

Institute for Applied Ecology



Jared, an inmate at Snake River Correctional Institution in Ontario, Oregon helps the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE) grow sagebrush for greater sage-grouse habitat restoration. For Jared, "being with the plants, thinning, watering... it's an escape from everything and it's calming. I've become more aware of my role on this earth, and conserving water, recycling, being more mindful of things I do that'll help."

IAE staff also work with young women at Oak Creek Youth Authority in Albany to grow and plant early blue violets for critically endangered Oregon silverspot butterflies on the Oregon coast; one of the women said, "I now realize I can do good things and can turn to nature rather than turning to drugs."

By partnering with the Sustainability in Prisons Project Network, IAE brings conservation biology and nature into prisons. The project provides a voluntary opportunity for incarcerated men, women and teenagers to earn an hourly wage while learning and broadening their resumes for greater future job success. By engaging inmates in the growing and planting of endangered and native species for habitat restoration, we give them a chance to rebuild their lives while restoring the earth.

Amy and Suzanne, two inmates at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville now plan to pursue degrees in botany once they are released, because of what they've learned through IAE's Sustainability in Prisons efforts.

Robert, a former biologist now in a prison in Idaho, didn't go outside for three years until reconnecting with science and nature by helping IAE grow 60,000 sagebrush destined for greater sage-grouse habitat in Idaho.

Life-changing stories like these happen each year as IAE's restoration work continues. We began working with one prison, and are expanding to ten in 2016 across 8 states, especially in Oregon. IAE benefits endangered species, restores our ecosystems, and changes lives... one habitat, one species and one person at a time.

Institute for Applied Ecology, headquartered in Corvallis, is a member of EarthShare Oregon, our state's only umbrella group of environmental charities.