2025 Intermountain Sustainability Summit | *Regeneration*
March 20-21, 2025 | Weber State University

Collaboration and Regeneration Award Nomination Instructions
Deadline for Proposals: February 5, 2025

ISS Awards

Announcement – The **2025 ISS Collaboration Award** and **ISS Regeneration Award** are dedicated to recognizing and celebrating outstanding efforts in sustainable development, environmental collaboration and community regeneration.

All Nominations Welcome – We welcome and encourage all nominations for these awards, even if the project or organization does not meet every criterion. We are particularly interested in understanding the positive impacts that organizations and projects are having within our communities. Regardless of how closely a nomination aligns with all sections, we value the opportunity to recognize and celebrate meaningful contributions to collaboration and regeneration.

Submission Details

There are three steps to submit a nomination:

1) Review the Collaboration and Regeneration Award nomination instructions
2) Complete either the Collaboration Award or Regeneration Award Nomination Forms
3) (optional) Upload supporting materials

ISS Collaboration Award

This award focuses on cross sectional partnerships and collaborations across the Intermountain West, which are driving positive environmental change and building a sustainable future for all. We are particularly interested in initiatives that demonstrate effective collaboration across sectors—whether through the scope of impact in relation to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, community-led efforts or forward-thinking sustainable practices. Our goal is to celebrate transformative partnerships.

ISS Regeneration Award

This award seeks to honor projects and organizations that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to regenerating environments, fostering a social equilibrium and promoting long-term sustainability. Whether through innovative green technologies, community-driven initiatives or cutting-edge sustainable practices, we want to highlight the transformative projects that are shaping a more sustainable future through regenerative initiatives.

Nominee Criteria

The ISS judges will review nominations based on the rubrics. However, the nominations must meet the following criteria to be considered:

- **Location:** The nomination must come from businesses, educational institutions, organizations, or government agencies located in the Intermountain West (Arizona, Eastern California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Eastern Oregon, Utah, Eastern Washington, Wyoming). **OR** The scope of the nominated project/organization(s) must primarily affect communities in the Intermountain West.
- **Timeliness:** The nomination is timely. The project's impact or implementation is relevant to today's challenges.

Review + Selection Timeline

- **December 3, 2025 –** Call for nominations begins
- **February 5, 2025 –** Call for nominations closes
- **February 25, 2025** – Notify winners
- **March 20, 2025 –** Awards presented

The winners will be announced at the Intermountain Sustainability Summit and recognized for their groundbreaking work. The 16th Annual Intermountain Sustainability Summit, hosted at Weber State University, in Ogden, Utah, will be on **March 20 – 21, 2025**.

Thank you for your contribution to advancing sustainability and regeneration. We look forward to receiving your nominations and celebrating the outstanding work being done in our communities.

Collaboration Award:

For ISS **Collaboration** Award nominations, please review the rubric and submit nominations through the Collaboration Award Nomination Form.

Collaboration Award Rubric:

Category	4	3	2	1
Narrative and Imagery	The story of this collaboration is **highly compelling** and the imagery enhances the narrative.	The story of this collaboration is **compelling** and the imagery enhances the narrative.	The story of this collaboration is **minimally compelling** and the imagery **does not** enhance the narrative.	The story of this collaboration is **not compelling** and **does not** provide imagery.
Environmental Benefit	The collaboration has measured **substantial clear** and **direct** benefits to the environment.	The collaboration has measurable **positive clear** and **direct** benefits to the environment.	The collaboration attempts to benefit the environment, but with **unmeasured** or **minimal** results.	The collaboration **does not** attempt to benefit the environment.
Scope of Impact in Relation to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	This collaboration contributes **substantially and directly** to **multiple** SDGs.	This collaboration contributes **directly** to one or more SDGs.	This collaboration **loosely** contributes to one or more SDGs.	This collaboration **does not** contribute to the SDGs.
Transparency and Accountability	The project's goals, methodology, and results are **clearly defined** and **publicly available** in a way that's **timely**, **easy to access** and **easy to understand**.	The project's goals, methodology, and results are **clearly defined** and **timely**, but **not publicly available, easy to access** and/or **understand**.	The project's goals, methodology, and results are **defined**, but are also **confusing**, **untimely** and/or **difficult to access**.	The project's goals, methodology, and results are **not defined**, **not publicly available**, **untimely** and **not easy to access and understand**.

Guiding Questions

"Nature doesn't need our protection. She needs our collaboration." - *Genesis Group*

Narrative and Imagery

- To what degree are the two (or more) organizations collaborating?
- Do the images and resources provided support the collaboration narrative?
- How did the collaboration come to fruition? How effective were the organizations at handling differences or hardships? Are these organizations that have a history of collaboration or was this the start of a new partnership? What is the likelihood that they will continue this collaboration or collaborate on another project together in the future?

Environmental Benefit

- Does the collaboration lead to tangible environmental benefits? Are there numbers, graphs or statistics to support the level of success?
- Is the benefit to the environment long term or short term? Is this collaboration replicable among other businesses and organizations?
- How effectively does the project use resources like energy, water and raw materials? Does it minimize waste and maximize efficiency? How well does the project manage waste? Are there efforts to reduce, reuse or recycle materials? Efforts could include circular economy practices like reuse, recycling and closed-loop systems.

Scope of impact in Relation to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

- Does the collaboration actively contribute to the SDGs mentioned in the application? Is at least one of the chosen SDGs related to the health of the nonhuman environment?
- Could the success of this collaboration be replicated? How do the chosen SDGs, Targets and Indicators describe the scope of the project? What does the collaboration's success mean for the local and global communities?

Transparency & Accountability

- Does the project publicly report on its sustainability efforts?
- Are the goals, methodology, progress and challenges clearly communicated? Does the project regularly report on its environmental and social impacts in a transparent, comprehensive and credible manner? This could include third-party audits, certifications or publicly accessible reports.
- How well do the organizations ensure ethical practices and strong governance? This includes leadership accountability, anti-corruption practices and adherence to ethical business standards.

Regeneration Award:

For ISS **Regeneration** Award nominations, please review the rubric and submit nominations through the Regeneration Award Nomination Form.

Regeneration Award Rubric:

Category	4	3	2	1
Environmental Collaboration	Collaboration with nonhuman environmental processes results in **highly improved** human and environmental conditions.	Collaboration with nonhuman environmental processes results in **improved** human and environmental conditions.	Collaboration with nonhuman environmental processes results in **minimally improved** human and environmental conditions.	**Does not** collaborate between human and nonhuman environmental processes.
Resource Efficiency	The project minimizes waste and optimizes the use of resources. The results are **excellent**.	The project minimizes waste and optimizes the use of resources. The results are **good**.	The project minimizes waste and optimizes the use of resources, but the results are **minimal**.	The project **does not** minimize waste or optimize the use of resources.
Human Development	Connects communities and individuals to **highly useful** and **highly improved** resources, utilities or products. Affordability is **highly improved**.	Connects communities and individuals to **useful**, **better**, and **more affordable** resources, utilities or products.	Connects communities and individuals to **standard** resources, utilities or products, but **not** in a useful or more affordable way.	**Does not** benefit or connect communities and individuals beyond better environmental quality.
Innovation	This idea or its implementation process is **new**. It will change the regeneration landscape **significantly**. It is applicable **now** or **in the near future**.	This idea or its implementation process is **new**. It will change the regeneration landscape **significantly**. It is **not ready for practical application**.	This idea is **new**, but **not ready for practical application**. It will **minimally** change the regeneration landscape.	This idea is **not new** and **will not change** the regeneration landscape.
Transparency and Accountability	The project's goals, methodology, and results are **clearly defined** and **publicly available** in a way that's **timely**, **easy to access** and **easy to understand**.	The project's goals, methodology, and results are **clearly defined** and **timely**, but **not publicly available, easy to access** and/or **understand**.	The project's goals, methodology, and results are **defined**, but are also **confusing**, **untimely** and/or **difficult to access**.	The project's goals, methodology, and results are **not defined**, **not publicly available**, **untimely** and **not easy to access and understand**.

Guiding Questions

"Regeneration" definition for this rubric: The utilization of sustainable systems in which the use of natural resources for human production maintains or restores the health of the nonhuman environment over time.

Environmental Collaboration

- How effectively does the project collaborate with the nonhuman environment? Does the project harm the environment? Is the health of the environment critical to the project's success?
- What metrics are being used to gauge the project's effectiveness in relation to both human and nonhuman environmental conditions? Does it promote biodiversity? Does it restore soil, water, air quality or climate health?
- What is the value added to the nonhuman environment and the human environment? Is one outweighing the other?

Resource Efficiency

- Does the project actively engage in practices that support biodiversity conservation or the restoration of ecosystems? Does it collaborate with the nonhuman environment? Examples include habitat restoration, sustainable agriculture practices or promoting biodiversity in operations.
- How effectively does the project use resources like energy, water and raw materials? Does it minimize waste and maximize efficiency?
- How well does the project manage waste? Are there efforts to reduce, reuse or recycle materials? Efforts could include circular economy practices like reuse, recycling and closed-loop systems.

Human Development

- Does the project engage with and support its local and broader community?
- Is the project useful to humans? Does it add value, resiliency or efficiency to a preexisting system? Or is it a new product that will improve the lives of people?
- Is the project accessible to those it would benefit most? Does it improve environmental conditions or reduce cost burdens for underserved communities? How well does it reduce the impact of communities with outsized environmental impacts?

Innovation

- Does the project create or implement products or services that contribute positively to sustainability (e.g., eco-friendly, low carbon footprint)?
- How innovative is this project? Is the organization developing new solutions or innovations that help regenerate ecosystems, communities or economies? Does the organization develop or promote innovative solutions that address sustainability challenges?
- How scalable and replicable are these solutions across different regions or industries?

Transparency & Accountability

- Does the project publicly report on its sustainability efforts?
- Are the goals, methodology, progress and challenges clearly communicated? Does the project regularly report on its environmental and social impacts in a transparent, comprehensive and credible manner? This could include third-party audits, certifications or publicly accessible reports.
- How well does the organization ensure ethical practices and strong governance? This includes leadership accountability, anti-corruption practices and adherence to ethical business standards.