

Environmental stewardship is core to Ioneer's work and embedded across all facets of our operations.

As part of our yearslong work to develop the critical supply of domestic lithium and boron at Rhyolite Ridge, we have actively engaged with officials at every level of government, community members, key local stakeholders, and tribes to understand and address their concerns.

In 2022, Ioneer submitted a [revised plan](#) to BLM to eliminate direct impact and minimize indirect impacts to Tiehm's buckwheat and habitat (see below). Ioneer's original [Project Plan of Operations](#) for Rhyolite Ridge was accepted by the Bureau of Land Management in August 2020. Following the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) listing of Tiehm's buckwheat under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and designation of critical habitat in December 2022, Ioneer further revised its plan to minimize disturbance within critical habitat – this plan is detailed in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The draft EIS also includes a Tiehm's buckwheat Protection Plan, which Ioneer will adhere to throughout the development.

Revised Plan Based on Feedback from Tribes and Other Interested Parties

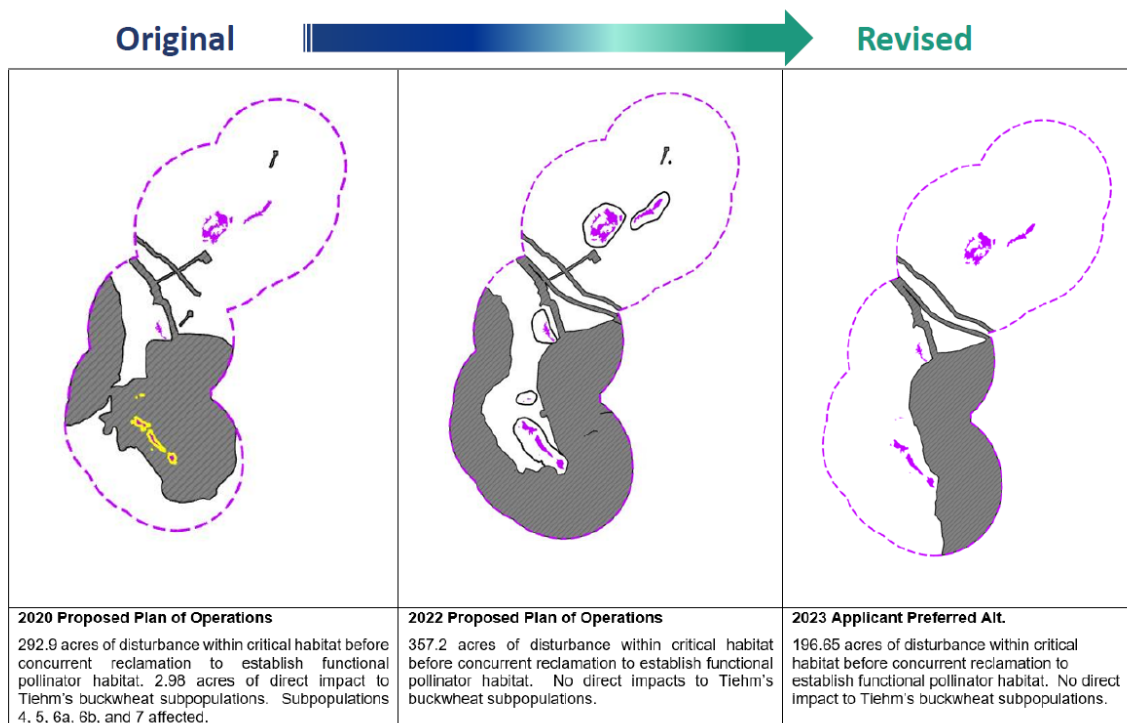


Figure 1: Overview of changes to avoid direct impacts to Tiehm's buckwheat subpopulations (purple) and to minimize impacts to pollinators' critical habitat (grey).

As activity progresses, Ioneer will eventually incur into roughly 20% percent of the habitat as work begins – but 10% will be impacted during the project’s first ten years. Disturbance will be revegetated with native plants, including Tiehm’s buckwheat, through a process called reclamation, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Within 10-15 years after quarrying ends, Ioneer anticipates that vegetation will be naturally sustainable across approximately 95% of all critical habitat.

Ioneer first instituted strict protective measures when we began exploration in 2016. Prior to the federal designation, Ioneer invested \$1.5 million in Tiehm’s buckwheat conservation. To date, Ioneer has developed and implemented a BLM-approved protection plan and spent more than \$2.5 million in voluntary measures to ensure the plant and its habitat are protected. Additionally, Ioneer has budgeted \$1 million annually for ongoing buckwheat research and conservation initiatives.



Tiehm's buckwheat at Ioneer's Conservation Center, May 2023.

In May 2023, Ioneer opened the Tiehm’s Buckwheat Conservation Center which includes a greenhouse dedicated to researching and conserving the native Nevada species and shared positive results in growing the plant in new soil conditions. Ioneer’s full-time botanist is working to propagate new plants and work with FWS to transplant new plants at Rhyolite Ridge. These investments represent the only efforts to date to advance scientific understanding of Tiehm’s buckwheat and its habitat.