

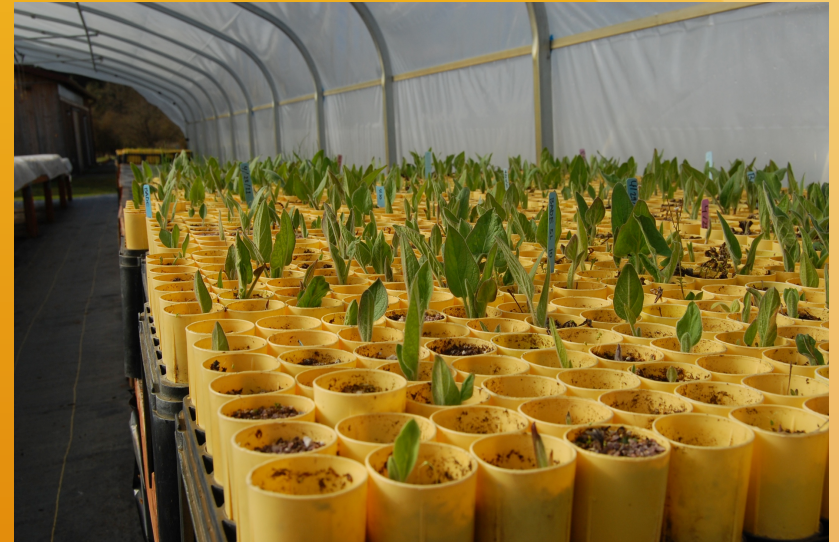
Building a Conservation Nursery Program that Connects Prisons to the Community

Conrad Ely - SPP



SPP Conservation Nurseries

- Plug Production
- Wild & Farm seed sources
- Plug production ranges from 100 - 10,000's
- Annually produce ~ 400,000 plants



Our Role in Prairie Restoration

- CNLM collects & harvest wild & F1 seed
- CNLM cleans seed at Shotwell's Landing
- SPP receives seed for plug production
- SPP hand sow, weed & nurture plugs
- SPP distributes to partners (CNLM, WDFW, DNR, JBLM ...)



Working with Technicians: Off-site

- Shotwell's Landing - Littlerock, WA
- Shared Resource Crew
 - Raising plugs
 - Transplant plugs
 - Invasive species control
- One day per week



Working with Technicians: In Prison

- WCCW (Gig Harbor, WA)
- SCCC (Aberdeen, WA)
- WCC (Shelton, WA)



SPP Production

- 90,000 plugs in 2009
- 400,000 plants last year
- 64 species; Potential for 80+ species this year
- Nursery Technician Certification



Education & Training

- Lectures
- Workshops
- Informal Skills Trainings
- SPP Nursery Manual & Prairie Landowners Guide
- Supplemental Literature in Prison Library



Successes

- Fostering Environmental Stewardship
- Providing a nurturing atmosphere
- A link back to the community they feel isolated from
- Meaningful work
- Transferable job skills



Challenges

- Inconsistent time together
- Turnover
- Interest in post-prison work
- Contraband



Lessons

- Technicians value hands-on outdoor work
- Many find the opportunity to clear their mind of the prison routine cathartic
- The knowledge that their contribution will positively impact the community is meaningful
- The big picture of the conservation programs are very important to emphasize

Questions?

