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## State prisoners nurture endangered turtles

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by LORI MATSUKAWA / KING 5 News

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Littlerock, Wash. -- Thursday will be release day for several endangered Western Pond Turtles who were nursed back to health from a debilitating shell disease by inmates at the Cedar Creek Corrections Center.

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The program called the Sustainability in Prisons Project joins the Department of Corrections, the Evergreen State College and the Department of Fish and Wildlife in an effort to care for the environment while providing job training for offenders.

Being a turtle technician wasn't exactly on the radar for Jamar Glenn, who is nearing the end of a 17 year sentence. But his earlier experience with a frog rehabilitation project has him thinking that a job as an environmental technician could be in his future.

"It's so necessary," Glenn told reporters. "You know, we've become so selfish as humans now days. We don't care what's going on out there with wildlife."

Caring for Western Pond Turtles has been nothing but a positive for Glenn, "This is my turn to give back to society in a positive way."

Cedar Creek is also involved in other sustainability projects including composting and establishing beehives.