Terry's Small Engine Repair
Evergreen, MT



"Rob helped me write a business plan and financials to secure a loan from Far West Bank."

Matt Gates, Owner

Matt Gates had always admired Terry Williams and his small engine repair shop in Evergreen. When Matt was a child, he would visit Terry's shop and dream about owning his own business one day. In late 2022 Terry's Small Engine Repair became for sale when Terry wanted to retire. As a veteran himself, Matt jumped at the opportunity to buy the veteran owned business. However, Matt needed assistance creating a business plan and financial projections, so he reached out to the Kalispell SBDC.

Regional Director Rob Driscoll helped Matt complete loan applications, create a business plan, and financial projections. Matt acquired $50,000 in local financing from TrailWest Bank and purchased Terry's Small Engine Repair in January 2023. When Matt purchased the business, he agreed that Terry could continue working when his health permitted. Matt knew he had big shoes to fill and wanted to continue successfully running the business like Terry.

“Matt Gates is a third generation Montana military, and I am proud the SBDC could be a trusted advisor in helping Matt buy and scale Terry’s Small Engine Repair,” stated Rob.

Matt hopes to hire two new employees and purchase additional property to expand his business. He continues going above and beyond for the Evergreen community, reflecting over 50 years of quality service.