



Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, Ltd.
2285 Butte des Morts Beach Road
Neenah, WI 54956
920-730-3986

October 23, 2024

To: Martha Williams, Director
U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Wild Ones Mid-Atlantic chapters support for funding the Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank

Dear Martha,

Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, Ltd. is a Wisconsin-based national nonprofit environmental education and advocacy corporation. Across the country, over 11,500 Wild Ones members promote native landscapes through education, advocacy and collaborative action. Our 25 chapters in the Mid-Atlantic region require access to genetically appropriate native seed and a strong supply chain of native plant material. We fully support the Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank (MARSB) in its effort to secure Department of Interior funds for critical work building Native Plant Material (NPM) supply chains across the region. This work advances the Department of the Interior goals, both embodied in its own National Seed Strategy Initiative and in the Biden-Harris administration's America the Beautiful initiative.

MARSB is an incorporated 501(c)3 nonprofit. Its goal is to run a six-point comprehensive program that develops all sectors of the supply chain and includes the fundamental work to identify, collect and bank local ecotype native plant seed (often from remnant populations) for essential workhorse species across seven states. State legislation mandating the use of native plant material highlights the need to increase availability and supply of local ecotype and appropriate native plant material to meet ever-increasing demand.

MARSB's director, Edward Toth, has been a leader in the NPM movement, most recently serving on the National Academy of Science's committee that produced the seminal report, An Assessment of Native Seed Needs and the Capacity for Their Supply. Through his forty years of work in the field, including founding and directing both New York City's Greenbelt Native Plant Center, and MARSB, he is experienced in all aspects of the supply chain—collecting, cleaning and banking wild seed, growing natives, increasing native seed supplies, and advising projects on the well planned and executed use of native plants in restoration, land management, and horticulture.

This program, if well-funded, will serve as a national model for development of regional NPM supply chains, the very foundation of critical work to mitigate climate-induced natural disasters, support pollinators, and restore biodiversity. Together with Wild Ones Mid-Atlantic Chapters, I ask USFWS Director Williams to critically review the MARSB program and consider how it might best provide meaningful support to its work.

Best regards,



Jennifer Ainsworth

Jennifer Ainsworth
Wild Ones Executive Director





Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, Ltd.
2285 Butte des Morts Beach Road
Neenah, WI 54956
920-730-3986

The following Wild Ones Mid-Atlantic chapters support funding the Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank:

Wild Ones [Maryland](#) Chapters:

[Wild Ones Greater Baltimore Chapter](#)

Amanda Wray, Chapter President

[Wild Ones Nation's Capital Region Chapter](#)

Marney Bruce, Chapter President

Wild Ones [New Jersey](#) Chapters:

[Wild Ones Southern New Jersey \(Seedling\) Chapter](#)

David Fletcher, Chapter President

Wild Ones [New York](#) Chapters:

[Wild Ones Capital Region NY Chapter](#)

Rosemary Mix, Chapter President

[Wild Ones Habitat Gardening in Central New York Chapter](#)

Janet Allen, Chapter President

[Wild Ones Mohawk Valley Chapter](#)

Jennifer Geiger, Chapter President

Wild Ones Eastern [Ohio](#) Chapters:

[Wild Ones Greater Cleveland Chapter](#)

Jessica Ausnehmer, Chapter President

Wild Ones [Pennsylvania](#) Chapters:

[Wild Ones South Central Pennsylvania Chapter](#)

Jane Allis, Chapter President

[Wild Ones Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter](#)

Susan Caughlan, Chapter Secretary

[Wild Ones Western Pennsylvania Area Chapter](#)

Tamara O'Brien, Chapter Co-President

Wild Ones [Virginia](#) Chapters:

[Wild Ones Greater Richmond Virginia Chapter](#)

Sharon Lamberton, Chapter President

[Wild Ones Roanoke Region \(Seedling\) Chapter](#)

Sharon Burnham, Chapter President

