Title: Sagebrush in Prisons Project: Native Plant Propagation for Restoration

Abstract: Loss of sagebrush habitat is a primary threat to the greater sage-grouse in the western United States. The Sagebrush in Prisons Project improves habitat for greater sage-grouse by collaborating with state prison systems to propagate sagebrush and engage offenders in sustainable land stewardship education. Production of native sagebrush within state prison systems represents an opportunity to provide urgently needed plant material on a broad scale, while providing valuable personal and professional growth opportunities to men and women in custody. Through the Sagebrush in Prisons Project, incarcerated adults have the opportunity to connect with nature, engage in ecological education opportunities, and gain occupational and professional skills that will extend beyond their sentence. The Sagebrush in Prisons Project is a collaboration between the Institute for Applied Ecology, Departments of Correction in California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Wyoming, U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, and the Sustainability in Prisons Project.

Stacy Moore
Ecological Education Program Director
Institute for Applied Ecology

Bio: Stacy Moore engages students with the outdoors through habitat restoration and hands-on inquiry-based lessons in the classroom. Stacy coordinates the Institute for Applied Ecology’s Sustainability in Prisons Project, including education programs and native plant propagation at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, Snake River Correctional Institution, and Oak Creek Youth Authority in Oregon. In 2018, she was a recipient of a TIAA Difference Maker 100 national award for her prison ecological education work. Stacy earned an M.S. in Environmental Education from Southern Oregon State University, and a B.S. in Wildlife Biology and a Secondary Science Teaching Certificate from Oregon State University.

Website: https://appliedeco.org/programs/sagebrush/

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Title: California Sustainability in Prisons Project: Seed propagation of Mojave Desert native plants

Abstract / Description: Through the “Sustainability in Prisons Project” incarcerated adults have the opportunity to connect with nature, engage in ecological education opportunities, and gain occupational and professional skills that will extend beyond their sentence. The goal of the Institute for Applied Ecology’s Mojave Desert Seed Project is to improve habitat for the threatened desert tortoise by collaborating with the California City Correctional Facility in seed production of Mojave Desert native plants and engage offenders in sustainable land stewardship education.

Production of native plants within state prison systems represents an opportunity to provide urgently needed plant material on a broad scale while providing valuable personal and professional growth opportunities to men and women in custody. The project is a collaboration between the Institute for Applied Ecology, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, and Sustainability in Prisons Project.

Tyler Knapp
Ecological Education Coordinator
Institute for Applied Ecology

Bio: Tyler assists with the Institute for Applied Ecology’s Sustainability in Prisons Project at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Oregon, where female inmates grow larval host plants for threatened and endangered native butterflies. He also facilitates the Sagebrush in Prisons Project, coordinating inmates’ work to grow sagebrush seedlings to be used in restoring sage-grouse habitat. In addition, Tyler teaches environmental lessons at the Linn County Juvenile Detention Center, develops curriculum for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and coordinates the Classrooms Across Borders Project which teaches ornithology to elementary school students in Corvallis, Oregon and Guanajuato, Mexico. Tyler graduated from The Evergreen State College, where he focused on Environmental Studies and Spanish, and he completed a two-year apprenticeship with The Columbines School of Botanical Studies in Eugene, Oregon.


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