

SAGEBRUSH

In Prisons Project

Newsletter

Vol 2, Issue 1, March 2020

Institute for Applied Ecology

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:

- Disinfecting containers
- Getting sagebrush area ready (i.e. weeding, having layout plan, putting gravel down, setting up and cleaning tables etc.)
- Working on watering schedule

How Many Sagebrush Plants Are We Planning on Delivering in 2020?

In Nevada:

Lovelock CC 85,000
Wam Springs CC 85,000
N. Nevada CC (2 units) 100,000

In California:

Herlong FCI 40,000

In Idaho:

Idaho State CC 50,000
South Boise Womens CC 25,000

In Oregon:

Snake River CI 50,000
Warner Creek CF 29,000

In Wyoming:

Honor Farm 10,000



Gearing Up for Our 7th Sagebrush Growing Season!

The Sagebrush in Prisons Project is getting ready for its 7th growing season at 9 prisons in 5 states. Orders for soil, fertilizer, containers, seeders, tables and other equipment have been placed. Boxes of sagebrush seeds are starting to be sent out by the BLM, while plans for sowing are being made.

Last year all 9 prisons combined grew a total of 421,241 sagebrush seedlings which were planted at restoration sites. Some of the incarcerated crew members had the opportunity to help plant the sagebrush starts they grew from seed. This year the plan is to deliver 474,000 sagebrush plants to be planted.

We would like to welcome the new IAE contractor for Idaho & NE Oregon, Holly Hovis. Holly has worked as a Botanist for the BLM for many years. She has an interest in native gardens, working with schools and conducting outreach, and brings many skills and enthusiasm to the program. Holly will be taking over Nancy DeWitt's position, and will work with Snake River C.I., Idaho State C.C., and South Boise Womens C.C. SPP crews. Nancy and Ann DeBolt will stay on during this transition to help train Holly. Thank you to Nancy for your three years of service with the Sagebrush in Prisons Project!



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Fun Facts About Sage Grouse Chicks

1. Hens lay 6-10 eggs in ground nest, typically beneath a sagebrush.
2. Chicks hatch after about 4 weeks.
3. They emerge from the eggs covered in down, and with their eyes open.
4. Survival rates for broods vary between 15 and 70 percent.
5. The longer chicks stay near water in the fall, the better the odds for surviving the winter.

Day-old sage grouse chick.

Photo: Tony Apa, Colorado Parks & Wildlife



Take the Sagebrush Whiz Quiz: Sage Grouse Chicks

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

Check your answers on the bottom of the other side

1. Which bugs do sage grouse chicks eat?

- ☐ A. Ants
- ☐ B. Beetles
- ☐ C. Butterflies
- ☐ D. Spiders
- ☐ E. All of the above

2. How long after hatching before chicks are strong flyers?

- ☐ A. 5 weeks
- ☐ B. 8 weeks
- ☐ C. 10 weeks

3. What type of habitat do chicks rely on during late summer and fall?

- ☐ A. Cultivated cropland
- ☐ B. Sagebrush uplands
- ☐ C. Wet "mesic" areas (places where water meets land)

4. When do broods split up (i.e. chicks go off on their own)?

- ☐ A. 6-8 weeks
- ☐ B. 10-12 weeks
- ☐ C. 14-16 weeks



Sage grouse chicks hatch in ground nests underneath sagebrush about one month after hens lay eggs. Photo: Joe Smith

