

# Chelan PUD Broadband

May 29, 2019



CHELAN COUNTY

# Microsoft MOU

- Collaborative partnership focused on deploying broadband in areas that are under-served or not served today
- Fundamental problem is the cost of deploying broadband in rural areas with long distances and low density
- This is a nationwide problem, not just a Chelan County problem
- We will jointly investigate this problem with a goal of developing solution sets to lower the cost of broadband deployment in a rural environment

# Expansion priorities

- Current \$25 M Public Power Benefit Expansion
  - Expected ~9300 Premises Passed
  - 2,921 Premises Passed 2016 to date
  - Goal of 85-90% of county covered
- Consists of expansion and in-fill areas
- Concurrently address electrical infrastructure and reliability
- Operational priorities
  - District projects and resources, construction readiness, permit availability

# What we have accomplished

- A world class Fiber network in Chelan County
  - 34,197 Premises Passed
  - 16,726 Active Connections
  - 75% County Covered
  - Gigabit Internet speeds, TV and telephone service
- Expansion and in-fill through 2018
  - Cashmere, Manson, Chelan, Plain, Leavenworth, Wenatchee
- Expansion and in-fill in 2019
  - Chelan, Plain, Entiat, Leavenworth, Peshastin, Wenatchee, Cashmere

# Broadband Programs

- Current Programs
  - Connect America Fund I & II
  - Community Connect & Re-Connect Broadband Grants
  - Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans
  - All share some common restrictions
    - Require Eligible Telecommunications Carrier certification
    - Surety and other requirements that are difficult to meet
    - PUD is not able to meet these requirements
- Governor's Broadband Program
  - Rules still being developed
  - ~\$25M per year
- New FCC Program for \$20.4B – CAFIII?
  - Rules still being developed
  - It is expected that reverse auction will be employed like earlier programs
  - Need legislative action to insure municipalities are eligible