

CONNECTED BY US

Today, the modern world would not function without having access to high speed internet and the unlimited information it provides. Lack of access to the internet creates a barrier for an individual to complete work, school, and various everyday tasks.

The Nez Perce Tribe Wireless Program (Program) began in 2009 to address this tremendous need for internet in rural and remote areas on the Nez Perce Reservation. Prior to this, many residents on the Reservation were still utilizing dial up internet, if they had internet access at all. The limited access that was available was highly expensive, with significantly slow speeds. The Nez Perce Tribe is one of two tribes in the state providing this type of service. The wireless infrastructure has been funded primarily through awarded grants. These grants funded the startup costs and tower construction, which is the foundation for the current system. In 2012 the Nez Perce Tribe funded, and began the nine miles of installation of dark fiber in the area.

Tribal departments and programs are able to utilize the service to meet their needs for field tasks such as research and monitoring. The Program also supports emergency communications and services by providing tower space for mobile radio communications. Nez Perce Tribal Law Enforcement is completely dependent on the service for their vehicles. Over the last few years, the Program has expanded from just serving the Nez Perce Tribe's governmental offices to serving homes, businesses, schools, libraries, and other government entities throughout the Reservation.

"The Lapwai School District's partnership with the Nez Perce Tribe Wireless Program has enabled us to reach our goals in technology integration into all areas of instruction. Technology is utilized for assessment, engaging students in learning, and is an outstanding college and career readiness tool," stated Lapwai School District Superintendent, David Aiken. "We are incredibly grateful for their service and support."

Although the Program currently serves seven counties, plans are in place to continue expanding the Program and its services. There is a proposed expansion of the Program's dark fiber infrastructure. Pending an agreement with the State of Idaho, the Program is ready to commence laying an additional 21 miles of fiber to connect with existing fiber in the region. At this time, an engineer is already on contract, the Program is simply awaiting receipt of permission from the State.

Future plans also include laying additional fiber across all communities on the Reservation. The Program is looking at additional areas to provide coverage and creating more mobile availability. Ultimately, the goal is to have a fiber ring surrounding the Reservation. This will be an opportunity to virtually connect all of our rural and remote areas with the world.

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MADE BY US

1350 customers

ACCESS for multiple businesses including: hotels, manufacturers, restaurants and many more

6 new local positions created as a result of the program

BUY LOCAL AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

SERVING:

7 counties

2 hatcheries

2 emergency response centers



COMMUNITY BUILT BY YOU

By shopping locally and supporting local businesses, your community enjoys numerous benefits, including:

STRENGTHENING our local economy

PROMOTING a healthier environment

SHAPING local character

LOWERING residential taxes

CREATING local jobs and opportunities

INCREASING resident wealth

MADE BY US

MADE BY US is possible thanks to these special partners:

