

# SAGEBRUSH In Prisons Project Newsletter

Institute for Applied Ecology

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The Sagebrush in Prisons Project is an ecological education & horticultural program for incarcerated adults. It is a partnership of the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Wyoming DEQ, and State and Federal Correctional Institutions and is a part of the Sustainability in Prisons Project. The project is currently active at 9 prisons in 5 states including California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Wyoming.

What should we be doing?  
Sagebrush Crew To-Do List:

- Daily Watering
- Reduce watering & let the conetainers dry out a little between watering
- Calculate % germination. Sample at least 10% of population daily
- Reseed where still needed
- Watch for damping off
- Perform pH tests every other week
- Fertilize-Once a week
- Set up shade structure

How Many Sagebrush did we sow?  
**In Nevada:**

Lovelock CC 102,214  
Wam Springs CC 87,710  
N. Nevada CC Unit 5: 62,328  
Unit 3: 59,388

**In Idaho:**

Idaho State CC 51,000 sagebrush and 7,500 bitterbrush

South Boise Womens CC 30,000

**In Oregon:**

Snake River CI 57,000  
Lakeview 30,000

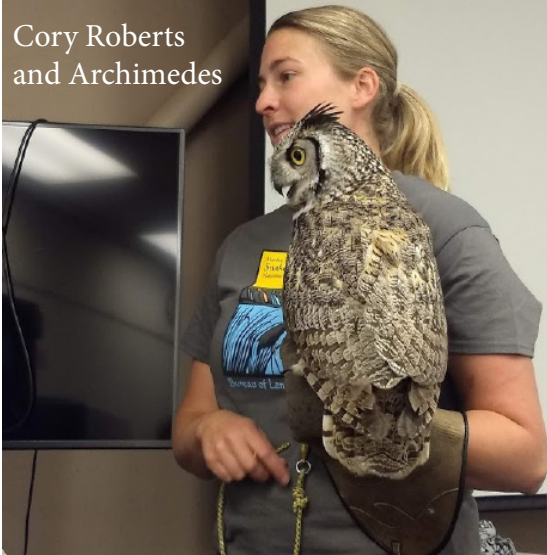
**In Wyoming:**

Honor Farm 18,000

## Program Perserveres during Pandemic!

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic putting a stop to outside visitors like our contractors and guest speakers, the SPP has perservered. SPP crew members relied on written manuals and past experience to successfully mix soil, sow sagebrush seeds, and care for the plants all on their own. Thank you for all of your hard work!

The educational aspect of the SPP has adapted through self-study lessons, educational videos, and live video lessons and lectures. At Idaho State CC students were able to attend a Zoom(live video) lecture about birds. Cory Roberts (pictured above) an educational specialist, held a great horned owl and a swainson's hawk and discussed their adaptations to their environment. Joe Weldon, wildlife biologist with the Bureau of Land Management, gave a presentation on other birds of prey and how the sagebrush the crews are growing will be used for habitat restoration on public lands.



At the Wyoming Honor Farm, two of the three people on the crew are returning members. They bring with them the expertise they gained from last year's growing season, as well as wonderful enthusiasm

for the project. The third new crew member has previous horticulture experience. They are all leaders and have helped to educate other inmates about the importance of the Sagebrush in Prisons Project. This is only the second year that the Honor Farm has been a part of the SPP. Thank you Honor Farm crew!

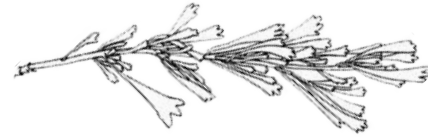


## Fun Facts About Pronghorn Antelope

- The Latin name for pronghorn is *Antilocapra americana*, which means “American goat-antelope.” But pronghorn aren’t related to goats or antelopes; instead they are the only surviving member of Antilocapridae family, a group of animals that existed in North America during the Pleistocene epoch, 2.5 million to 11,700 years ago. It’s believed that pronghorn have been in North America for a million years.
- Adult male pronghorn weigh between 85 and 150 pounds; adult females weigh 75-105 pounds on average.
- The horns of pronghorn have characteristics of both horns and antlers. Antlers are made of bone and are shed each year. Horns are made of keratin and are never shed. Pronghorn horns have both a bony interior and a keratin sheath that is shed each year. Females also have horns, but they are smaller than those found on males.
- Pronghorn typically breed in September or October and females give birth in late May, often to twins. Newborn pronghorn hide in grass for the first few days of their lives, nursing from their mother. They join the herd after a week or two.



## Take the Sagebrush Whiz Quiz: Pronghorn Antelope



from the Sage Grouse Initiative website: <https://www.sagegrouseinitiative.com/sage-whiz-quiz-pronghorn/>

**Check your answers on the bottom of the other side**

**1. Pronghorn are considered the second-fastest land animal in the world, behind the cheetah. What’s their top speed?**

- A. 40-45 miles per hour
- B. 55-60 miles per hour
- C. 75+ miles per hour

**2. True or false:**

**Sagebrush is a key winter food source for pronghorn.**

- A. True
- B. False

**3. What is the pronghorn’s main predator-avoidance strategy?**

- A. Hide in sagebrush or grass
- B. Group up in a herd for safety
- C. Run away

**4. True or false: Pronghorn were nearly driven extinct.**

- A. True
- B. False

**5. What distinctive characteristic distinguishes male pronghorn from female pronghorn?**

- A. Horns
- B. Black markings on the face
- C. White rump

