

20 April 2016

Dear Campus Sustainability Fund Committee,

I am writing in full and earnest support of the Society for Ecological Restoration University of Washington Chapter Nursery Expansion proposal for 2016 submitted by Courtney Bobsin and Mary-Margaret Greene. I was an intern for the SER-UW Native Plant Nursery in Winter Quarter 2016, and now hold the position of Vice President of SER-UW. The nursery provided for me, and will continue to provide, an incredible hands-on educational experience in plant propagation and production while functioning as a dynamic local, student-run, non-profit source of native plants. The nursery has exponentially increased its scope and impact with every passing year and has become an invaluable resource for both undergraduate and graduate students for native plant production knowledge, volunteer opportunities, and affordable native plants for restoration projects inside and outside the classroom. Accepting the SER-UW Nursery Expansion Proposal will be an incredible benefit not only for students directly involved in environmental science, but to students from all backgrounds and fields of study who may continue to enjoy the nursery's volunteer and education events and actively learn about and participate in sustainability on campus.

Courtney Bobsin and Mary-Margaret Greene are passionate and hardworking managers of the SER-UW Native Plant Nursery with whom I've had the pleasure of working with closely on a variety of projects, and I am constantly impressed by their dedication and passion for making SER-UW the best it can be. To continue to strive towards that goal, they have written the SER-UW Nursery Expansion Proposal to fund two Research Assistant positions. The RA's will provide an invaluable resource for both investigating and improving native plant nursery practices and developing curriculum to better teach student volunteers about plant propagation. The future impact of funding these positions is an increased ability of the SER-UW Nursery to grow native plants for UW students and groups (such as UW Grounds, with whom they've recently partnered), while involving and educating an increased number of students about native plant production and ecological restoration in the Pacific Northwest.

As an undergraduate, I can remember my struggle in my first year at UW to find accessible restoration volunteer opportunities which I could integrate into my busy schedule, and couldn't find any similar groups which consistently provided these opportunities. The SER-UW Nursery fills this niche of providing restoration volunteer opportunities along with hands-on education- an invaluable resource for students from all majors. This proposal will allow the SER-UW Nursery to have an even greater restoration impact on campus while providing an interactive educational experience students simply cannot find anywhere else.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Henderson

B.S. Environmental Science and Resource Management, Candidate