

# ensia

SUMMER 2013 | ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS IN ACTION

## IS CONSERVATION EXTINCT?



*A new look at*  
**PRESERVING  
BIODIVERSITY**

**PLUS:**

**GLOBAL  
GROUNDWATER**

**10** *lessons for*  
**TODAY'S CHILDREN**

placemaking, black carbon, organic meets genetically engineered & more







# DOING GOOD WHILE DOING TIME

BY MONIQUE DUBOS | PHOTOS BY BENJAMIN DRUMMOND

The Sustainability in Prisons Project is reducing the environmental footprint of Washington state's correctional system while preparing inmates to work in the green economy on the outside. A partnership between The Evergreen State College and the state Department of Corrections, SPP engages prisoners through science education and training, sustainable operations, and research and conservation projects. Launched in 2008, SPP has reduced the environmental impact of housing, feeding and clothing the more than 17,000 prisoners in the corrections system. These scenes depict some of the activities underway at Stafford Creek and Cedar Creek corrections centers.

+ WATCH THE VIDEO: [ENSIA.US/PRISONS](http://ENSIA.US/PRISONS)



(1) Inmates gain appreciation for nature's benefits as they tend vegetables they will eventually eat for dinner. (2) Residents restore bicycles and donate them to local communities. (3) Beekeeping helps researchers understand colony collapse disorder and gives inmates skills for future income. (4) Inmates plant seeds for a prairie restoration project at nearby Fort Lewis. (5) Offenders can attend monthly lectures on science, sustainability and green-collar jobs.