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Idaho State Correctional Center Education Staff Keep SPP Going During COVID-19 Lockdown.

by Holly Hovis SPP Idaho and NE Oregon

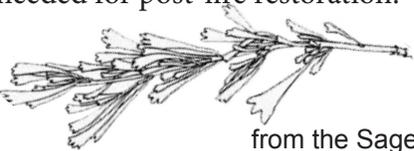
Idaho State Correctional Center (ISCC) education staff have gone above and beyond to sustain the Sagebrush in Prisons Project during these difficult times. The education staff has kept over 30,000 sagebrush and bitterbrush plants watered, fertilized, and thinned while the AIC sagebrush crew continues to be on COVID-19 lockdown. Because of the education staff's daily attention to the sagebrush care, AIC will be able to return to their work once restrictions are lifted and Idaho landscapes will have the plants needed for post-fire restoration.



The education staff in the photo at L are: L-R: Stephen Heidt, Rich Murrison, Vicki Wolters, Brenda Davis, and Adrian Quiroz. Kevin Green is not in the photo but has also been a big help.



In the photo at right IAE Contractor Nancy DeWitt gives instructions on thinning sagebrush to ISCC education staff.



Take the Sagebrush Whiz Quiz: How Are Weeds Linked To Wildfire?

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



- Weeds like cheatgrass and medusahead-rye are called “invasive annual grasses.”
- These non-native grasses dry out much earlier than native vegetation and ignite more easily, leading to hotter, more frequent wildfires that spread rapidly.
- After wildfires, weeds can more easily take over the landscape, creating a vicious cycle that disrupts water and soil cycles, degrades wildlife habitat, and reduces forage for livestock.

Check your answers on the bottom of the other side

- 1. Before the spread of invasive annual grasses, how often (on average) would wildfires occur in the sagebrush-steppe?**
 - A. Every 1-5 years
 - B. Every 5-30 years
 - C. Every 30+ years
- 2. By acreage, what caused the most wildfire damage in the Western U.S. in 2017?**
 - A. People
 - B. Lightning
- 3. Cheatgrass -- one of the biggest invasive species problems in the West -- is estimated to cover how much land?**
 - A. 10-20 million acres
 - B. 50-70 million acres
 - C. 100-150 million acres