

Snake River Rapids

This is the seventh year SRCM has partnered with Institute for Applied Ecology and Vale BLM to grow sagebrush seedlings. These seedlings will be planted in the Fall by BLM at various restoration sites, including some areas that were affected by wild fires. In 2019, SRCM grew 50,000 seedlings for BLM and approximately 10,000 for a restoration area near Bully Creek, West of Vale. The goal for 2020 is 60,000 seedlings. AICs prepared the greenhouse and disinfected the cone shaped containers to get ready for this year's seed sowing. A small crew worked with Officer Cathy Larrow to mix the soil, following a special recipe of peat moss, lambert soil, vermiculite and perlite. They then filled the cones with soil, tamping each row of cones with a wooden tamping tool, made by our physical plant AICs. Once the tray of cones were filled with soil and soaked with water, it was moved to the seeding area. Workers placed 3-7 seeds in each cone. The seeds are smaller than pepper flakes, so it was a tedious task to not sprinkle too many at once. The workers completed this process to fill 60,000 containers in less than a week. Their diligent work is already paying off, as seeds have sprouted in less than a week! The AICs continue to water and check moisture levels, a daily task from now until October. As the plants grow, they will be thinned to one healthy sagebrush per cone. The plants develop long roots, thus the reason for the long cone shaped containers used for these seedlings. The AICs involved in the project learn skills in horticulture, data collection, sustainability, teamwork and the enjoyment of working outside.



Gary Smith



Michael Vavra



Johnathan Morris



Manuel Starr



Arthur Arriola

Bradford Bailey

