

**Assessment of threats to Owyhee clover (*Trifolium owyheense*), Vale District BLM, FY07**  
Report submitted by Jean Findley, botanist

Surveys were completed in October (6 and 7 October 2007) by Lynda and Jay Smithman for Smithman Consulting Service of Boise, Idaho. Seven (7) sites (populations) of Owyhee clover (*Trifolium owyheense*) were visited, these being widely scattered across the range of the species from north to south. The actual clover had long disappeared for the season due to natural dormancy, but the site locations are well documented in our files. At each site, information collected included 1) UTM's, 2) vegetative components, including all observed exotic species, and 3) any noted disturbances to the site. A number of warning flags were raised at several of the sites which will warrant follow-up visits this next year. These flags include 1) spread of medusahead wildrye adjacent to and into three sites, rather notably at two, 2) stands of Scotch thistle observed nearby sites at three locations, and 3) heavy livestock use on grass species at three sites. Of interest, OHV traffic did not appear to be a disturbance factor at any of the sites. We received field forms, photographs, and a report of methodology followed by threats observed and recommendations.

This small effort will be invaluable as we plan next year's monitoring for this species, especially as we now can eliminate several sites for study, due to their stability and lack of threats, and we now know which sites will need concentrated attention as we determine effects of grazing and invasive exotic species competition on survival of Owyhee clover.