

May 4th, 2018

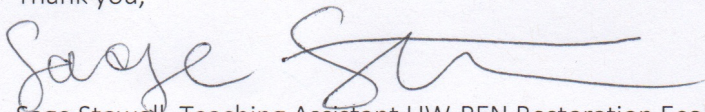
Dear Campus Sustainability Fund,

I am writing to advocate for the services the SER-UW Nursery provides on behalf of the Restoration Ecology Capstone class in the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences (SEFS). I am the current teaching assistant for this class, and I work with four instructors to teach this year-long course focused on developing ecological awareness through restoration of a field site. This course is required for all Environmental Science and Resource and Management (ESRM) undergraduate majors who seek an emphasis in restoration ecology. The class usually has around 60 students from the UW Bothell, UW-Tacoma and UW-Seattle campuses. In this class, students work with a team to restore a field site in local parks around Seattle and surrounding municipalities over the course of ten months. It is hands-on course that requires independent thinking, team work, volunteer management, and a lot of time in the field. The majority of the plants used for the restoration of these field sites are sourced from the SER-UW nursery.

The SER-UW Nursery is an invaluable resource for the Restoration Ecology Capstone. Students have the opportunity to purchase plants for their restoration projects from the SER-UW Nursery below retail prices and without sales tax. The affordability of SER-UW plants for students allows them to purchase more plants and help ensure that their projects are a success. Not only does the SER-UW Nursery makes plant purchasing affordable, they also offer education opportunities for ESRM undergraduate students and Master of Environmental Horticulture (MEH) graduate students in the form of internships and coursework. Many Restoration Ecology Capstone undergraduate students have served as interns for the SER-UW Nursery, and have learned how to cultivate native plants. In addition, the ESRM major offers a class called Native Plant Production that utilizes the SER-UW Nursery facilities to teach students about native plant horticulture. Students from the Restoration Ecology Capstone class who have taken Native Plant Production have an advantage when restoring their field sites because they have knowledge of best practices for sourcing and growing plants.

In order to continue providing below cost plants for student restoration projects, and quality education opportunities through internships and coursework, the SER-UW Nursery needs funding for a research assistantship to run the nursery. This RAship allows the nursery to ensure that operations run smoothly and that nursery facilities and plants are well cared for. It further provides graduate students at the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH) a chance to develop professional skills in horticulture and to teach undergraduate students. The SER-UW Nursery is a student run non-profit that provides key educational opportunities for ESRM undergraduates and MEH graduate students, and it is a huge asset to the CUH community. Please consider funding the SER-UW Nursery so that the wonderful work and opportunities they provide remain an asset into the future.

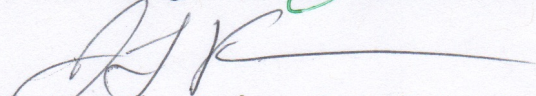
Thank you,



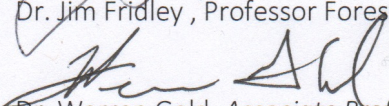
Sage Stowell, Teaching Assistant UW-REN Restoration Ecology Capstone, MEH Candidate



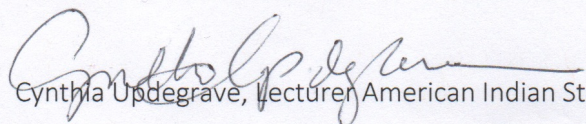
Dr. Kern Ewing, Professor of Wetland Plant and Restoration Ecology



Dr. Jim Fridley, Professor Forest Engineering Systems Design



Dr. Warren Gold, Associate Professor and Director of UW Restoration Ecology Network



Cynthia Updegrave, Lecturer American Indian Studies