

**National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Finding of No Significant Impact
Bend Cable Communications, LLC,
BendBroadband Fiber Optic Cable Installation**

Summary

Bend Cable Communications, LLC (BendBroadband) applied to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) for a grant to install approximately 180 miles of fiber optic cable and construct six telecommunication equipment cabinets. While the new network will be a hybrid of aerial and buried fiber, most of the fiber will be installed aerially on new and existing poles. A portion of the fiber will be trenched underground within existing rights-of-way (ROWs). The new fiber network will provide middle mile service to community anchor institutions (CAIs), including public schools, hospitals, emergency care providers, and public safety facilities, and last mile service to residential households and businesses. The proposed action will connect six communities in central Oregon, and is referred to as the BendBroadband Fiber Optic Cable Installation Project (Project).

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) awarded a grant for the Project to BendBroadband, through BTOP, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The funding must be obligated and the Project completed within three years. This timeline will comply with the laws and regulations governing the use of this ARRA grant funding.

BTOP supports the deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas of the United States and its Territories. As a condition of receiving BTOP grant funding, recipients must comply with all relevant Federal legislation, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Specifically, NEPA limits the types of actions that the grantee can initiate prior to completing required environmental reviews. Some actions may be categorically excluded from further NEPA analyses based on the specific types and scope of work to be conducted. For projects that are not categorically excluded from further environmental review, the grant recipient must prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) that meets the requirements of NEPA. After a sufficiency review, NTIA may adopt the EA, use it as the basis for finding that the project will not have a significant impact on the environment, and issue a finding of no significant impact (FONSI). Following such a finding, the BTOP grant recipient may then begin construction or other activities identified in the EA as the preferred alternative, in accordance with any special protocols or identified environmental protection measures.

BendBroadband completed an EA for this Project in July 2011. NTIA reviewed the EA, determined it is sufficient, and adopted it as part of the development of this FONSI.

The Project includes:

- Installing a hybrid broadband network of aerial and buried fiber, with associated vaults, in existing ROWs throughout five cities in central Oregon;
- Installing approximately 135 miles of fiber aerially by attaching to new and existing poles;

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- Installing approximately 45 miles of buried fiber by trenching;
- Attaching fiber to bridges within new or existing conduit; and
- Constructing six telecommunication equipment cabinets in previously disturbed areas along the Project route.

Based on a review of the analysis in the EA, NTIA has determined that the Project, implemented in accordance with the preferred alternative, and incorporating best management practices (BMPs) and protective measures identified in the EA, will not result in any significant environmental impacts. Therefore, the preparation of an EIS is not required. The basis for this determination is described in this FONSI.

Additional information and copies of the Executive Summary of the EA and FONSI are available to all interested persons and the public through the BTOP website (www2.ntia.doc.gov/) and the following contact:

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Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Project is to bring affordable broadband service to unserved and underserved communities within central Oregon. Current broadband service in the area is inadequate or unavailable to many residents and institutions, particularly within the cities of Madras, Redmond, Prineville, Bend, Sun River, and La Pine. The Project will create a broadband network where, to date, it has not been economically feasible to install telecommunications infrastructure. The areas served by the Project include residential households, businesses, and 25 CAIs, such as libraries, hospitals, emergency care providers, public safety facilities, and other anchor institutions.

Project Description

BendBroadband will install 45 miles of buried fiber and 135 miles of aerial fiber between six cities in central Oregon. The fiber network will consist of 140 miles of backbone middle-mile fiber and 40 miles of lateral connections to CAIs and surrounding communities. The new network will be constructed within existing utility ROWs on private, municipal, State, and

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Federal lands, including areas managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service (USDA-FS), the Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). The Project will provide broadband service to residential households, businesses, community facilities, and local governments.

The majority of the fiber will be installed aerially along the Project route, primarily on existing utility poles using the stranding or lashing technique. This method involves attaching a cable to the poles and lashing the new fiber cable to the existing strand. Due to a lack of existing pole infrastructure, BendBroadband is planning to install two new poles on either side of an irrigation channel at the southeastern corner of the intersection of Powell Butte Highway and Riggs Road, on the Bend to Prineville route. To install these new poles, a hole approximately 5 feet deep is drilled, the base of the pole is inserted, and the excavated soil is compacted back into the hole to stabilize the pole.

Approximately 45 miles of fiber will be installed 42-inches underground in existing ROWs by trenching, or through existing conduit. The trench method uses heavy equipment excavators or hand digging to create the trench and backfill with excavated soil. Appropriate soil-erosion controls will be used at all excavation sites, and after cable installation, the excavated areas will be promptly backfilled, graded, and re-seeded. Fiber optic cable will be installed across water features either by installing the cable aerially on existing poles, burying the cable over existing culverts within the shoulders of existing ROWs, or routing the cable through new or existing conduit attached to bridges.

BendBroadband will construct approximately 50 miles of the fiber across lands managed by the BLM, USDA-FS, and BOR. Fiber installation on these lands will be on existing utility poles or buried in existing utility ROWs. No new utility poles will be erected on Federal lands. Specifically, BendBroadband will install 5 miles of buried fiber and 9 miles of aerial fiber across land managed by the BLM Prineville District. Approximately 25 miles of buried fiber and 11 miles of aerial fiber will be installed through portions of the Deschutes National Forest (DNF) and Crooked River National Grasslands (CRNG) managed by the USDA-FS. The Project will also cross the North Unit Irrigation District canal network and the Ochoco Irrigation District, which will require crossing permits issued by BOR.

BendBroadband will also construct six new equipment cabinets in previously disturbed areas along the Project route. The cabinet structures will measure 24 inches wide by 12 inches long by 52 inches high. Each cabinet will be secured to a concrete slab, which will require minimal excavation and grading. Electric service will be provided by commercial utilities; no backup generators will be installed by the Project. The equipment cabinets will be placed at the base of an existing utility pole or along the fiber route. BendBroadband will use existing access roads to install fiber and construct equipment cabinets. All equipment storage and laydown areas will be located within previously disturbed areas.

The 25 CAIs supported by the Project will be connected to the mainline fiber optic cable through lateral underground or aerial connections. The fiber will be installed aerially on existing poles,

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in existing underground conduit, or buried within existing utility easements. Fiber optic cable will extend from a nearby equipment cabinet and connect to the CAI through either existing conduit or an access point into the building.

Alternatives

The EA includes an analysis of the alternatives for implementing the Project to meet the purpose and need. NTIA also requires that an EA include a discussion of the no action alternative. Each of the proposed alternatives, with the exception of the no action alternative, listed below may be implemented independently of the others, but will use the same installation methods and follow the same BMPs as the Preferred Alternative. The following summarizes the alternatives analyzed in the EA.

Alternative 1 - Combined Aerial and Underground Construction (Preferred Alternative). This Project involves installing approximately 45 miles of buried fiber and approximately 135 miles of aerial fiber in central Oregon. The new fiber optic cable will be installed aerially on existing utility poles, attached to bridges, and buried via trenching. BendBroadband will also install two new poles on either side of an irrigation channel and construct six new equipment cabinets in previously disturbed areas along the Project route.

Alternative 2 - (Non-Preferred Alternative). This alternative would be identical to the Preferred Alternative with the exception that four proposed irrigation canal crossings managed by the Central Oregon Irrigation District would be crossed using directional drilling rather than the trenching method.

Alternative 3 - (Non-Preferred Alternative). Proposed activities for this alternative would be identical to the Preferred Alternative with the exception of modifying a portion of the fiber route in the City of Bend, OR. In the case of load restrictions on existing poles proposed for the Preferred Alternative route, this alternative would follow a new route, approximately 13,000 feet, to install fiber on existing utility poles and new underground fiber via trenching, and use existing conduit.

Alternative 4 - (Non-Preferred Alternative). Proposed activities for this alternative would be identical to the Preferred Alternative with the exception of 2,500 feet at the end of the Madras to Redmond fiber route in the City of Redmond. In the case of load restrictions on existing poles for this portion of the Preferred Alternative route, this alternative would install new fiber underground using the trenching method.

Alternative 5 - (Non-Preferred Alternative). This alternative would be identical to the Preferred Alternative with the exception that the two potentially contaminated sites identified within the Project area would be avoided by terminating the fiber route at these two locations.

No Action Alternative. No action was also considered. This alternative represents conditions, as they currently exist within the cities of Madras, Redmond, Prineville, Bend, Sun River, and La

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Pine in central Oregon. Under the no action alternative, new fiber infrastructure would not be constructed. The communities would continue to be unserved or underserved with respect to broadband internet access. Additionally, broadband services would not be provided to community facilities in the Project area. The EA examined this alternative as the baseline for evaluating impacts relative to other alternatives being considered.

Alternatives Considered But Not Carried Forward. BendBroadband considered the alternative of installing an all-wireless telecommunications network. However, wireless technology is not a viable alternative because of the inability to provide the capacity or speed to fully meet the purpose and need of this Project. In addition, this alternative would involve more ground disturbance and environmental impacts than the Preferred Alternative. BendBroadband also considered installing the Project's entire fiber route underground. This alternative was eliminated because it would have resulted in increased costs to facilitate the unnecessary excavation of trenches and bores, and the potential increase of environmental impacts compared to the Preferred Alternative to install additional buried fiber.

Findings and Conclusions

The EA analyzed existing conditions and environmental consequences of the preferred alternative and the no action alternative in 11 major resource areas, including Noise, Air Quality, Geology and Soils, Water Resources, Biological Resources, Historic and Cultural Resources, Aesthetic and Visual Resources, Land Use, Infrastructure, Socioeconomic Resources, and Human Health and Safety.

Noise

This Project will have short-term increases in ambient noise levels during the construction period. Noise created by machinery used during installation will be temporary and localized in nature. BendBroadband will comply with local and State noise ordinances to keep noise impacts to a minimum. Based on these considerations, no significant impacts on noise are expected to occur as a result of Project implementation.

Air Quality

Potential impacts to air quality associated with this Project will occur during the construction period. Fiber will be installed underground via trenching, and will result in minor disturbance of the ground surface, which could create fugitive dust. Negligible fugitive dust emissions will also be generated during construction of the six equipment cabinets. BendBroadband will implement BMPs to limit fugitive dust emissions, including applying water to suppress dust, establishing temporary vegetative cover, and washing paved roadways immediately adjacent to the construction site. A short-term minor increase in the use of fossil fuel and associated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will occur as a result of Project construction. BendBroadband calculated that 73 metric tons of CO₂ would be released by Project vehicle travel and mobile equipment usage. Based on implementation of BMPs, construction of the planned network is not expected to have significant adverse impacts on air quality.

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Geology and Soils

The fiber route will be installed within existing utility ROWs and the equipment cabinets will be constructed in previously disturbed areas. Construction activities will result in minor, temporary disruption of the soils. BendBroadband will use existing access roads when installing the fiber and constructing the equipment cabinets. BMPs will be implemented to prevent sedimentation and erosion impacts on the Project area. With these measures in place, the Project is not expected to result in significant adverse impacts on geology or soils.

Water Resources

Project construction activities are not expected to impact to water resources. Although the fiber route intersects several irrigation canals, streams and rivers, as well as adjacent wetlands, impacts to water resources will be avoided by installing the cable aerially on existing poles, burying the cable over existing culverts within the shoulders of existing ROWs, or routing the cable through new or existing conduit currently attached to bridges. BendBroadband will also trench across four irrigation canals managed by the Central Oregon Irrigation District during dry conditions. Because these canals do not discharge into "waters of the United States," the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has confirmed that these water features, are outside their jurisdiction. The Project will also cross the North Unit Irrigation District canal network and the Ochoco Irrigation District, which will require crossing permits issued by BOR.

BendBroadband has alerted the USACE, BOR, and private irrigation districts of all planned water crossings. BendBroadband is currently coordinating and has submitted permit applications to BOR and private irrigation districts for construction permits. These permit applications are being reviewed and approval is pending. BendBroadband will obtain the necessary permits prior to conducting any work within these areas.

Construction activities will occur within existing utility ROWs or previously disturbed areas, and will not adversely affect groundwater flows. Therefore, no significant direct or indirect impacts to groundwater resources are anticipated. During construction, there may be a temporary, minor disturbance of floodplain areas, but no long-term impacts are anticipated. There is the potential for a temporary increase in stormwater discharge during construction. However, BendBroadband will implement BMPs to minimize erosion, sedimentation, and turbidity in receiving waters. Control measures during construction may include additional silt fencing and slope stabilization.

The Project route will cross the Deschutes River, a Wild and Scenic River, through new or existing conduit attached to the bridge along the river. BendBroadband has received a permit from Deschutes County for this crossing. Equipment cabinets will also be constructed on either side of the bridge. The USDA-FS is reviewing the proposed bridge crossing and fiber installation within the DNF. BendBroadband will obtain the necessary USDA-FS permits prior to conducting any work within these areas.

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By avoiding construction through waterways and implementing erosion and sediment control BMPs, BendBroadband will be able to construct the network with no significant adverse impacts on water resources.

Biological Resources

The preferred alternative will result in minor impacts on biological resources. Ground surface will be disturbed along the approximately 45 miles of buried cable and at the equipment-cabinet sites in the existing ROWs. Approximately 32 square meters will be disturbed for each of the six new equipment cabinet sites. Clearing of woody vegetation is not expected to be required for any construction activities.

BendBroadband consulted with the USACE regarding potential wetland impacts along the Project route. By installing the new fiber on existing poles or in the previously disturbed areas outside of wetland boundaries, the Project will avoid wetland impacts. The USACE confirmed in a conversation on June 27, 2011 that if no work will occur in designated wetlands, no further consultation from the USACE is required. BendBroadband will stop construction and re-initiate consultation with the USACE, if Project plans change and there is a potential to impact wetlands.

BendBroadband assessed the Project area for the presence of habitat suitable for the northern spotted owl, Canada lynx, and bull trout, all of which are Federally listed threatened species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). BendBroadband consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding potential Project impacts on biological resources. In responses dated November 17, 2010 and June 22, 2010, the USFWS concluded that, based on the information provided by BendBroadband, the Project is not likely to adversely affect these resources and no further consultation is required under Section 7 of the ESA.

BendBroadband will coordinate with the USDA-FS with regard to the bald eagle nest found on Federal land along the Project route. BendBroadband will implement appropriate avoidance measures prior to conducting any work within this area. BendBroadband will also consult with the USDS-FS and BLM to minimize potential impacts to local wildlife and species of concern identified on Federal lands.

Based on this analysis and implementation of the recommended protective measures, BendBroadband will be able to construct the fiber network with no significant adverse impacts on biological resources.

Historic and Cultural Resources

In October 2010, NTIA initiated consultation, on behalf of BendBroadband, with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO]). In this correspondence, NTIA provided the SHPO with a project description and associated maps of the Project area. Following the initiation letter, BendBroadband engaged qualified staff at East Slope Cultural Services, Inc. to analyze the archaeological and architectural resources within the Project's area of potential effect (APE). A records check and pedestrian survey were conducted,

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including an on-site visual inspection for surface artifacts along the buried fiber route and at the proposed cabinet and new pole locations. A cultural resources report clarifying the Project description and summarizing the findings of the cultural resources review was submitted to the SHPO on November 29, 2010. In a letter dated January 1, 2011, the SHPO responded that numerous sites noted in their database were not mentioned or adequately addressed in the report. The SHPO requested that adequate documentation be provided to address the missing information.

Following receipt of the SHPO's letter, East Slope Cultural Services, Inc. addressed resource areas omitted during the initial assessment, and submitted a revised report on April 5, 2011. In a letter dated April 14, 2011, the SHPO provided concurrence with a finding of No Adverse Effect for the above ground historic resources for the proposed Project. On April 15, 2011, the SHPO provided additional comments outlining 12 distinct archaeological resource areas needing clarification.

A revised cultural resources report addressing the outstanding resource areas was sent to the SHPO on April 18, 2011. In a letter dated April 26, 2011, the SHPO requested additional clarification for these 12 resource areas and confirmed that additional information was necessary to finalize their review. BendBroadband submitted additional information on the 12 resource areas in a follow up letter dated May 5, 2011. In a letter dated May 9, 2011, the SHPO confirmed that based on the information provided, BendBroadband had addressed the concerns noted in comments #1, 2, 5, 6, and 7 and that revisions to the final report would address comments #3, 4, 11, and 12. The SHPO expressed concern regarding the remaining three comments (#8, 9, and 10), as previously stated in their April 26, 2011 letter. The SHPO requested that, prior to their approval, subsurface testing is conducted for the proposed BSR1 and BSR2 fiber segments, and the Sun River cabinet located near site 35DS21 to substantiate the level of previous disturbance. In addition, the SHPO stated that BendBroadband may not conduct any ground disturbing activities on federal lands until the SHPO receives clearance from the USDA-FS and BLM.

On June 16, 2011, BendBroadband provided a summary letter to the SHPO outlining additional resource identification efforts to be undertaken prior to construction, including submittal of the revised cultural resources report for final SHPO review, and conducting additional investigations on USDA-FS and BLM lands along fiber segments BSR1, BSR2, and at the Sun River cabinet location, as well as last mile CAI connections. In a June 17, 2011 letter, the SHPO concurred that the Project will result in No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties provided that the conditions stated in the final cultural resources report and in BendBroadband's letter dated June 16, 2010 are satisfied. The SHPO requested that BendBroadband notify and reinitiate consultation with the SHPO and applicable Federal agencies if project modifications require additional soil disturbance or cause other potential effects to historic properties.

BendBroadband will revise and submit the cultural resources report to the SHPO for review and final approval by August 2011. BendBroadband will conduct archaeological surveys, including a pedestrian survey and subsurface probes, in advance of ground disturbing work on USDA-FS

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and BLM lands, along fiber segments BSR1, BSR2, and at the Sun River cabinet location. To ensure that National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible archaeological sites are not affected by the Project, BendBroadband will avoid these resources and will receive concurrence from the SHPO prior the start of ground disturbing activities within these areas. BendBroadband will ensure a qualified archaeologist is on site for any pole replacement activity and will consult with the BLM, USDA-FS, and BOR, if applicable, and the SHPO for approval.

BLM and USDA-FS have agreed to complete their Section 106 review following the conditional no effect determination issued by the SHPO on June 17, 2011. BendBroadband will submit separate cultural resource reports for the project segments that cross BLM and USDS-FS managed lands and will continue working with these two Federal agencies to complete the necessary permitting process. In an email dated May 18, 2011, BOR confirmed that no further cultural resources reviews are necessary for the proposed fiber routes. No construction work will begin on BLM or USDA-FS lands until all appropriate archaeological permits have been received, investigations completed, reports reviewed by BLM and USDA-FS, and SHPO concurrence has been received.

On September 10, 2010, NTIA notified six Native American Tribes of the Project through the Federal Communication Commission's Tower Construction Notification System (TCNS). Two Tribes did not respond within 30 days after the TCNS notification, thereby indicating no interest in the Project. Two Tribes responded (via letter and email) that they have no interest in the Project, but requested notification in the event of unanticipated discoveries. Two Tribes — the Klamath Tribes and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation — requested and received a copy of the cultural resource report. The Klamath Tribes reviewed the report and have no further interest in the Project; however, the Tribe requested that they be notified in the event that human remains, or anything of cultural significance, are discovered. As of July 13, 2011, no comments have been received from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation.

If Project construction activities uncover cultural materials (e.g., structural remains, historic artifacts, or prehistoric artifacts), BendBroadband will stop all construction work and immediately notify interested Tribal Nations, the SHPO, and NTIA. If earth-disturbing activities uncover human remains, all work will cease immediately, in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA) and relevant State statutes. The area around the discovery will be secured and appropriate law enforcement personnel and NTIA will be notified immediately.

Based on these consultations, the Project is not expected to have significant adverse impacts on historic and cultural resources.

Aesthetic and Visual Resources

The Project involves installing fiber optic cable aerially on new and existing poles, burying the cable underground in existing ROWs, routing fiber through existing conduit, where available, and constructing six new equipment cabinets in previously disturbed areas. New fiber will be

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installed on existing poles along a portion of the proposed route that crosses the Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway in two locations south of Bend, OR. A short portion of the project passes through the Peter Skene Ogden State Park and Scenic Viewpoint, which is a rest stop on Highway 97 overlooking the Crooked River. Additionally, the fiber route will cross a portion of Ochoco Way State Park by installing new fiber on existing utility poles. Fiber installation will have a short-term, minor, and temporary impact on aesthetic and visual resources due to the presence of construction equipment and limited soil disturbance. No State Scenic Byways will be crossed by the project.

BendBroadband will continue working with the USDA-FS and BLM to determine the potential for visual resource impacts along the project segments located on Federally managed lands. Construction activities are expected to meet USDA-FS and BLM's management objectives for visual resources by installing fiber within existing ROWs. Based on the analysis and these consultations, the Project is not expected to have a significant adverse impact on aesthetic and visual resources in the Project area.

Land Use

The fiber will be installed in existing ROWs and new cabinets will be constructed on previously disturbed areas. There will be no change in the existing land use due to the underground fiber installation or addition of new fiber on existing poles.

BendBroadband has submitted DOI Standard Form (SF) 299 applications to the BLM, USDA-FS, and BOR for proposed fiber installation on Federal lands. The Project's use of existing ROWs through Federal lands appears to be consistent with the land and resource management goals in the Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) (1990), Crooked River National Grasslands LRMP (1989), and the Brothers La Pine Resource Management Plan (RMP) (1989). Public Scoping Notices have been filed by the USDA-FS for the segments of the project that cross the CRNG and the DNF. Through the permitting process, the USDA-FS and BLM will analyze potential land use impacts and determine whether the Project is consistent with their respective land and resource management plans. BendBroadband has agreed to comply with all permit conditions issued by the respective Federal agencies. BendBroadband will also obtain the necessary permits from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) prior to beginning construction within the Peter Skene Ogden State Park. Based on these consultations, the Project will have no significant adverse impact on land use.

Infrastructure

The Project's aerial fiber route will be attached primarily to existing utility poles or buried in existing ROWs. Equipment cabinets will be installed in previously disturbed areas. Along the entire Project route, BendBroadband will identify, locate, and avoid existing buried utilities. There will be minor, short-term construction impacts on roadways and traffic flow during fiber installation. BendBroadband will install fiber optic cable within existing conduit along bridges, or in new conduit that will match the physical appearance of the bridges to reduce visual impacts. Physical impacts to the bridges will be minimal. BendBroadband will obtain the appropriate road and railroad crossing permits prior to fiber installation. The new network will

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provide a secure, high-speed wireless data network for these five Oregon communities. Overall, the Project will have a positive impact on infrastructure, and is not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts on infrastructure.

Socioeconomic Resources

The Project will expand the region's existing fiber optic networks within central Oregon. The project will create jobs and provide greater broadband access for libraries, hospitals, emergency care providers, public safety facilities, and many other anchor institutions in unserved and underserved areas. Additional benefits include affordable broadband access for local residents and businesses. The Project will have positive impacts on socioeconomic resources, and is not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts on socioeconomic resources.

Human Health and Safety

Several hazardous waste sites have been identified within or near the Project area. With the exception of two locations, these sites are not situated within existing ROWs or other areas of the Project. Therefore, it is unlikely that hazardous wastes will be encountered during Project installation along this portion of the route. At the two areas of concern, BendBroadband will determine if potential hazardous materials are present along Airport Way in Madras and near Lamonita Road in Prineville. If potential risks are identified, the cable route will be modified or terminated at these locations.

BMPs for workplace safety will be implemented to protect workers and the public. Extra caution will also be taken in school zones and around hospitals. Contractors will be required to develop a Health and Safety Plan, which provides details on safety policies and procedures for construction workers. Contractors will adhere to all Federal, State, and local safety and health laws and regulations and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) guidelines to ensure compliance with proper safety and installation procedures. With implementation of these protection measures, the Project will not generate any significant adverse worker or traffic-related health or safety issues.

Cumulative Impacts

As described above, the Project will not have significant adverse impacts on any of the environmental resource areas evaluated in the EA. With Project construction occurring along existing ROWs, there is potential for overlap between the planned installation and future improvements. BendBroadband will work with the local governments to coordinate scheduling details to avoid construction conflicts, including traffic safety and access issues. As such, no cumulative impacts on the environment are anticipated.

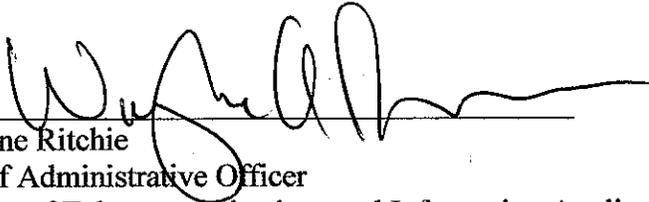
Decision

Based on the above analysis, NTIA concludes that constructing and operating the Project as defined by the preferred alternative, identified BMPs, and protective measures, will not require additional mitigation. A separate mitigation plan is not required for the Project. The analyses

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indicate that the proposed action is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. NTIA has determined that preparation of an EIS is not required.

Issued:



Wayne Ritchie
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Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications
National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Date 7/19/2011