



April 22, 2016

Campus Sustainability Fund Re: SER-UW Nursery Improvements

Dear CSF Reviewer,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposal submitted by Courtney Bobsin and Mary-Margaret Greene, for funding the improvement of the student-run native plant nursery used to support student activities of both the Society for Ecological Restoration-UW chapter (SER-UW) and the Center for Urban Horticulture.

I manage the native plant nursery and restoration programs for Oxbow Farm and Conservation Center, in nearby Carnation, WA. We are a non-profit farm, native nursery and education center. Our nursery aims to supply native plants to enhance and sustain habitat in our fragmented landscapes, with a strong mission to participate in, host, and disseminate results of research related to sustainable and organic practices in native plant production. Having been hired to start the nursery program here, I have experience getting a brand new nursery up and running, maintaining a propagation program for over 120 native species, as well as a MS in Natural Resources in which I focused on nursery production of conifer seedlings.

The need for native plants is ever-increasing, as many government agencies, municipalities and organizations are increasing their efforts to restore native vegetation in urban, semi-urban and rural landscapes. Having this nursery program available to students would be invaluable, in providing in-depth propagation, seasonal planning, and sales experience, skills that may not be easily teachable through the existing one-quarter propagation courses. Such educational opportunities in native plant propagation would be incredibly meaningful, not only to train the next generation of native plant growers, but also so that those with a future in restoration planting have a full understanding of native plant propagation, to better determine suitable plant materials for their projects.

Oxbow Native Plant Nursery would be thrilled to serve as a technical advisor to the SER-UW nursery, a mutually beneficial relationship. Through this partnership, students running the SER-UW nursery would have access to advice, training, and education around native plant production, and Oxbow will have an opportunity to fulfill our educational mission by working with UW students interested in native plants, horticulture, and restoration, and increasing our capacity in this region to produce native plants.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bridget McNassar, Native Plants and Restoration Manager