

Water Use at Rhyolite Ridge

Ioneer understands water is a precious resource in Nevada and across the West. We are committed to setting the 21st century standard for responsible and sustainable mining and being good community stewards.

Ioneer has invested millions as part of the design of our processing facility to ensure we have no impact on the water balance in Fish Lake Valley. We worked with a team of engineers to carefully plan our facility, prioritizing the preservation of the local water supply and quality in each phase of production.

As a result, Rhyolite Ridge will not apply for the issuance of new water rights and will use approximately 15% less water right capacity than the amount currently allocated. Our on-site processing facility will reduce water usage by more than 30 times compared to other domestic lithium mining, and our state-of-the-art facility recycles half of all the water used.

Unlike other mining operations, Ioneer avoids large evaporation ponds for water extraction.

As a future water user in Fish Lake Valley, Ioneer is fully prepared and committed to doing its fair share to help reduce the overall pumped volume of water in Fish Lake Valley. We will focus efforts on reducing water pumped from the aquifer used for irrigation purposes in the valley by sourcing water from a separate aquifer at and surrounding the project site; however, we will also employ other ways to conserve.

Ahead of construction and development following anticipated approval of the federal permitting process in October 2024, Ioneer secured water rights from local agricultural users for construction and operations. In December 2023, Ioneer received permits from the Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR) to transfer existing water rights for use at our site during the construction phase. During construction, Ioneer will use approximately 485-acre feet per year and peak usage during operation will be approximately 4,100-acre feet per year.

A future permit application will address water needs during the Project's operational phase. Ioneer will develop a comprehensive water usage monitoring plan in accordance with NDWR requirements to ensure our operations have no effect on the water balance in Fish Lake Valley.

In consultation with the water experts, Esmeralda County officials and local agricultural irrigators, Ioneer heard community concerns about potential dust from retiring pivots and fallowing fields and, accordingly, is looking to reduce but not eliminate irrigation on any particular field. Ioneer is consulting with those experts to develop and implement "best practice" alternative water reduction strategies.

Our Continued Commitment

Ioneer will evaluate and deploy new technologies to further reduce our water consumption as our facility comes online.

We are committed to preserving the water balance in Fish Lake Valley and working with state agencies and other stakeholders to ensure to do so.