

# MADE BY US

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Meet Mary Iacobelli. Mary is the new Communications Coordinator for the Port of Lewiston. She has a journalism degree and worked in the world of communications most of her professional career. Her experience ranges from news reporter to media writer to being the welcoming face of different Valley businesses.

Mary's role will include creating and updating the Port's social media program and website. She will tell the story of the Port's activities and those of the Port's partners both locally and along Marine Highway M-84. She will also keep the public

informed of all the Port's different projects and programs coming in the next few years while serving as an indispensable teammate as we continuously improve our internal programs. Mary is excited to lead our communications efforts!

Mary is married with a son in college at Washington State University. A transplant from Michigan since 2015, she enjoys exploring the beauty offered by the Valley and surrounding area, reading and spending time with family and friends.



How we connect is vital to our lives, from our personal contacts to our ability to do business, access healthcare, educate, and communicate beyond the limits of transportation. While for many of us this is a given, rural communities who lack the infrastructure needed for a quality, high-speed network are at a disadvantage.

Since 2015, the Port of Lewiston has worked to close that gap, constructing miles of fiber infrastructure accessible to all service providers, allowing them to provide low-cost, high-speed internet to residents and businesses. The Port has currently installed nearly 55 miles of fiber optic network within Nez Perce County.

These efforts were expanded in 2021, when federal grant dollars gave rise to the Middle Mile project, which is building approximately 95 miles of open access fiber optic line to service north central Idaho. The project will create a fiber connection from Moscow to Lewiston and on to Grangeville.

"As a port, our mission is to promote economic growth and development in our region. Without high-speed internet, that growth is difficult," said Port of Lewiston General Manager Scott Corbitt. "Constructing fiber optic infrastructure is a great way to serve our communities."

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