# *Thank you for your commitment to green initiatives at the University of Illinois. One of the ongoing requirements listed in the terms of the funding agreement for your project is the submission of semesterly reports with key information about your project. In addition to this form, please provide additional financial documentation and/or progress photos if available.*

# *Please be as accurate as possible in describing the project (including possible setbacks or challenges in meeting the initial goals of the project). Not fully meeting your project's goals will not disqualify you from making future funding requests as long as your reports are as complete and accurate as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee, at* *sustainability-committee@illinois.edu**.*

**Project Name:** Student-led census of the Trelease Woods Forest Dynamics Plot

**Date of Report Submission:** 1/8/2019

**Project Purpose:**

The goal of this project is to fully census all trees in Trelease Woods, a 24 ha old growth deciduous forest, owned and managed by the university as a natural area. The completed census will allow us to (i) incorporate Trelease into a global network of forest dynamics plots coordinated by the Smithsonian Institution, (ii) contribute data to regional and global models estimating forest carbon storage, (iii) generate a database on tree size, growth and distribution that can be used for undergraduate research and teaching, (iv) provide training in forest ecology and data management to undergraduate students conducting the census.

**Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:**

Please detail your expenses to date. Feel free to attach an additional spreadsheet as needed.

**Project Progress to Date:**

1. Purchase of Census Materials (06/30/18): We have purchased all the equipment and materials needed for the census. Some additional small purchases may be needed near the completion of the census (nails, tags, replacement tape measurements and flagging tape) due to wear and tear.
2. Recruitment of undergraduate student census workers (08/14/18). We recruited 34 undergraduate students from SIB, NRES, AHS and Animal Sciences to work on the census. Students spent 4-8 hours a week tagging, mapping and identifying trees. So far, we have recruited 33 students to work on the census during Spring semester 2019. About half will be returning students and will both work on the census and do independent research projects in Trelease related to the census.
3. Student orientation and training (08/21/18): Training was completed as planned. In addition we gave students quizzes on the census methods and spent time in the field with the students throughout the semester.
4. Development of project website (10/15/18): We have initiated the website. We will continue to build content for the website during the first part of the Spring semester whilst it is too cold to do the census.
5. Completion of the first 12 ha of census (11/9/18): We started the census at the south side of Trelease woods, which has very high stem densities. This has slowed down progress through the plot. We have now completed around 4 ha. We will resume work when temperatures warm later in the Spring semester. We anticipate requesting additional funds this summer from LAS and ACES to allow students to work on the census over the summer break.

**Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

There has been very strong support for the project across SIB and NRES. We advertised the project widely on line, in classroom visits and on fliers. We held two promotional meetings in the Fall semester to attract and inform students about research opportunities. As a result we have trained 34 undergraduate students and one graduate student in the Trelease census protocol. The undergraduate students signed up for IB390 – introductory research, or its equivalent in the NRES and received 1-2 credit hours, depending on whether they spent 1 or 2 afternoons per week in Trelease. Fourteen of the original 34 students will continue in the census in Spring 2019. In addition to helping complete the census they will also do independent research on several related projects (1) A census of deer populations in Trelease (2) Connecting the current census with historical censuses of Trelease (3) Effects of the forest edge on tree growth. An additional 16 new students will work on Trelease in the Spring, with potentially more students signing up after the semester begins.

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

We shot a short video of the project in the Fall (which still requires some additional editing). We have discussed with LAS bringing the college’s communication team to Trelease in the Spring to make a more professional film of the project.

**Additional Comments:**

Any additional comments/relevant information for the semesterly report