



INVASIVE GRASSES CAN'T HIDE ANYMORE

A Website and Application for Smartphones

HOME THE GRASSES MAP SUBMIT YOUR DATA NEWS FEED THE TEAM

ABOUT GRASSMAPPER

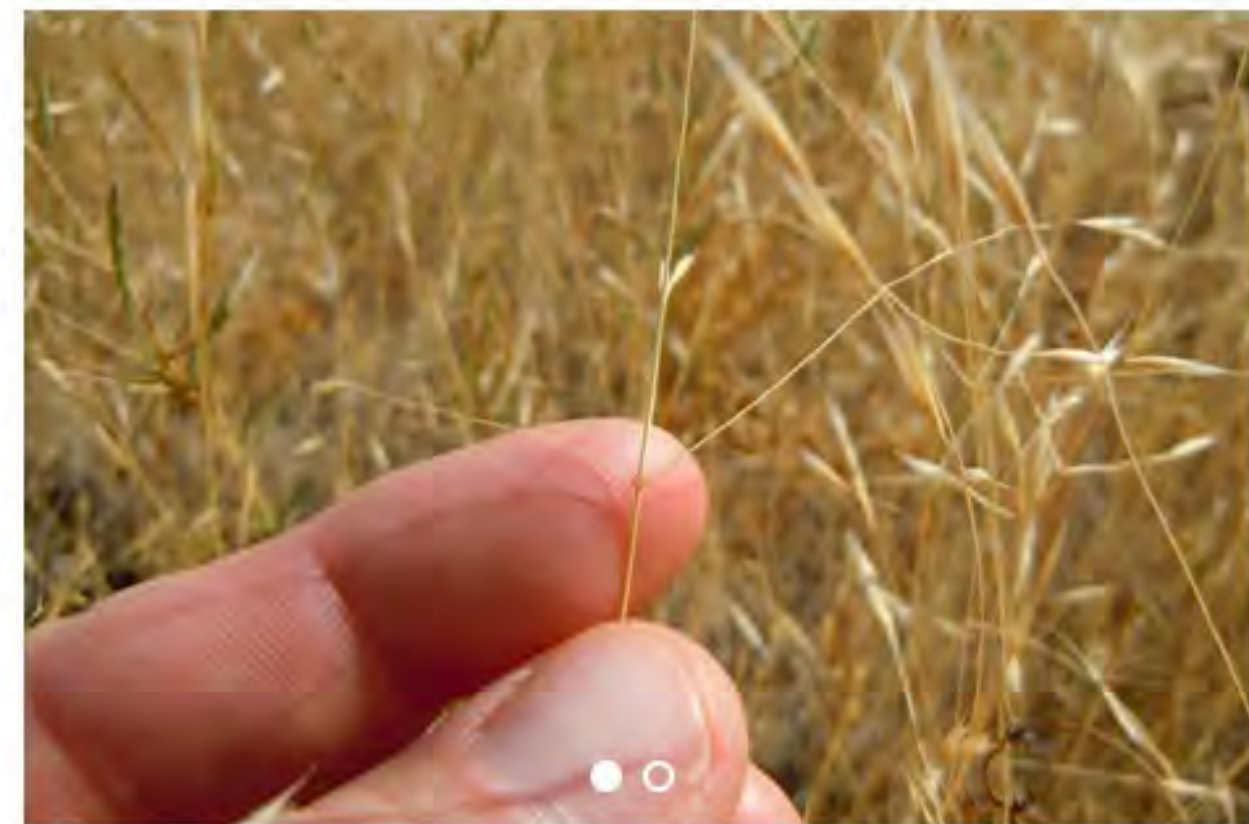
“Grass Mapper” allows scientists, managers, stakeholders, and the general public to use their smart phones to accurately identify and report, the presence and location of invasive species on their land. Discussion forums hosted by experts, and photos help ensure that the identifications, and information collected are accurate. By serving as a hub for scientific discussion on invasive grasses, this website can facilitate communication between researchers, managers, and the communities being impacted by these aggressive grasses. The data generated by this site can in turn help scientists track the spread of these species, discover new populations, thereby helping to inform management strategies.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to develop an interactive and easy-to-use website, and smartphone app to help individuals who are at risk of being negatively affected by these plants learn about the most common invasions in the western U.S., and the research that is being done to slow them down.

THE GRASSES

VENTENATA DUBIA IDENTIFICATION GUIDE



Ventenata is a winter annual that germinates in the fall. Seeds are produced from May-June. Young seedlings have leaves that appear-rolled or folded lengthwise and narrow. As the plant matures, the smooth branches fan out. The plant can grow to be 10-46cm tall. Young plants appear silvery green, but rapidly mature to a yellowish-tan color. The inflorescence is shaped like an open panicle (Fig 1). At the end of each branch are 1-5 spikelets (1-1.5cm). Spikelets are best characterised by their missile shaped appearance, rib like veins, and bent awns (Fig 1). The only other grass species which is easily confused with ventenata is a native grass called Deschampsia, which is similar in appearance except for having smaller, oval shaped spikelets.

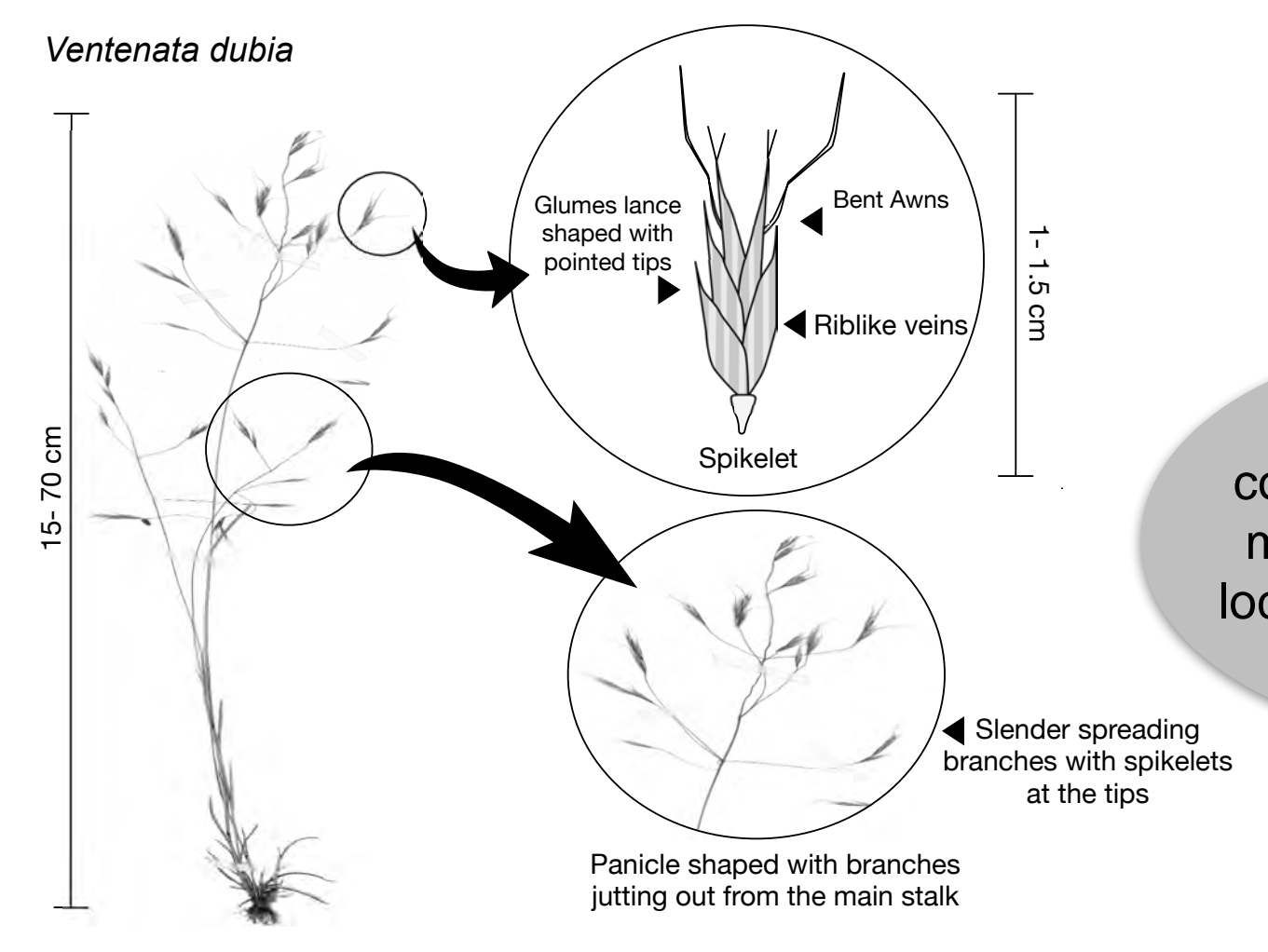



Fig 1. Unique characteristics of *Ventenata dubia*.

SUBMIT YOUR DATA

THE INVASIVE PLANT
 SPECIES

PHOTOS
 Choose a file... No files selected...
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 Choose a file... No files selected...
 More Photos?

LOCATION
 Enter your location...


LEAVE A COMMENT
 Your text here...

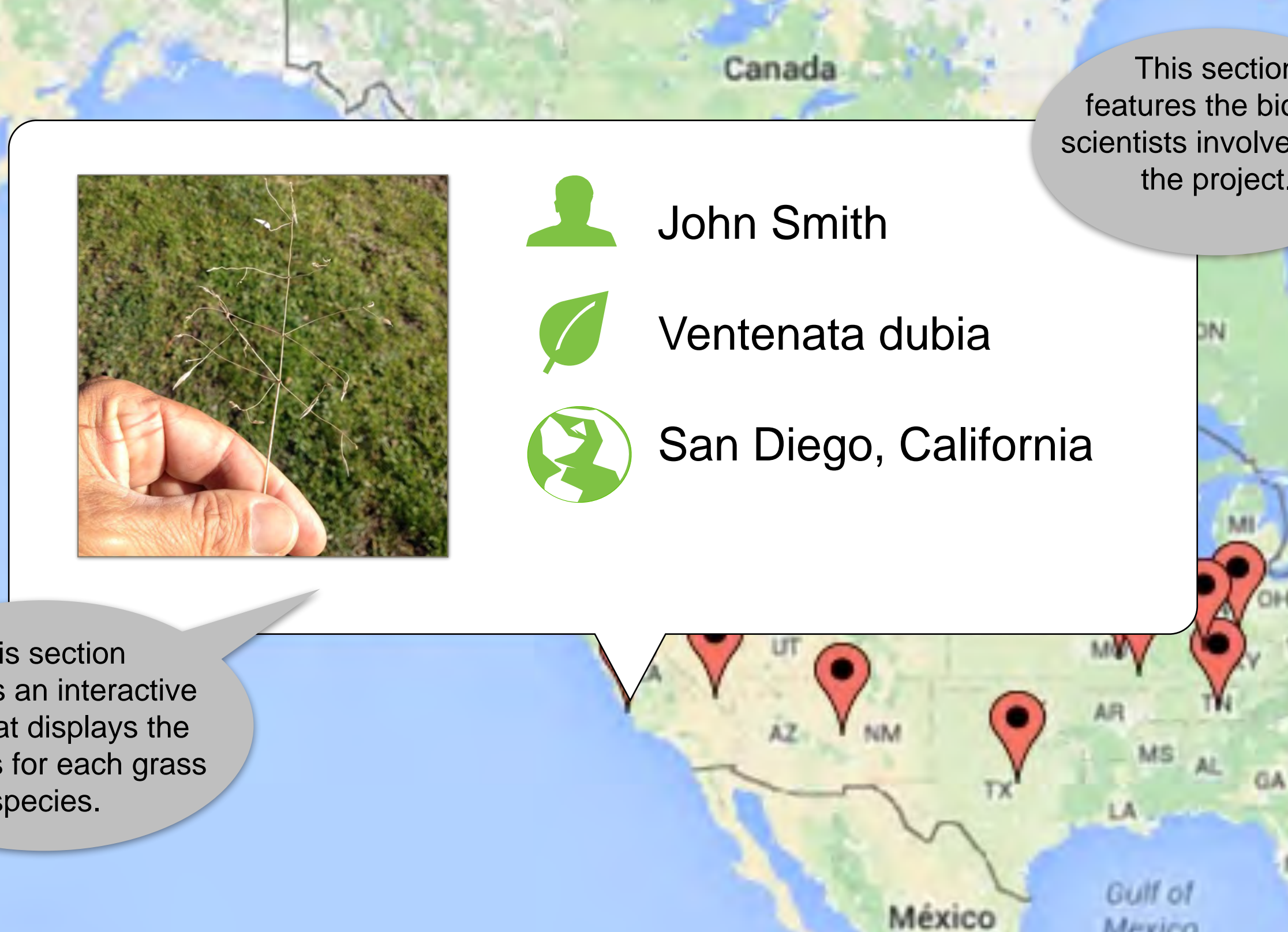
SEND



This section features regular blog posts from experts, managers, and landowners on the spread of invasive grasses.

Easy to follow instructions for entering location information for a grass.

This section features information about each grass species, and guides for proper identification.

THE MAP



John Smith
 Ventenata dubia
 San Diego, California

This section features the bios of scientists involved with the project.

This section contains an interactive map that displays the locations for each grass species.

NEWS FEED

Scientists embark on international field trip to find populations of ventenata for study

This summer, the ventenata team embarked on a mission to collect samples of the plant species for scientific study. The researchers say that by collecting samples of the plant species for genetic analyses across the USA where it is invasive, as well as across Europe where it is native, can help them understand why the species has such a stronghold in the USA. Studying populations in Europe can also help researchers discover insects or diseases that might control the populations in Europe that can be used as novel management strategies in America. All in all the team visited 80 populations across 3 states in the US, and 20 populations across 9 countries in Europe...

READ MORE

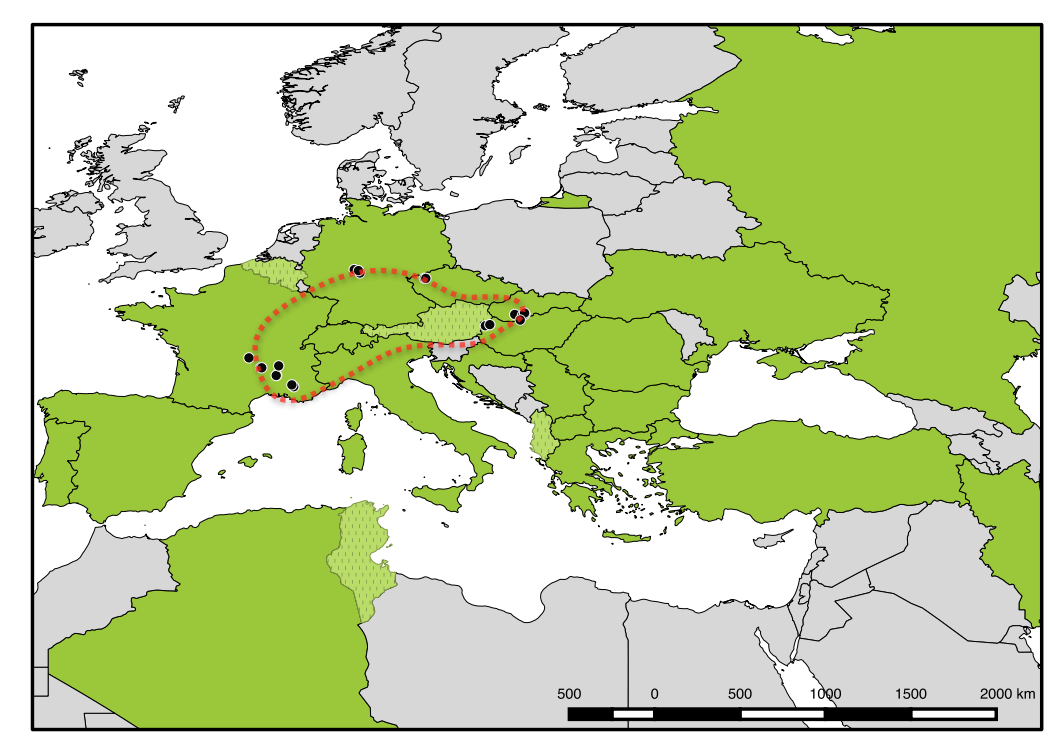



Fig 1. Map showing the route taken for field research trip, and where ventenata was found.



Fig 2. "Team Ventenata" after a long day collecting samples.


THE TEAM



Dr Rene Sforza
 Research Scientist
 USDA ARS (EBCL)

“My expertise is in foreign exploration for biological control agents to control invasive species. My primary focus is insects, but I also study plants, fungi, and other potential biological control agents...”

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Dr Stephen Novak
 Biology Professor
 Boise State University

“I study the population genetics of invasive grass species. I am interested in comparing population genetics of invasive grasses in their native and invasive ranges to help inform management strategies for these species...”

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FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Expand the website to include more invasive grass species.
- Beyond mapping, website could be a means of engaging communities in citizen science projects (i.e. more detailed data collection).
- Website could serve as hub for data sharing among science and management communities.