


Domain Gradient RFI for Great Basin Domain (Domain 15)

Location: **South Ruby Mountain** (IRON, domain 15)

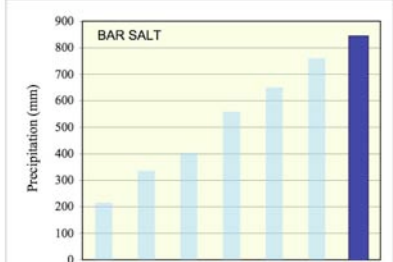

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Webpage: <http://neon-iron.org>, <http://sagestep.org>

<p>Location within domain:</p> <p>Latitude: 40.62 Longitude: -115.48 Ownership: USFS Access: open</p> <p>Aquatic features: none</p> <p>Contributions to national gradient: drought, land cover, invasives, infectious disease</p>	
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History: The South Ruby Mountain site was established as part of the Joint Fire Science Project to understand the ways to restore sagebrush ecosystems as a result of both juniper expansion and invasive species; each resulting in increased fire frequencies and the conversion of sagebrush shrublands to annual grasslands (<http://sagebrushstep.org>). In addition to control plots, the site consists of several long-term treatment plots: burned, herbicide application, and physical juniper removal). Treatment and control plots at this site range from 81 to 405 ha, where cheatgrass ranges from being a minor component to being a co-dominant with sagebrush in the plant community. Treatments will be applied in 2007 and follow-up measurements of soils, plants and animals will be made by members of the Joint Fire Science Project team.

Key characteristics: This site is dominated by the three dominant vegetation associations that characterize the basin portion of the basin and range of the Great Basin: sagebrush steppe, invasive annual grassland, and sagebrush juniper steppe.

<p>Climatic location of South Ruby Mountain within the BAR SALT gradient are shown in blue.</p> <p>Contributions to national gradients: drought, land cover, invasives, infectious disease</p>		
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Existing infrastructure relevant to NEON: There are meteorological stations on site that have been operational for a limited period of time.

Facilities: There are no established onsite facilities.