



ioneer Comments on FWS 12 Month Finding Regarding Tiehm's Buckwheat

Friday, 4 June 2021 – Emerging lithium-boron producer **ioneer Ltd ('ioneer' or the 'Company')** (**ASX: INR**) today commented on the 12-month finding issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) regarding Tiehm's buckwheat, as was required under a recent court stipulation agreed upon by ioneer, FWS and the Plaintiffs.

FWS has found based on the information currently available, and due to severe drought conditions and a drought-induced herbivory (where animals are eating plants), an investigation into an Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing of Tiehm's buckwheat is "warranted."

A decision on whether or not to propose a listing will be made by FWS in September 2021, at which time a period of public comment would commence if required.

ioneer Managing Director Bernard Rowe said:

"We fully support and share FWS's commitment to protect and preserve Tiehm's buckwheat. The latest finding was in line with our expectations, and we support the FWS's deliberations on a final listing decision. This process will provide greater certainty around our schedule and diminishes the prospect of future litigation."

It's important to note the 12 month finding, which comprises research up until April 2021, is influenced by potential impacts to the plant from climatic events, recent herbivory and mining activity, but does not consider conservation measures to minimize and mitigate for those impacts, which are still being developed. ioneer continues its work with FWS, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and scientific experts on the development of a Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) to further its protection of the plant. We have carried out significant work on propagation and transplantation of the species and remain confident the plant and the mine can successfully coexist.

ioneer remains committed to protection of Tiehm's buckwheat irrespective of its listing status, and we will implement the highest standard of measures to ensure that the species is protected. From the commencement of our Rhyolite Ridge Project planning, we have undertaken significant work and investment to minimize and mitigate any impact on Tiehm's buckwheat, as we have done with all environmental aspects of our operation.

As previously noted by FWS, the plant is specifically under threat from ongoing drought, and unusual acts of herbivory by small mammals. ioneer is fully committed to assisting in the research, development and roll out of required protection measures to ensure Tiehm's buckwheat's conservation.

FWS is authorized by the ESA to issue an incidental take permit for activities it finds will not jeopardize continued existence of an ESA-listed species. Our protection and conservation efforts have been designed to meet that standard to maximize protections. The listing status does not affect the protections ioneer is planning for Tiehm's buckwheat. By the time FWS is ready to make a final listing decision, we expect the Candidate Conservation Agreement to be in place and plant conservation measures to be underway.

We acknowledge and appreciate the valuable scientific work that is being undertaken by the federal agencies, including the FWS and BLM, to ensure decisions and conservation measures regarding this important species are based on the best available science. We remain confident that the science strongly supports the coexistence of our vital lithium operation and Tiehm's buckwheat."

This ASX release has been authorised by Ioneer Managing Director, Bernard Rowe.

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About Ioneer

Ioneer Ltd is the 100% owner of the Rhyolite Ridge Lithium-Boron Project located in Nevada, USA, 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)¹ completed in 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.

¹ Refer ASX release titled 'Ioneer Delivers Definitive Feasibility Study that Confirms Rhyolite Ridge as a World-Class Lithium and Boron Project' announced 30 April 2020.