



Above: *Sedum Selskianum variegatum*

ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATOR

**Mark Miller, Assistant Director
Idaho Commons and Student Union**

Mark is currently the Assistant Director for Facilities and Operations for the Idaho Commons/TLC and Student Union. This position requires the personal oversight of all three of these facilities, which comprise approximately 250,000 ft² of space. He has a high interest in landscaping and has designed and developed all of the finished outside areas at his own home, which were all barren clay soil to start with. Within his designs, he has incorporated many sustainable systems including rainwater collection, gabion basket retaining walls and the use of recycled decking products.



**Mark Miller
Phone: (208) 885-6958**

**Sustainable Idaho Initiative
Student Union Bldg.
University of Idaho
Moscow Idaho
83843**

**Email:
millerml@sub.uidaho.edu**

**Website:
www.sub.uidaho.edu/greenroof**

**printed with good environmental intentions*

Demonstration



**University of Idaho
Student Union Building**



Moscow, Idaho



WHAT IS A GREEN ROOF?

A green roof may be extensive or intensive. Extensive green roofs are lightweight, thin soiled and low maintenance whereas intensive green roofs are heavyweight, thick soiled and require considerable maintenance.

The University of Idaho Student Union Building is putting in an extensive green roof. It will contain sedum plants that are highly drought-tolerant, yet very attractive.

WHAT IS THE MAIN GOAL TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DEMONSTRATION GREEN ROOF AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO?

“To demonstrate to our University administrators and the University community on the whole that current buildings can be retrofitted from old, sizzling hot conventional roofs to more environmentally friendly areas that will have a distinct role in diminishing the urban “heat island” effect on campus.”

~Mark Miller

BENEFITS OF THE GREEN ROOF:

- Reduces the load on our sewer system by diminishing, and sometimes halting completely, the rainwater rush or runoff from a section of roof
- Limits noise transmission
- Helps prove the point that this example of sustainable architectural design provides an economical benefit to its owner
- Improves the quality of storm runoff
- Re-oxygenates the air
- Allows for an opportunity to experiment with different types of plants, native and otherwise, to see what works best in this area and to establish a benchmark for future green roof development on campus and within the community
- Reduces energy and sewer costs

WHAT TYPES OF PLANTS UI IS USING:

Sedum plants are the large stonecrop genus of the Crassulaceae family, representing about 400 species of plants.

The drought-tolerant plants of the sedum variety are attractive, hardy and a great form to use on the University of Idaho’s Student Union Building’s green roof.

Other hardy plant species, like Alliums (common chives) and selected bulbs will be tried to see if they can survive under these rooftop conditions.

Below is a picture of the stonecrop genus of *Sedum Kamtschaticum*

