



STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
**NEVADA DIVISION OF FORESTRY**  
2478 Fairview Drive  
Carson City, Nevada 89701  
Phone (775) 684-2500 Fax (775) 684-2570

## MINUTES

### **Workshop to Solicit Comments on Proposed Regulations to NAC 527**

**Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 10:00am**

Pursuant to Governor Sisolak's March 22, 2020, Declaration of Emergency Directive 006, Directive 018 (5/7/2020), Directive 021 (5/28/2020), the requirement contained in NRS 241.023(1)(b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate is suspended in order to mitigate the possible exposure or transmission of COVID-19 (Corona Virus).

**In-person attendance:** Tonopah Convention Center (301 Brougner Ave., Tonopah)  
\*\*Maximum in-person capacity: 50 total attendees\*\*

**Attend virtually:** Join the meeting (video and audio): <https://call.lifesizecloud.com/4236997>

**Call in by phone** (audio only): +1 (877) 422-8614, Meeting extension: 4236997#

*In advance of the Public Workshop the Division is asking that anyone who plans to attend the public workshop to please fill out the digital sign-in sheet and indicate how you intend to participate and if you intend to provide public comment.*

**\*\*The digital sign-in sheet is accessible at:\*\***

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=5kCj5J64aE6OqhVE0nA5gD16ZODVbaFHguekc6p9acZUM0daTjk0VVRGMVRENlpZM0IKVEpUNDIPUS4u>

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#### **1. OPEN WORKSHOP, INTRODUCTION**

**Call to Order** – Nevada Division of Forestry, State Forester/Firewarden, Kacey KC, calls meeting to order at 10:00 am

The introduction of NDF staff was presented by Kacey KC

- Kacey KC, State Forester/Firewarden, Nevada Division of Forestry
- John Christopherson, Deputy Administrator, Nevada Division of Forestry
- Cathy Erskin, Senior Policy Advisor, Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
- Ian Oliver, IT Professional, Nevada Division of Forestry
- Jerry Adkins, IT Professional, Nevada Division of Forestry

- John Christopherson opens the meeting and describes the intent of the proposed regulation changes. These changes would be the addition of Tiehm buckwheat to the State list of fully protected species. Results of these changes would be that any disturbance in that plant's habitat or any damage to that plant would require a permit from the Nevada Division of Forestry authorizing that activity and listing any conditions the agency feels is appropriate that provide essential protective measure for this plant.

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating and spelling their name for the record. All public comments should be as brief and concise as possible so that all who wish to speak may do so (3 minutes for individuals and 5 minutes for group representatives). Comment will not be restricted based on viewpoint.

- Geri Tipton (in person) – lives in Sodaville, NV, private citizen and former Mineral County Commissioner; jobs and money created from a natural resource project creates and circulates money within the county; huge economic conversation
- John Deymonaz (virtual) – retired Geologist, lives in Fish Lake Valley, NV; in support of the Rhyolite Project, this could have a huge economic impact and benefit many local small businesses; the environmental impact is very minimal

## 3. PRESENTATION FROM THE DIVISION OF NATURAL HERITAGE ON THE STATUS OF TIEHM BUCKWHEAT - *Jim Morefield, Supervisory Botanist, Nevada Natural Heritage Program*

See attached PowerPoint presentation

No questions or comments on the presentation from in person audience

What are the most common animals in the area that eat the buckwheat?

- *That has not been studied yet.*

What would be the most likely herbivores?

- *Probably small animals*

John Deymonaz

What makes this particular buckwheat unique to the other buckwheat?

- *It's a combination of its flower color, comb of its hairs, its growth habit*

## 4. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF ADDING TIEHM BUCKWHEAT TO THE STATE LIST OF FULLY PROTECTED SPECIES OF NATIVE FLORA PUSUANT TO NAC 527.010. – *John Christopherson, Deputy Administrator, Nevada Division of Forestry*

See attached presentations.

Patrick Donnely, Center for Biological Diversity

Matt Weaver, Ioneer

Myles Grotbo, New Fields

Kris Kyper, EM Strategies

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

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- Tony Tipton (in person) – private citizen, lives in Fish Lake Valley, NV; **is opposed to the listing**
- Mark Hardman (in person) – private citizen, lives in Fish Lake Valley, NV; **is opposed to the listing (economic benefit to the mine)**
- Michelle Tucker (virtual) – Environmental Scientist with New Fields, has served as technical advisor for Ioneer on Tiehm Buckwheat; visited site in October; the protection plan in the contract for the project will help protect the plant; **is opposed to listing**
- Bernard Rowe (virtual) – Geologist and President of Ioneer, has worked in NV for over 15 years with mining, particularly in Esmeralda – refutes the claim that Ioneer’s project will completely destroy Tiehm Buckwheat; there is a plan for protection in their project plans; he is confident that the Tiehm Buckwheat can exist and be protected while the project at ; **is opposed to listing**
- Ben Grady (virtual) – Assistant Professor of Biology, Ripon College, Eriogonum Society President; **in favor of listing**
- Chris Mulkerns (in person) – Administrative Manager for Town of Tonopah; wanted to express her support the Ioneer mine project. Although not located in Tonopah, a lot of economic benefits would happen in Tonopah
- Durk Pearson (virtual) – HRH Nevada Resources, Spectrum Technology, Double Elix Ranches; believe that Ioneer can provide protection of the plant
- Linda Williams (virtual) – known Bernard Rowe for 13 years since coming into the community for mining
- Amy Miller (virtual) – Northern Nevada Development Authority, Southwestern Economic Authority; support the Rhyolite Ridge project

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

- State Forester/Firewarden KC Adjourns the meeting. Announcement of the date for two more workshops are shared – July 20, 2020 and August 21, 2020

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities who wish to attend the meeting. If special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested, please notify our office by writing to the Nevada Division of Forestry, 2478 Fairview Drive, Carson City, NV 89701; or by calling 775-684-2500 no later than two (2) working days prior to the scheduled meeting. You can also email John Christopherson at [jchrist@forestry.nv.gov](mailto:jchrist@forestry.nv.gov).

A copy of all materials relating to the proposal may be obtained online or by contacting Nevada Division of Forestry, 2478 Fairview Drive, Carson City, NV 89701.

Notice of this meeting is posted in the following locations:

Nevada Division of Forestry website at <http://forestry.nv.gov>  
 Nevada State Legislature website at [www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Notice/A/](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Notice/A/)  
 Nevada Public Notice website at <http://notice.nv.gov>