

# PROTECT McDERMITT CALDERA

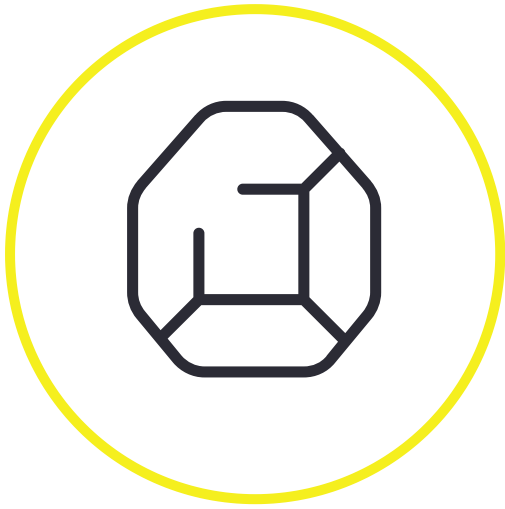
## Defending Sacred Land







### Support People of Red Mountain

Indigenous community members share their concerns about lithium mining on sacred land, McDermitt Caldera and the fight to preserve their cultural heritage, traditions, and environment.

## #1 Background on Thacker Pass







### Key Facts:

-  The Thacker Pass Mine is located on the world's largest lithium reserve, and is situated within the McDermitt Caldera, a mountain with vast cultural and spiritual significance to the local Paiute, Shoshone, and Bannock tribes.
-  Construction of the mine has begun, with the project expected to last almost 40 years. Almost 40000 tons of lithium are projected to be extracted each year by the mine.
-  Tribal consultation was highly inadequate and community input was largely ignored in the mine's approval process.
-  Access to Thacker Pass is now restricted, even though it is public land, preventing tribal members from continuing prayer runs and traditional practices there.

## #2 Cultural and Spiritual Significance of Thacker Pass

### Traditions Still Practiced:





-  Traditional deer hunting, where children learn from elders through specific prayers and practices, occurs on the Caldera
-  Gathering herbs and plants for medicinal uses: white rock is ground up for stomach aches, and sage, berries, and a powerful lone cedar tree that stands on the mountain are also used.
-  Important rituals and ceremonies held on Disaster Peak and throughout Thacker Pass that are central to tribal identity and practices.
-  The McDermitt Caldera holds the site of an 1865 massacre carried out by U.S. colonial officials against tribal ancestors, and is a sacred area that should not be disturbed.



## #3 Environmental Concerns and Water Risks







### Key Environmental Issues:

-  Water pollution is a severe risk: The previous Cordero mine, which operated from the 1930s-70s, near the town of McDermitt has already left town's water polluted with arsenic.
-  The Thacker Pass mine threatens to leave the reservation with no suitable drinking water sources, putting the community's health at risk.
-  Incinerators planned for the mine will burn sulfur, spreading pollution through the air and reducing air quality, creating hazardous conditions for miles around.
-  The EPA's efforts to clean up the previous Cordero mine in 2011 were inadequate - they simply "capped" the contamination rather than removing it, allowing seepage during rainfall.

## #4 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Impact

### Native Plants and Wildlife at Risk:

-  Native plants crucial to tribal medicine and culture are at risk: sagebrush, rabbit brush, bitter root, biscuit root, Yaapapa (Indian potato), wild garlic, and onion.
-  Wildlife disruption: Deer and other animals will likely flee the area due to mining activity, directly impacting traditional tribal hunting practices and food sources.
-  The McDermitt Caldera's ecosystem provides many resources, including cold water running from the hills that will be destroyed through mining operations.
-  "One job is not worth eternity of destruction" - the mine's short-term economic benefits do not justify permanent ecological damage.



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Red Mountain

