

Montana EPSCoR

Vision: To position Montana's academic research institutions to become a regional, national, and international leader in integrative ecosystem research and education by creating accessible infrastructure to generate knowledge-based prosperity for the benefit of Montana and the Nation.

Mission: To advance Montana's research and engineering capacity with a focus on:

- Providing understanding of ecosystem dynamics in the face of regional climate change;
- Assessing the consequences of ecosystem change on the environment, communities, and economic vitality in Montana;
- Providing knowledge and tools to educate and engage the people of Montana to adapt to the ecosystem changes.



Overview: The Montana EPSCoR program, Infrastructure via Science and Technology Enhanced Partnership (INSTEP), has as its goal to build the science infrastructure in the state primarily around the area of ecosystems research. A fundamentally new model of partnership between the MSU and the UM is a central component of this grant.

The Montana EPSCoR program has three primary objectives:

- To build integrated research across the state in the area of ecosystems research;
- To build infrastructure in the state to support and advance ecosystems research making Montana a flagship in the nation;
- To broaden participation in science by women and populations typically underrepresented in science by reaching out to them and providing opportunities and messages that resonate.



Resources: The EPSCoR program is a five-year \$24M partnership between the State of Montana and the National Science Foundation. The grant operates from Sept. 1, 2011 – Aug. 31, 2016 and requires a \$4M State match to the \$20M NSF funds.

Activities

- **Research and Education:** The research focus is in the area of ecosystem dynamics, particularly in response to climate change. Specifically, the sustaining of healthy ecosystems and vibrant economies within the region through research across institutions in environmental issues.
- **Workforce Development:** The EPSCoR program is focused on developing the future STEM workforce.
- **Diversity:** Montana EPSCoR is engaged in increasing the diversity of the STEM pipeline by supporting Native American students throughout the state.