GREAT BASIN
SAGEBRUSH PROJECT

Working to bring science and nature education opportunities into prisons.
We provide unique and meaningful activities to incarcerated men and women with
the goal of helping our natural environment.
Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Through Prisons

Greater Sage-Grouse
Mission
Conserve native species and habitats through restoration, research, and education.
Bureau of Land Management
Purpose

Improve habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse by engaging state prison systems in production of sagebrush for habitat restoration on BLM lands

Photo by Jeannie Stafford USFWS
Why Prisons??

Overlay of Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat and Prison Facilities*

CRCC = Coyote Ridge Correctional Center
CAPP = Correctional Alternative Placement Program
ISCC = Idaho State Correctional Center
LCC = Lovelock Correctional Center
MWP = Montana Women’s Prison
NNCC = Northern Nevada Correctional Center
SBWCC = South Boise Women’s Correctional Center
SLCJ = Salt Lake County Jail
SRCI = Snake River Correctional Institute
WCCF = Werner Creek Correctional Facility
WSCC = Warm Springs Correctional Center

*Only a sample of prisons shown.

Facility Involvement
- Current
- Potential

Current Range
Historic Range
What Do We Do?

Sowing Sagebrush
Growing Sagebrush

Watering

Fertilizing

Thinning/weeding
Pack Up
Plant Out
What Else Do We Do?

Education

Sagebrush Steppe Range

CREATURES OF THE SAGEBRUSH STEPPE

Buckwheat

What is Soil?

* "The unconsolidated mineral matter on the surface of the Earth that has been subjected to and influenced by genetic and environmental factors of parent material, climate, macro- and microorganisms, and topography, all acting over a period of time and producing a product...”

INVASIVE SPECIES
Awards
Where it All Started

- In 2014, started working with Snake River Correctional Institution in Ontario, OR
- Grew 20,000 sagebrush plugs (*Artemisia tridentata* subsp. *Wyomingensis*) for Vale, OR BLM
2015

• 6 prisons involved in growing and planting out
• 3 states (OR, WA, and ID)
• ~ 120,000 sagebrush plugs grown for 5 different local BLM offices
Expanded Again!

- By 2016, expanded to 11 prisons in 6 states
  - OR, WA, ID, NV, UT, MT
- Delivered ~ 319,000 sagebrush plugs

Warm Springs Correctional Center, NV
Seed Orchard Planting near Vale, OR
Nevada

- 3 Prisons
- Each grew 35,000 sagebrush plugs
- Totaling 105,000 plugs!

Jim Grant, NV Appeal

Debra Reid, News4Nevada
Northern Nevada Correctional Center (NNCC)

- Mental Health Unit
- Elko BLM Office
- Media Day
- Soil experiment
Warm Springs Correctional Center (WSCC)

- Veterans Program
  - 20k for Winnemucca BLM
  - 15k for Susanville BLM
  - Transplants
Warm Springs Correctional Center (WSCC)

- Veterans Program
  - 20k for Winnemucca BLM
  - 15k for Susanville BLM
  - Transplants
Lovelock Correctional Center (LCC)

- Horticulture Graduates
- Winnemucca BLM
- Competition Study
- Internship
Benefits of Propagation Program for Inmates and Prisons

- Provide high quality, detailed work experiences
- Help reduce idleness and behavior problems within prison
- Gives inmates valuable skills
- Provides good image to the public
- Restorative justice
Other Benefits of the Program

• Outreach!
• 100’s of thousand of sagebrush plugs produced for sage-grouse habitat restoration
• And the 350+ other species benefiting from this habitat restoration
Plans for 2017 Season

- Projected # of plants to be grown = 485,000
- Adding new prisons in WA and UT
- Growing for more local BLM offices in more states

In Nevada

- Doubling our efforts!
- A small experiment to test germ rates of seed collected last year vs. this year
After that ......

Hopefully we get continued funding to keep this amazing program going!
I’ve watched for many years and one thing continually comes to my attention is that our world is tiring. Without our participation and us listening to the cry of our depleted world, then our children will not get to experience the wonders we have.

I’ve contributed very little in my adult life while battling my afflictions. The sagebrush program has been good for my soul. This project has done more than rescue the sage grouse, it’s allowed us men to do and be something positive. Through this project, men’s’ lives begin to have worth; we see that we can be positive and benefit the world instead of bringing it down. Someone smiling and saying well done can move a man’s heart and give him back hope.

We’ve made mistakes but in a way we are all alike.

Yes, I’ve made mistakes, we all have, but the one I don’t want to make is missing the chance to give back to the world that has taken care of me.

Given the chance you will see the goodness in us all.
Questions?

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptSkb7WrkNc&feature=youtu.be
The preceding presentation was delivered at the

2017 National Native Seed Conference
Washington, D.C. February 13-16, 2017

This and additional presentations available at http://nativeseed.info