



Partnerships with the FARTHER NSF Engine

Overview

The Forest and Rangeland Technology Hub for Economic Resilience, (FARTHER), is an economic engine funded partly by the National Science Foundation (NSF). FARTHER is one of 71 projects invited to submit a full proposal to the NSF Engines Program for up to \$160 million over ten years. FARTHER was the only team from this region that was invited to submit to this NSF program. The University of Montana is the lead organization on the FARTHER Engine. The overarching goal of the NFS Engines program is to develop a regional innovation ecosystem that focuses on boosting innovation capacity and creating sustainable and inclusive economic growth within the service region of Montana and Idaho. FARTHER's mission is to build an economic engine for rural, tribal, and urban communities across Montana and Idaho. Through partnerships, research translation, and workforce development we advance nature-based innovations and precision technologies in forests and rangelands to promote prosperity and resilience.

Partnerships at the Core of Success

One of the main goals of the FARTHER Engine is to develop a connected and inclusive network of partners to accomplish our mission. Our efforts will exceed our expectations if we leverage regional partnerships to co-create and develop products, tools, and services to support the restoration economy in forest and rangeland industries. Furthermore, FARTHER seeks to build connections between groups that have lacked cohesiveness in the past. We aim to bridge relationships between research universities, tribal partners, federal and state land management agencies, business and industry, and workforce and economic development groups. We are looking to create opportunities for use-inspired research to reach the market to help solve some of our region's most pressing issues, including increasing wildfires, floods, drought, and biodiversity loss. Our efforts reflect a deep, intentional, and persistent approach to building teams and broadening access for all.

What does partnership entail?

At the heart of the Engine are the core partners who make up the leadership team, research team, and advisory board. They contribute time and resources, advise Engine administration, and represent both public and private sectors. These leaders provide expertise in disaster risk and resilience, Tribal knowledge, and bring business and industry acumen with access to capital and demonstrated success in workforce development. Participation and partnership may include 1) active participation in the designed programs of the engine, and/or 2) provision of monetary, in-kind, or other contributions of support. Also, if your organization, corporation, or tribe has a program that fits within the mission of FARTHER, we may be able to collaborate to bring this idea to fruition with funding and resources.

Getting Involved

Learn more at [FARTHER.org](https://www.further.org) or contact Zia Maumenee at zia.maumenee@mso.umt.edu