Dear Mr. Dremann,

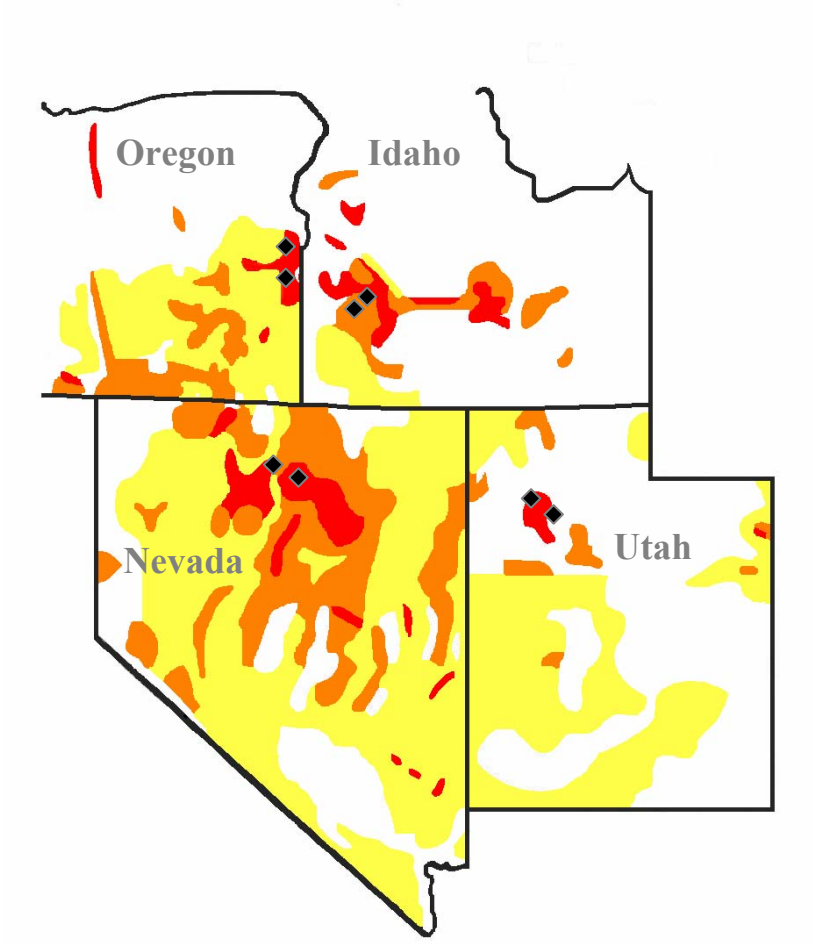
I apologize for the delay getting back to you on your request. Summers are very busy times for me, and unfortunately your request got buried under the stack of other work that needed to be done.

First, some points of clarification:

- I believe the grant you are referring to is a USDA grant, not a USDA/BLM grant.
- As the Principle Investigator for the project, we ask that you direct all future inquiries about the project to me.

In response to your questions:

1) We have set up a series of study plots across the Great Basin. The location of these plots is shown below:



For your information, the abstract for our project is below:

Although cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) has been widely distributed across western rangelands for >70 years, the full ecologic and economic impacts of this non-native invasive plant have not yet occurred. Unfortunately, several independent lines of evidence indicate that the rate at which acreage becomes infested with cheatgrass is increasing rapidly. Furthermore, the invasion and spread of a number of emerging secondary weeds is coincident with cheatgrass

infestation. Thus to control the spread of these secondary weeds, we must first control cheatgrass. Competitiveness and prolific seed production allow cheatgrass to invade both disturbed and intact native communities and to dominate after wildfire. Thus, efforts to control cheatgrass need to focus on these biological characteristics while simultaneously restoring native plants on Great Basin rangelands.

Our overall goal is to identify concepts and management strategies to control the spreading dominance of cheatgrass and other weeds on Great Basin rangelands and to restore native species and increase biodiversity. Our primary focus will be cheatgrass because it is the most widespread and damaging invasive weed, but we will also examine the extent that secondary weeds complicate cheatgrass control and native species restoration efforts. Supporting objectives are:
1. Conduct a series of common experiments across the Great Basin that test management techniques for controlling cheatgrass and other weeds, establishing native plant communities, and restoring ecosystem structure and function while reducing the cost of restoration.
2. Provide an ecological understanding of why restoration techniques succeed or fail.
3. Develop conceptual and economic bases for choosing appropriate management techniques.
4. Use partnerships among governmental agencies, universities, cooperative extension, and land managers to convey knowledge to ranchers and other professionals.
5. Use partnerships with educators to increase student and public awareness of invasive species issues and to develop educational tools that convey solutions to invasive species and native plant restoration problems.

By combining expertise and sharing resources, our multi-state, interdisciplinary consortium of research, education, extension, and agency personnel is poised to identify ecological principles and fundamental knowledge needed to manage invasive weeds and facilitate native plant restoration on Great Basin rangelands. We also plan an active program to disseminate that knowledge to managers and users of Great Basin rangelands.

2) We have just completed our first field season and are now processing samples and data. Thus, we do not have any results to report at this time. If you like, I will be happy to send you publications from the project as they appear.

3) Because of the ongoing field studies, limited personnel, travel costs, and the need to limit disturbance to the plots, we do not conduct individual tours of the study sites. However, we occasionally schedule field tours as part of our outreach efforts. If you like, I will be happy to forward announcements about field days at the study plots to you. For example, the Pacific Northwest Section of the Society for Range Management will be holding its fall meeting in Ontario OR on October 21-22, 2004. As a part of the Field Tour on Friday October 22, they will be stopping at one of our Oregon sites for 45 minutes to discuss the study and the project goals. You would need to register for the meeting ($75 before Oct 4; $90 after); contact Ed Peterson (541-889-9689 ext 3) for further information on the PNW section meeting.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to let me know.

Sincerely,
Robert S. Nowak, Professor

Plant Physiological Ecology