



April 21, 2016

Campus Sustainability Fund, University of Washington

Dear CSF Committee,

I am writing in support of the SER-UW Nursery Improvements request for funding. As president of the UW Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER-UW) in 2013/2014 and again in 2015/2016 I have been with this student group since the nursery's establishment and watched as it strengthened the overall mission of the university to disseminate knowledge through involvement with several courses; helped the university be more sustainable by improving the health of urban forest; and provided a source of plants for SER-UW's on-campus restoration projects. I believe the in-house service provided by the nursery to SER-UW has improved the success of our two on-campus restoration sites: Kincaid Ravine and Whitman Walk. These sites have a combined area of over 5 acres and our nursery has provided thousands of native plants at no cost. This inexpensive source of plants created opportunities to expand the footprint of our restoration and increase the density of plantings. Additionally, most of the plants grown at the nursery are locally sourced from native plant salvages organized by the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and therefore are likely better adapted to growing conditions in Seattle than plants from nurseries which may source their stock from geographically distant locations.

This proposal capitalizes on previous work to increase capacity at the SER-UW Nursery through the construction of a hoop house by funding two student employees. This will help SER-UW in our future restoration projects on campus because we anticipate continued demand for plants at both our restoration sites. Additionally, SER-UW may begin managing Yesler Swamp as the neighborhood group supporting restoration is planning on dissolving itself. For this location, the SER-UW Nursery would also provide native plants for areas recently cleared of invasive species.

Overall, investing in the SER-UW Nursery will build on previous investments from CSF, help the university advance its educational mission, and provide native plants to SER-UW on-campus restoration projects so that we can help the university become a more sustainable institution. I encourage you to fund this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James B. Cronan".

James B. Cronan

President
Society for Ecological Restoration – University of Washington Chapter
Email: jcronan@uw.edu
Phone: 206-406-9883

