckwheat seedlings arrive at Project site.

A member of the UNR research team will continue to visit the study site make observations and monitor progress. Watering will cease at the end of the growing season when the Tiehm's buckwheat goes dormant.

The UNR team will monitor the plants for several years.



Photo 2: UNR team member looks at a Tiehm's buckwheat subpopulation at the Project site.



Photo 3: Tiehm's buckwheat seedlings.

Environmental stewardship is at the core of ioneer's mission to develop the unique Rhyolite Ridge Lithium-Boron operation that will produce large quantities of the necessary materials to make meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

About Tiehm's Buckwheat

Tiehm's buckwheat (*Eriogonum tiehmii*) 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. 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 (1.86 miles by .24 miles), and collectively cover approximately 4 hectares (9.88 acres). Of the nine sub-populations, four have been disturbed during past mineral exploration (prior to ioneer), and the plants have colonized disturbed ground at these sites.



Photo 4: Tiehm's buckwheat.



Photo 5: Tiehm's buckwheat in flower.



Photo 6: Tiehm's buckwheat growing in natural habitat.



Photo 7: Growing in a 40-60-year-old exploration trench.

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 worked with the BLM to adhere to those measures since ioneer commenced exploration at Rhyolite Ridge in 2016. ioneer has developed a comprehensive Tiehm's buckwheat protection plan to ensure that the plant and its habitat are protected, and that the potential impacts caused by development of the Rhyolite Ridge Project are minimized. Through this plan, ioneer aims to conserve the Tiehm's buckwheat population at Rhyolite Ridge and ensure the survival of this species in its natural habitat.

About Rhyolite Ridge and ioneer

Ioneer USA Corporation is the 100% owner of the Rhyolite Ridge Lithium-Boron Project located in Nevada, the only known lithium-boron deposit in North America and one of only two known such deposits in the world. The Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS) completed in April 2020 confirmed Rhyolite Ridge as a world-class Lithium and Boron Project that is expected to become a globally significant, long-life, low-cost source of lithium and boron vital to a sustainable future.

Rhyolite Ridge's unique mineralogy allows lithium and boron to be extracted in a low-cost and environmentally sustainable manner. The Project's commercial viability is made possible by having both lithium and boron revenue streams.

Lithium is vital to enable technologies that combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions. It is a critical component for batteries essential to electric vehicles, and the conversion of intermittent green energy to base load power. The U.S. Department of Interior listed lithium as a critical mineral in Executive Order 13817 (Federal Register, 83 FR 7065). There is only one producing lithium mine in the U.S. and no new projects are under construction. Rhyolite Ridge will help address the over-reliance on South American and Chinese supply to the lithium-ion battery industry.

Boric Acid is also a very important material for clean technologies and sustainability and is only produced in a few locations globally. It is used in over 130 applications, including permanent magnets for electric cars and wind turbines, advanced glass for televisions, computers, handheld devices and solar panels. Over 70% of global boron reserves are located in Turkey with Rhyolite Ridge well positioned to geographically rebalance supply in the U.S.

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