Chelan PUD

Broadband

May 29, 2019
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