



**Broadband Infrastructure Application  
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

<b>Submitted Date:</b> 3/26/2010 12:45:39 PM	<b>Easygrants ID:</b> 5022
<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> NEZ PERCE TRIBE
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application - BTOP	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Christina St Germaine

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## A. General Application Information

Applicant Information	
Name and Federal ID for Applicant	
<b>DUNS Number</b>	078208303
<b>CCR # (CAGE)</b>	1T6Y2
<b>Legal Business Name</b>	NEZ PERCE TRIBE
<b>Point of Contact (POC)</b>	KATHY TAYLOR 2088437317 Ext. 3837 kathyt@nezperce.org
<b>Alternate POC</b>	ANTHONY BRONCHEAU 2088437317 Ext. 3832 anthonyb@nezperce.org
<b>Electronic Business POC</b>	ANTHONY BRONCHEAU 2088437317 Ext. 3832 anthonyb@nezperce.org
<b>Alternate Electronic Business POC</b>	KATHY TAYLOR 2088437317 Ext. 3837 kathyt@nezperce.org

Name and Contact Information of Person to be Contacted on Matters Involving this Application:	
<b>Prefix</b>	
<b>First Name</b>	Christina
<b>Middle Name</b>	
<b>Last Name</b>	St Germaine
<b>Suffix</b>	
<b>Telephone Number</b>	208-621-3632



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<b>Fax Number</b>	208-843-7309
<b>Email</b>	chriss@nezperce.org
<b>Title</b>	Grant Writer

**Additional Contact Information of Person to be Contacted on Matters Involving this Application:**

Project Role	Name	Phone	Email
Other Contact	Chip , Damato	2087918775	cdamato@inlandcellular.com
Secondary Point of Contact	Danae , Wilson	2088437307 1	danaew@nezperce.org

**Environmental Point of Contact**

Prefix: Name: St Germaine, Christina Suffix: Telephone Number: 2088432253 Title: Grant Writer
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**Organization Classification**

<b>Type of Organization</b>	Indian Tribe
<b>Is the organization a small business?</b>	No
<b>Does the organization meet the definition of a socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern?</b>	No



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<b>Authorized Organizational Representative</b>	
<b>AOR Name</b>	TAYLOR, KATHY
<b>Result</b>	Notify

**Project Title and Project Description**

**Project Title:** Nez Perce Reservation Broadband Enhancement

**Project Description:** The Nez Perce Tribe in partnership with private partners will build wireless middle mile infrastructure to areas within the Nez Perce Reservation currently underserved. The project will enhance delivery of last mile service of telecommunications for public safety and emergency service entities, Northwest Indian College, community libraries, and bolster economic development opportunities.

**CCI Priority Checklist**

**The following items were selected from the CCI Priority Checklist:**

1. This project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure to community anchor institutions.
2. The project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure and has incorporated a public-private partnership among government, non-profit and for-profits entities, and other key community stakeholders.
3. This project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure in economically distressed areas.
4. This project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure to community colleges.
5. This project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure to public safety entities.
6. This project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure and either includes a Last Mile infrastructure component in unserved or underserved areas or has received commitments from one or more Last Mile broadband service providers to utilize the Middle Mile components. Any Last Mile components in rural areas do not exceed 20% of the total eligible costs of the project.

**Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Components**

**The following items were selected from the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Components:**



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Middle Mile

Last Mile Rural

Last Mile Non-Rural

**BIP Applicants**

Have you also applied to BIP for funding in the sample proposed funded service area?

- No

If Yes, please provide the project title and Easygrants ID number:

Title of Joint BIP Application:

Easygrants ID:

**Other Applications**

Is this application being submitted in coordination with any other application being submitted during this round of funding?

- Yes

Easygrants ID	Project Title
643	First Step Internet, LLC
4791	Idaho Rural Communities Broadband Initiative
6743	High Quality Public Computing in Idaho Libraries
7025	Fostering Broadband Adoption for Senior Citizens, Rural Americans, and Native Americans

If YES, please explain any synergies and/or dependencies between this project and any other applications.

The Nez Perce Tribe has been engaged in and developing outreach efforts related to telecommunication collaborative partnerships over the past five years. The Nez Perce



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Reservation and north central Idaho present many complex challenges in topography, low density population, high rate of poverty and limited access to infrastructure. Each of these challenges represents an opportunity for leveraging available resources when partners are engaged in development.

There are six major players bringing resources in a symbiotic relationship with the end goal delivery of reliable telecommunications to the Reservation and region: the Nez Perce Tribe; State of Idaho; Idaho Library Commission; First Step Internet; and, Washington RSA No 8 Limited Partnership, dba Inland Cellular. The symbiosis lies within the shared middle mile infrastructure between the Nez Perce Tribe and First Step Internet; and Inland Cellular; with last mile benefits being distributed to the State of Idaho Rural Broadband Initiative and Idaho Library Commission projects. Lastly, One Economy approached the Nez Perce Tribe to include the youth digital connector program; they will utilize the Nez Perce Tribe middle and last mile network in Tribal communities.

The Nez Perce Tribe’s BIP/BTOP and First Step Internet Round 1 BTOP proposal (Easy grants 643) initiated a collocation partnership with the Nez Perce Tribe and will be built upon and expanded in this proposal. The projects are not interdependent but are complimentary. Both the Idaho Library Commission (Easy grants 6743) and Idaho Rural Broadband Initiative (Easy grants 4791) will utilize the middle mile infrastructure proposed herein by the Nez Perce Tribe to connect community anchor institutions within the Reservation communities. The One Economy proposal (Easy grants 7025) will utilize the Nez Perce Broadband network to deliver its proposal objectives within Nez Perce communities.

**Individual Background Screening**

Is the Applicant exempt from the Department of Commerce requirements regarding individual background screening in connection with any award resulting from this Application?

- Yes, Applicant is exempt because it is a unit of a state or local government

If the answer to the above question is "No," please identify each key individual associated with the Applicant who would be required to complete Form CD-346, "Applicant for Funding Assistance," in connection with any award resulting from this Application:

Name	Title	Employer
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## B. Executive Summary, Project Purpose and Benefits

### Essay Question

#### Executive Summary of the proposed project:

a) Opportunity the proposed system seeks to address

Current access to broadband is limited across the Nez Perce Reservation; providers offering broadband within the Reservation include: Qwest, Verizon, Suddenlink, First Step Internet, QRO of Idaho and the Nez Perce Tribe. The problem this project addresses: within the Reservation fifteen of the twenty-five Census Block Groups' broadband connectivity options are limited to dial up and/or satellite. Deployment of a wireless broadband network is the most effective way to reach the remote places and provide reliable, affordable access to both private and public sector users. The Nez Perce Tribe in partnership with private sector telecommunications providers is proposing to facilitate the delivery of affordable/reliable last mile service options to underserved residents, businesses and critical community institutions as a result of this project.

b) A general description of the proposed funded service area

The Nez Perce Tribe Reservation encompasses 1,203 square miles within north central Idaho and includes four counties (Clearwater, Idaho, Lewis and Nez Perce). Within the Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe ownership is checkerboard in pattern; in the mid 1800's much of the Reservation was opened for settlement. Today the Nez Perce Tribe and its members hold approximately 750,000 acres (10%) of the land base. Within the Nez Perce Tribe Reservation are twenty-five (25) Census Block Groups, ten (10) incorporated communities, eight (8) unincorporated communities. The majority of resident premises lie outside of the incorporated city limits. US Census 2000 tracts included in the proposed service area include: 9901; parts of 9701; 9702; parts of 9605; 9501; and 9502.

c) Number of households and businesses

According to the 2000 US Census, the Nez Perce Reservation is home to 17,959 persons; there are 7,005 households; and according to Idaho Regional Labor Economist there are 643 employer businesses and 1,886 non employer businesses. This project will target 12,698 people living in



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the 4,864 households and the 2,428 businesses located in the rural areas, and census block groups outside of incorporated communities that are currently underserved.

d)Number of community anchor institutions, public safety entities and critical community organizations involved with the project

This project will address current connectivity gaps by developing middle mile infrastructure of wireless telecommunication that will reduce identified coverage gaps thus benefiting critical community organization connectivity and enhance public safety. This project will expand the infrastructure capacity and therefore the opportunity for EMS (8 Rural Fire Depts., 4 County Sheriff Depts., ID State Police, and Tribal Police), four (4) libraries, and one (1) community college connectivity to broadband telecommunications Reservation wide.

e)Proposed services and applications for the proposed funded service area

The Nez Perce Tribe will develop a 200Megabit wireless backbone connecting the Reservation communities of Lapwai, Winchester, Culdesac, Lenore, Peck, Ahsahka, Orofino, Nezperce, Kamiah, Kooskia, Stites and the territories therein in partnership with First Step Internet (and a Round 1 BIP/BTOP applicant) and Washington RSA No 8 Limited Partnership dba Inland Cellular. Service resulting from this project will include: internet, data and cellular communications middle and last mile; and, a disaster recovery center for public and private users across the Nez Perce Tribe Reservation.

f)Approach to addressing the non-discrimination and interconnection obligations

The Nez Perce Tribe recognizes the value of internet access as a communication tool beneficial to the citizens, businesses and public entities across its boundaries. The service delivery will adhere to FCC 05-151 Internet availability policy established by the Federal Communications Commission, adopted August 2005. By engaging private partners, this project maximizes the current tower and network capacity and expands service delivery range for all across towers developed through this project for the purpose of furthering communications capacity across the Nez Perce Reservation. Memorandums of Understandings between the partners for shared access of existing and proposed infrastructure have been executed.

g)Type of broadband system that will be deployed

This project will deploy a high bandwidth licensed (200 Megabit) wireless backbone network across the Nez Perce Tribe Reservation. This Wide Area Network (WAN) backbone will utilize Internet Protocol, which uses packet switching, where data is digitized, bundled and transmitted; routers direct the packets to appropriate network locations. Distribution will be done primarily utilizing 900 MHz, 850 MHz (voice), 23, 18 and 11, 4.9 and 2.4 GHz frequencies.

h)Qualifications of the applicant that demonstrate the ability to implement and operate a sustainable broadband infrastructure network



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The Nez Perce Tribe Information Systems program has since 1999 deployed broadband infrastructure networking; first to meet its own governmental needs; and since 2005 has been the infrastructure provider supporting EMS entities in the western sections of the Reservation. Over the past year, the expansion has included providing broadband internet connectivity to users in the Lapwai Valley.

The Nez Perce Tribe Information Systems technical staff have an average of fifteen years experience in network establishment and maintenance. Staff are well versed in Ethernet, FastEthernet, GigEthernet and DSL switching, routing and configuration.

First Step Internet, LLC began offering dial-up Internet access in 1994 with the idea of making Internet access available to virtually everyone. First Step Internet has matured to being an ISP that services areas in Central Washington and Idaho. The products of First Step Internet has grown to offer includes Accelerated Dial-up, V.92 Technology, Frame Relay, ADSL and Fixed Wireless Internet service.

Washington RSA No 8 Limited Partnership provides telephone service in Lenore, Idaho. Doing business as Inland Cellular since 1992, they are a locally operated rural cellular communications company that provides service in Southeastern Washington and North Central Idaho. As the cellular industry has exploded in the last decade and the number of people using cell phones has greatly increased (85% saturation nationally), Inland Cellular has added new towers, advanced technology and services, and staff to be able to keep our commitment to excellence across the rural remote service area which includes the Nez Perce Tribe Reservation.

i)Overall infrastructure cost of the broadband system \$ 2,282,589

j)Overall expected subscriber projections for the project

This project will provide opportunity of broadband internet access to each of the four county governments, rural fire and quick response districts, state and federal partners, residents and businesses across the Nez Perce Reservation. In addition, our partner Inland Cellular will be expanding its cellular voice and data network to reach areas of the Reservation currently unserved.

Cellular phone coverage across the Reservation is becoming a critical infrastructure in the public safety arena; major transportation corridors across north central Idaho are limited, east-west US Hwy 12 is the only option and north-south ID 95 is the only option. Each of these routes has significant sections where cellular coverage does not exist. Use of cellular phones has been on the rise; Inland Cellular has seen growth of 15% in subscribership over the past five years; with expanded coverage to currently unserved areas of the region uptakes rates are projected to reach 60 % saturation. In addition, public safety, corporate and individual business uses are expected to rise with the addition of service coverage.



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At a participation rate by the private sector of thirty-five percent of market share there will be 1,702 households and 224 employer businesses connected to the Nez Perce Tribe broadband network. The enhancement of middle mile infrastructure will also enable private sector service providers with subscribership growth.

k)Number of jobs estimated to be created or saved as a result of this project

Across the Nez Perce Tribe Reservation there are 642 established employers, who employ 5,927 persons. According to ID Dept of Labor, the top five sectors for growth in employment from 2004-2009 include: chemical manufacturing (200%), finance (181%), telecommunications (169%), education (87%), and sound recording (69%). Over the past year employment in the region has grown 1.1% with the development of a reliable, affordable broadband infrastructure projections are more likely to reach 3% growth, which suggests an additional 200 jobs per year would be generated as a result of the Nez Perce Tribe Broadband program d

**Project purpose:**

a)Project addresses compelling problem or presents an opportunity consistent with the BTOP statutory goals

This project is rooted in a regional economic development strategy that began in 2003 with the North Central Idaho-Southeast Washington Regional Economic Summit, where the most important infrastructure improvements identified for long term economic diversification and sustainability was expansion of telecommunications. Following the Summit the North Central Idaho Telecommunications Consortia (NCITC) was established. The NCITC has strategically planned for and mapped out an initiative for regional deployment of a wide area network. The Nez Perce Tribe, a proactive member of the NCITC has demonstrated capacity to manage a large infrastructure and to leverage a wide variety of partners enabling effective and efficient telecommunications service delivery.

This collaborative partnership offers the region with a tremendous opportunity that is consistent with the goals of BTOP: to provide broadband access in unserved and underserved areas; to provide public safety agencies, community colleges and libraries access to broadband infrastructure; and to stimulate economic growth.

b)Project offers an effective solution

This project will develop wireless pathways that enable residents, businesses and emergency management responders, libraries and Northwest Indian College access to broadband wireless (internet, data, video and cellular coverage) across the Nez Perce Tribe Reservation landscape. Wireless technologies offer more cost effective build out than does that of fiber optics and can be



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routed along the way to reach into the deep canyons where users occupy (currently served by dial up or satellite).

c) Proposed solution demonstrates broad significance and includes development that can be replicated

Project development has followed a strategic pathway, including: public meetings to survey community business, residents, public health & safety entities, educational institutions regarding current bandwidth use, future needs and costs for identified service; and an assessment of existing infrastructure and capacity of delivery. The regional strategic assessment and implementation planning efforts are well documented and available for duplication as a model for other rural, remote mountainous regions.

The technology proposed takes into consideration the lack of available fiber connectivity and/or redundancy across the region. Through partnerships with public and private sector entities established and secured for this proposal the infrastructure will seek to garner maximum cost benefit return through efficiencies; use of existing towers and infrastructure of all partners and new tower locations that will target unserved & underserved areas and will support an array of broadband telecommunications facilities.

d) Whether the proposed funded service area is unserved or underserved

Pockets of broadband connectivity exist, centered primarily within the incorporated cities across the Nez Perce Reservation. Communities with at least one broadband service provider of at least 768 Kbps are described below:

Qwest-Lapwai, Culdesac, Winchester, Craigmont, Nezperce, Kamiah, Kooskia Stites

Washington RSA No 8 Limited Partnership-Lenore

Verizon-Peck, Ahsahka, Orofino

First Step Internet-Orofino, Craigmont, Nezperce, Kamiah, Culdesac

Nez Perce Information Systems-Lapwai

Suddenlink-Ahsahka, Orofino, Peck, Winchester

QRO-Kooskia, Kamiah, Orofino, Peck

Within these communities service is limited to town centers with a few exceptions where line of sight enables residents in outlying parcels can obtain a wireless signal; DSL is limited by the copper infrastructure and reaches a maximum of 18,000 linear feet from the primary Central Offices. This project targets Census Block Groups currently underserved; targeted areas lie beyond incorporated community boundaries.

e) The extent to which the project addresses more than one statutory purpose

Through collocation on existing towers and construction of new towers, this project will deploy wireless broadband and cellular telecommunication facilities across the Reservation to reach



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users currently underserved and underserved located within the following Census Tract – Block Groups

9901-1, 2, 3, 5-Lapwai-Culdesac QRU, Big Canyon RFD, Valley Prairie Library District – Culdesac & Peck, Nez Perce County Sheriff, Tribal Police, ID State Police  
9702-1, 5, 7, 8-Sunnyside RFD, Upper Fords RFD, Greer RFD, Clearwater County Sheriff  
9605-1, 2, 5-Glenwood Caribel QRU/RFD, Clearwater Home school Assoc, Idaho County Sheriff, Lewis Clark State College Outreach Center – Kooskia, Prairie River District - Kooskia  
9502-1, 2, 3, 5-Winchester RFD, Big Canyon RFD, Lewis County Sheriff, ID State Police, Tribal Police  
9501-1-Lewis County Sheriff, Nezperce RFD, NW Indian Community College

The gaps in service areas for Emergency Management Service /Public Safety providers across the region are wide; topographic features make it difficult for transmission of signal. One area of particular interest by EMS personnel is along the US Hwy 12 corridor; it winds along the Clearwater River and against the narrow canyon walls signal transmission is severely limited. This project will locate towers and wireless facilities to fill in as many of the gaps possible, which will enhance public safety. The expanded delivery of broadband access will enable enhanced business opportunities for entrepreneurs and add capacity for manufacturers to download large data and product specification files thus expanding job offering capacity; which will in turn facilitate business expansion and job creation. The Nez Perce Reservation lies within the federally designated economic development district (Clearwater EDA), and Counties within the Reservation are eligible labor surplus areas for government contracting.

**Recovery Act and Other Governmental Collaboration:**

The Nez Perce Tribe and partners are poised to make a significant improvement to broaden access to and capacity of the telecommunications network across the Nez Perce Reservation. Telecommunications is a key component of the economic foundation for rural north central Idaho; the project proposed herein will serve to bolster this building block that enables private businesses, public health and safety and educational institutions access where it is currently limited or non-existent.

The collaborative efforts of this application stem back to a Regional Summit in 2003, where the lack of reliable telecommunications across much of the north central Idaho landscape was recognized as a hindrance to community sustainability, public health, safety and education, and economic opportunity. Efforts to leverage resources from federal, state, Tribal and local governments as well as private sector have been successful in expanding telecommunications



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capacity to most of the incorporated communities: USDA Rural Development funding has been utilized to develop the ‘North Central Idaho Telecom Assessment and Implementation Plan (2006) and North Central Idaho Schematic Wide Area Network Design (2008); State of Idaho Telecommunications funding was used to bolster Qwest Central Office capacity; a partnership between a local ISP, First Step Internet and the Nez Perce Tribe has enhanced a backbone within the Orofino, ID area (and serves as a model from which this project is designed), in addition First Step Internet is a Round 1 BTOP applicant (File # 643; \$ 2,992,028) where if funded the Tribe’s proposal will utilize this enhanced network middle mile capacity where applicable to herein targeted Census Block groups. A collaborative between the Nez Perce Tribe and Inland Cellular Telephone Company has been forged to maximize coverage and infrastructure deployment to serve the Reservation and region with the most comprehensive telecommunications package in the most efficient manner.

The Nez Perce Tribe is also collaborating with the State of Idaho Round 2 BIP proposal to meet the needs of middle mile infrastructure deployment to serve the needs of education, healthcare and library institutions. Starting in 2005 the Nez Perce Tribe has been collaborating with regional Emergency Management institutions (Nez Perce County, City of Lewiston, ID State Police) by providing the telecommunications network backbone to support data, voice and radio traffic. The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security has recognized the Nez Perce Tribe’s capacity, which has resulted in the Tribe housing a disaster recovery data storage facility.

**Fit with BTOP CCI Priorities:**

Projects that deploy middle mile broadband infrastructure with commitment to offer new or substantially upgraded service to community anchor institutions.

This project will expand the infrastructure capacity and therefore the opportunity for EMS (10 Rural Fire Depts., 4 County Sheriff Depts., ID State Police, and Tribal Police), four (4) libraries, and one (1) community college connectivity to broadband telecommunications Reservation wide Projects that will deploy middle mile infrastructure and incorporate private – public sector partnerships

The Nez Perce Tribe, a federally recognized tribe is partnering with two private sector service providers, First Step Internet (A Round 1 BTOP applicant # 643) and Inland Cellular in pursuit of Round 2 BTOP funding.

Projects that will deploy middle mile infrastructure with intent to bolster growth in economically distressed areas

According to the latest census (2000), fourteen percent (14%) of the Nez Perce Reservation population (native and non native) are living in poverty and has a per capita income of \$ 19,017.



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Both Clearwater and Idaho Counties have been designated as labor surplus areas due to long term high unemployment. This project will enhance the opportunities for connectivity and therefore enhance the competitive edge and quality of service offered by Reservation based business sectors.

Projects that will deploy middle mile infrastructure with commitment to serve community colleges

This project will bolster programming capacity of the Northwest Indian Community College through delivery of enhanced telecommunications capacity to support Nez Perce Tribe outreach facilities.

Projects that will deploy middle mile infrastructure with commitment to serve public safety entities

This project will build on the regional and statewide collaborative partnerships between the Nez Perce Tribe its project partners and strive to meet the need of public safety entities. In 2005 the Nez Perce Tribe began collaborating with regional Emergency Management institutions (Nez Perce County, City of Lewiston, ID State Police) by providing the telecommunications network backbone to support data, voice and radio traffic; and with the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security for housing a disaster recovery data storage facility.

Projects that will deploy middle mile broadband that includes last mile

Middle mile developments proposed for funding from BTOP are aimed at filling in gaps where network capacity does not exist by any of the project partners; utilization of existing infrastructure (tower sites, network relays) is a key to the collaborative partnerships formed. Enhancement of the middle mile infrastructure will bolster each of the partners' ability to offer last miles services.

Projects that will deploy middle mile infrastructure and propose to contribute a non federal cost share of at least 30%

This project has a non federal cost share of 31.3%.

**Is the applicant seeking a waiver of the Buy American provision pursuant to section x.Q of the NOFA?**

- No

**Is the applicant delinquent on any federal debt?**

- No

If Yes, justification for delinquency:



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**Are you seeking a waiver of any requirement set forth in the NOFA that is not mandated by statute or applicable law?**

- No

**Is the applicant a current recipient of a grant or loan from RUS?**

- No

## C. Partners

**Are you partnering with any other key institutions, organizations, or other entities for this project?**

- Yes

If YES, key partners are listed below:

Project Role: Third party in-kind contributor Name: Owen, Kevin Phone: 2088828869 Email: kowen@fsr.net Address 1: 1420 S Blain St Address 2: Address 3: City: Moscow State: Idaho Zip Code: 83843 Organization: First Step Internet, LLC Organization Type: For-profit Entity Small business: Yes Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No
Project Role: Third party in-kind contributor Name: Brooks, James Phone: 5096942500 Email: jbrooks@inlandnet.com Address 1: PO Box 688 Address 2: Address 3: City: Roslyn State: Washington Zip Code: 98941 Organization: Inlnad Cellular Telephone Company Organization Type: For-profit Entity



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Small business: Yes  
Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

**Description of the involvement of the partners listed above in the project.**

By Resolution, the Nez Perce Tribe has engaged two primary private sector telecommunications providers offering services within the Nez Perce Reservation: First Step Internet and Washington RSA No 8 Limited Partnership dba Inland Cellular. These partners were also sought to maximize the utilization of existing infrastructure (i.e. tower sites) as a measure to make fiscal efficiencies as well as implementation logistic, and impacts to natural and scenic quality considerations. Memorandums of Understanding for each partner have been included.

First Step Internet, LLC began offering dial-up Internet access in 1994 since then, the products of First Step Internet have grown to include Accelerated Dial-up, V.92 Technology, Frame Relay, ADSL and Fixed Wireless Internet service. First Step and the Nez Perce Tribe are partners on a middle mile/last mile 200 Megabit bandwidth project to cover the Orofino, ID community and surrounding areas. This existing partnership will be utilized in the proposed enhanced middle mile network deployment. With a current success in leveraging resources, existing collocation, and that First Step is a Round 1 BTOP pending applicant it only makes sense to further our collaborative relationship.

Washington RSA No 8 Limited Partnership provides telephone service in Lenore, Idaho. Since 1992, Inland Cellular since has been a locally operated rural cellular communications company that provides service in Southeastern Washington and North Central Idaho. The Nez Perce Tribe is a subscriber to Inland's cellular service and has entered into collocation agreements to provide public safety telecommunication enhancements in some parts of the Reservation. Bringing Inland Cellular into the project expands the focus beyond data to include expanded voice coverage, which will greatly enhance public safety along targeted areas currently unserved due to topographical and rurality challenges.

## **D. Congressional Districts**

### **Applicant Headquarters**

- Idaho



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**Project Service States**

Idaho

**Project Service Areas**

Idaho - 1

**Will any portion of your proposed project serve federally recognized tribal entities?**

- Yes

**Indicate each federally recognized tribal entity your proposed project will serve.**

Nez Perce Tribe

**Have you consulted with each of the federally recognized tribal entities identified above?**

- Yes

## **E. Service Area Details**

**Is the applicant seeking a waiver for providing less than 100% coverage of a service area?**

- Yes

<b>Project Details</b>
------------------------

<b>Service Area Type:</b>	Middle Mile
<b>Service Area Name:</b>	Nez Perce Tribe Reservation
<b>Rural Classification of the Last Mile Service Area:</b>	Rural
<b>Service Status of the Last Mile Service Area:</b>	Underserved



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**If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.**  
 No more than 50% of the households in the proposed funded service area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed;

**Total Square Miles in Service Area:** 1,203  
**Total Population in Proposed Service Area:** 12,689  
**Total Number of Households in Service Area:** 4,864  
**Total Number of Businesses in Service Area:** 2,428  
**Total Number of Community Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities in Proposed Funded Service Area:** 18  
**Unemployment Rate in the Service Area:** 10  
**Median Income in the Service Area:** 32,655  
**Estimated Percentage of Households with Access to Broadband:** 30  
**Estimated Percentage of Households Subscribing to Broadband:** 20

**Service Area Type:** Last Mile  
**Service Area Name:** Lapwai Valley  
**Rural Classification of the Last Mile Service Area:** Non-Rural  
**Service Status of the Last Mile Service Area:** Underserved

**If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.**  
 The rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded service area is 40% of households or less.

**Total Square Miles in Service Area:** 23  
**Total Population in Proposed Service Area:** 1,500  
**Total Number of Households in Service Area:** 1,089  
**Total Number of Businesses in Service Area:** 45  
**Total Number of Community Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities in Proposed Funded Service Area:** 6  
**Unemployment Rate in the Service Area:** 27  
**Median Income in the Service Area:** 15,000  
**Estimated Percentage of Households with Access to Broadband:** 50  
**Estimated Percentage of Households Subscribing to Broadband:** 10



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**Service Area Type:** Last Mile  
**Service Area Name:** Kamiah - Kooskia  
**Rural Classification of the Last Mile Service Area:** Rural  
**Service Status of the Last Mile Service Area:** Underserved

**If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.**  
 The rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded service area is 40% of households or less.

**Total Square Miles in Service Area:** 51  
**Total Population in Proposed Service Area:** 2,829  
**Total Number of Households in Service Area:** 1,174  
**Total Number of Businesses in Service Area:** 175  
**Total Number of Community Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities in Proposed Funded Service Area:** 3  
**Unemployment Rate in the Service Area:** 11  
**Median Income in the Service Area:** 23,913  
**Estimated Percentage of Households with Access to Broadband:** 30  
**Estimated Percentage of Households Subscribing to Broadband:** 20

**Service Area Type:** Last Mile  
**Service Area Name:** Orofino - Ahsahka  
**Rural Classification of the Last Mile Service Area:** Rural  
**Service Status of the Last Mile Service Area:** Underserved

**If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.**  
 The rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded service area is 40% of households or less.

**Total Square Miles in Service Area:** 15  
**Total Population in Proposed Service Area:** 2,612  
**Total Number of Households in Service Area:** 1,224  
**Total Number of Businesses in Service Area:** 331  
**Total Number of Community Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities in Proposed Funded Service Area:** 4  
**Unemployment Rate in the Service Area:** 15  
**Median Income in the Service Area:** 30,800



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**Estimated Percentage of Households with Access to Broadband:** 50  
**Estimated Percentage of Households Subscribing to Broadband:** 30

**Service Area Type:** Last Mile  
**Service Area Name:** Peck  
**Rural Classification of the Last Mile Service Area:** Rural  
**Service Status of the Last Mile Service Area:** Underserved

<b>If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.</b>
No more than 50% of the households in the proposed funded service area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed;
No fixed or mobile broadband service provider advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 mbps downstream in the proposed funded service area;

**Total Square Miles in Service Area:** 15  
**Total Population in Proposed Service Area:** 1,223  
**Total Number of Households in Service Area:** 524  
**Total Number of Businesses in Service Area:** 13  
**Total Number of Community Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities in Proposed Funded Service Area:** 3  
**Unemployment Rate in the Service Area:** 10  
**Median Income in the Service Area:** 31,375  
**Estimated Percentage of Households with Access to Broadband:**  
**Estimated Percentage of Households Subscribing to Broadband:**

## F. Community Anchor Summary

Community Anchor Summary	
<b>Schools (k-12)</b>	2
<b>Libraries</b>	4



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<b>Medical and Healthcare Providers</b>	3
<b>Public Safety Entities</b>	14
<b>Community Colleges</b>	1
<b>Public Housing</b>	1151
<b>Other Institutions of Higher Education</b>	1
<b>Other Community Support Organization</b>	0
<b>Other Government Facilities</b>	2
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>1178</b>
<b>Historically Black colleges and Universities</b>	0
<b>Tribal Colleges and Universities</b>	1
<b>Alaska Native Serving Institutions</b>	0
<b>Hispanic Serving Institutions</b>	0
<b>Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions</b>	0
<b>TOTAL MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>1</b>

## G. Project Benefits

### Demographics

### Jobs



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<b>How many direct jobs-years will be created from this project?</b>	25
<b>How many indirect jobs will be created from this project?</b>	592
<b>How many jobs will be induced from this project?</b>	148

**Methodology used to estimate jobs:**

Utilizing the model referred to in the Council of Economic Advisors Guide to Job Creation Estimates multiplier for government purchases based on output effects of this project, job creation impacts are valued at one job-year per \$ 92,000 government spending. This project proposal is to spend \$ 2,282,589 therefore generating 25 new FTE jobs.

The rurality of the proposed service areas and the close ties historically to natural resource extraction industries, coupled with efforts by local and regional economic development groups to diversify the economic base we must consider a regional perspective.

According to the Jan 2010 Workforce Trends (ID Labor) newsletter covering North Central Idaho, economic sectors of growth over the past five years have been: tourism (400 new jobs); health care (300 new jobs); and new business ventures start up rates grew 4% from 1999 – 2009. Despite low levels of job creation, the region as a whole has maintained a fairly steady pace regarding economic development when compared to state and national trends. The Idaho Department of Labor has generated industry projections (2006 – 2016) that suggest an overall 13.3 % job growth across north central Idaho, which relates to an addition of 6,579 FTE jobs. Using this projection and a proposed service delivery area equal to approximately 70 % of the entire region; this project can infer job growth of 9 % or 592 FTE jobs.

**Project Impact:**

Within the Nez Perce Tribe Reservation are twenty-five (25) Census Block Groups, ten (10) incorporated communities, eight (8) unincorporated communities. This project will address current connectivity gaps by developing middle mile infrastructure of wireless telecommunications backbone that will reduce the gaps thus benefiting critical community organization connectivity. This project will expand the infrastructure capacity and therefore the opportunity for EMS (8 Rural Fire Depts., 4 County Sheriff Depts., ID State Police, Tribal Police), four (4) libraries, and one (1) community college connectivity to broadband telecommunications Reservation wide. Currently, the Nez Perce Tribe Information Systems programs communications infrastructure across Nez Perce County supports Emergency Management Services (EMS) for the City of Lewiston, Nez Perce County and Idaho State Police. In addition to expanding middle mile broadband connectivity, the Nez Perce Tribe Information Systems program will offer safe data storage and disaster recovery that will benefit the critical community facilities across the Reservation.



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According to the last decennial census (2000) there are: 12,698 people residing in 4,864 households; 1,803 non employer businesses; and, 625 employer businesses within the proposed service are Census Tract Block Group service areas proposed herein.

Last mile service options will be expanded as a result of project implementation; the middle mile network will include access for internet as well as cellular service facilities. Several last mile service providers have expressed interest; the project partners (private & public sector) each offer a last mile service; additional last mile providers such as Happy Elves Media, a local start up IPS, has expressed interest in collocation opportunities with the Nez Perce Tribe.

Based on a line of sight analysis for the proposed tower sites the service areas of coverage are: Middle Mile – Nez Perce Reservation; Last Mile – Lapwai Valley, Ahsahka – Orofino, Peck, Kamiah-Kooskia.

**Vulnerable Populations:**

The Nez Perce and native American people living within North Central Idaho area served by the Ni Mii Puu Health Clinic with facilities in Lapwai and Kamiah. In addition to service within the clinics, Ni Mii Puu Health provides in home care and case management to Native Americans with physical, mental and social vulnerabilities as well as a population of elders. These clients are located both within tribal housing units and in privately owned residences, or in some cases are homeless and live with friends or from place to place. Ni Mii Puu staff encourage the use of internet as a case management tool when possible; it is a reliable, always on mechanism for clients to relay needs (prescription refills, bandaging supply and other related health care needs). In a recent survey twenty-four (24%) percent of the Ni Mii Puu clients had at least access to a computer.

Outside of the Native population, there are several service delivery institutions for those vulnerable residents: Community Action Partnership, Drug Court, Idaho Dept of Health & Welfare; in addition to the three privately operated hospitals (Clearwater Valley Hospital & Clinic, St Mary’s Hospital, Syringa Hospital) across the Reservation. Over the past two years a regional telemental health effort has been underway; there was no access to child psychology and limited access or adult psychology treatment in the region. The regional Health & Welfare group has tracked 392 adults and 210 children (ages 4-17) with mental health conditions needing psychiatric services. To date, each of the three privately operated hospital are connected to the regional network. This project will enable the Ni Mii Puu Health system access to the network, which will provide enhanced access to treatment for the Native population across the Reservation.

**Level of Need:**



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The collaborative efforts of this application stem back to a Regional Summit in 2003, where the lack of reliable telecommunications across much of the north central Idaho landscape was recognized as a hindrance to community sustainability, public health, safety and education, and economic opportunity. Efforts to leverage resources from federal, state, Tribal and local governments as well as private sector have been successful in expanding telecommunications capacity to most of the incorporated communities: USDA Rural Development funding has been utilized to develop the ‘North Central Idaho Telecom Assessment and Implementation Plan (2006) and North Central Idaho Schematic Wide Area Network Design (2008); State of Idaho Telecommunications funding was used to bolster Qwest Central Office capacity within selected communities in the Reservation; a piloted partnership between a local ISP, First Step Internet and the Nez Perce Tribe has enhanced a backbone within the Orofino, ID area (this pilot partnership serves as a model from which this project is designed), in addition First Step Internet is a Round 1 BTOP applicant (File # 643; \$ 2,992,028) where if funded the Tribe’s proposal will utilize this enhanced network middle mile capacity where applicable to herein targeted Census Block groups. A collaborative between the Nez Perce Tribe and Inland Cellular has been forged to maximize coverage and infrastructure deployment to serve the Reservation and region with the most comprehensive telecommunications package in the most efficient manner.

Current access to telecommunications is limited across the Nez Perce Reservation; providers offering broadband within the Reservation include: Qwest, Verizon, Suddenlink, First Step Internet, QRO of Idaho and the Nez Perce Tribe; providers offering cellular service within the Reservation include: Inland Cellular and Verizon. The service these entities offer is limited primarily to within incorporated city limits.

The problem this project addresses is aligned with the community needs identified over the past five years in the regions strategic approach to implementation. The Reservation is served by two incumbent carriers, Verizon and Qwest, each enjoys monopoly status in communities they serve. Gaps in existing service were indentified the lack of local loop and backbone/inter community networks. Across the region, small businesses recognize the lack of reliable affordable telecommunications affects their ability to grow their businesses. Specific unmet needs identified include: A DS 3 circuit request to connect Clearwater Valley Hospital and St Mary’s Hospital was denied by Qwest and Verizon due to lack of facilities; a T-1 connection to School District 117 was denied by Verizon because it was not tariffed; business clients within Verizon service area requested multiple T-1’s within a year and were denied due to lack of facilities. Public safety is compromised due to the lack of cellular telecommunications across the Reservation, in particular along both US Hwy 12, the only east-west route and ID 95, the only north-south route across the Reservation and in north central Idaho. Idaho Transportation Crash



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data reported for the past three years along the known unserved sections of US 12 mile post 21 – 39, mile post 51.5 – 65.5; and ID 95 mile post 278 – 300 are as follows:

Roadway	Total Accidents	Injury Reported	Fatality	Property Damaged
US 12 mp 21-39	87	28%	4%	67%
US 12 mp 51.5 – 65.65	35	51%	3%	46%
ID 95 mp 278 - 300	84	32%	2%	66%

Response times vary for each section of roadway indentified as unserved: ID 95 is within 5 miles of the Culdesac Quick Response Unit (a volunteer group), so drivers passing by could reach a land line within minutes of observation to relay the need for assistance; response time is likely within 30 minutes; US 12 sites are each easily 30 minutes from communication, so response times can be as long as 60 minutes. This project will deploy telecommunications coverage in these targeted areas as priority support for public safety. In addition, expanding voice and data coverage along these major collectors/transportation corridors will enable travelers ready access to roadway conditions ahead (Idaho’s 511 system), open opportunities for visitor information delivery, and provide the opportunity for enhanced public transit service which could include access to telecommunications on the go.

Within the Reservation fifteen of the twenty-five Census Block Groups’ telecommunications options are limited to dial up and/or satellite or are nonexistent. Due to the low population density (Clearwater County 3.6, Idaho 1.8, Lewis 7.8 persons per sq mile respectively) and topographic challenges across the landscape (river canyons and ridges with 3,000 ft elevation differences) deployment of a wireless telecommunications network is the most effective way to reach the remote places and provide reliable, affordable access to both private and public sector users. The Nez Perce Tribe in partnership with two private sector telecommunications providers is proposing to share existing infrastructure as a means to maximize deployment of middle mile infrastructure throughout the Reservation; facilitating enhancement of affordable/reliable last mile service options to underserved residents, businesses and critical community institutions.

## H. Technology

### Technology Type

**Indicate the technology that will be used to deliver last mile services. The following items were selected:**

Wireless - Terrestrial Mobile



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Other:

**Technology Questions**

**Methodology for Area Status:**

In partnership with the North Central Idaho Telecommunications Consortia (NCITC), the Nez Perce tribe has worked to determine the existing needs and infrastructure capacity across North Central Idaho communities; a multi pronged approach was undertaken to identify user needs, infrastructure capacity and limitations. To accomplish this the project team held community meetings to gather public input, interviewed business and critical community facilities; and, existing provider capacities were researched (websites, advertisements, and contact with local service technicians) to identify the providers' availability and service delivery of telecommunications across the region.

During this assessment process the lack of affordable and available broadband connectivity throughout much of the rural region across North Central Idaho became clear. Within the incorporated communities access to the internet is provided by either Qwest or Verizon along fiber optics, digital radio links or copper circuits. Within the Nez Perce Reservation communities Qwest has four Central Offices (Kamiah, Kooskia, Lapwai and Nezperce), each with a DMS 10 Switch. Copper lines extend out from the CO's, which limits DSL service delivery to a maximum of 18,000 linear feet. Within the remainder of the Reservation Verizon provides service in the communities of Greer, Ahsahka, Peck and Orofino from a DMS10 Switch, which is backhauled by copper T-1 from Ahsahka, Peck and Greer. The communities and surrounding areas of Lenore, Reubens and Gifford are served by Washington RSA No 8 Limited Partnership dba Inland Telephone Central Office in Lenore. Connectivity costs associated with each provider were identified as well; price ranges from \$ 600 – 2,000 for equipment & labor installation fees; T-1 orders must be placed for an accurate estimate but in general terms was estimated from \$ 700 – 1,100 per month; DS-3 connectivity rates are also unavailable without a formal order placement.

Wireless internet providers within portions of the Reservation include: First Step Internet (a project partner); Inland Cellular (a project partner) and QRO Idaho. Satellite internet is available through DirectWay, Wild Blue and Star band; each of these options are available across the Reservation.

Cable internet access is also available within certain communities of the Reservation (Ahsahka, Peck, Kamiah, Nezperce & Winchester).



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US Census data were used to document the total population within the proposed service area (data source <http://factfinder.census.gov> ). The Nez Perce Reservation encompasses 750,000 acres and the total population is 17,959. Across the majority of the landscape there are less than four persons per square mile.

**Description of Network Openness:**

The Nez Perce Tribe broadband network will adhere to the Federal Communication Commission policy statement: FCC 05-151, released September 2005. The management practices adopted regarding interconnection will preserve consumers’ access to lawful internet content; to connect devices that do not harm the network, and are legal.

The infrastructure deployed will be made available for telecommunications deployment, radio and media related transmission for public safety, information and well being. As an outcome, tower locations in more targeted and remote sites across the region will be a valuable asset for a wide range of users within public (state, federal, county and local government) and private network operators. This wide area network will utilize nodes and linkages across existing infrastructure as well as that proposed herein to most efficiently meet the needs of businesses and community facilities. This project has been developed as a primary wireless linkage that is rooted in partnership and collaboration in order to meet the network needs across the region.

Key partnerships developed proactively as part of this project proposal between the Nez Perce Tribe; First Step Internet a local internet service provider and BTOP Round 1 applicant; and Washington RSA No 8 Limited Partnership dba Inland Cellular a local cellular phone provider.

Beyond providing access to the internet and multiple service providers, this project will support offers of distance learning (users include: NW Indian Community College, Lewis-Clark State College); libraries (each district as well as the State Library Network); public safety communication (an expansion of existing user capacity – County sheriff’s, rural fire districts, Tribal Police); to expand the capacity of the network established between the Nez Perce Tribe and Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security for data back/up and safe storage; and to enhance the telemental health network established across the region. Terms and management protocol for interconnection will be identified on each of the project partners’ web sites and on promotional materials developed.

**System Design:**

The Nez Perce Reservation Broadband Enhancement project will utilize mobile wireless technology to develop both middle and last mile telecommunication capacity across the



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landscape. The system interconnection points have been strategically identified to utilize as much of the existing tower infrastructure as possible in through a public/private sector collaborative. The project ties into existing telecommunication infrastructure of all partners: The Nez Perce Tribes connection to service at Tribal Headquarters where 2 unique T 1 and a DS 3 connection exist, and an OC3 connection is proposed; a Tower currently utilized for interconnection, collocation and last mile service will also be utilized; Inland Cellular's existing infrastructure includes: backhaul from the Uniontown WA Central Office and six interconnection/collocation towers; and, First Step Internet's existing infrastructure includes: backhaul from the Moscow, ID Central Office and three interconnection/collocation towers. Currently, the Nez Perce Tribe Information System network utilizes a WiFi protocol at frequencies of 900 MHz, 11.0 GHz, 2.4 GHz, and 4.9 GHz (public safety only). Inland Cellular uses CDMA (Code division Multiple access) in the 850Mhz band for its voice and SMS access between users. For Wireless data in the Cellular spectrum Inland cellular utilizes 1xrtt , EVDO Rev 0 and EVDO REV A in the same 850MHZ band. Currently Inland Cellular uses microwave backhaul from each cell site to the main switch the main switch is located in Uniontown, WA. This backhaul consists of multiple ds1's aggregated into a ds3 or oc3 backhaul to that central location. First Step Internet service is delivered using the IEEE 802.11b standard, also known as WiFi, operating in the 2.4 gigahertz (GHz) frequency. From the distribution point, data is transferred to and from the First Step facilities in Moscow, Idaho, utilizing a higher frequency (5.8 GHz) and higher capacity backbone connection. In addition to WiFi service, First Step Internet also offers business-class service via microwave bridges operating in the 5.3 and 5.8 ghz spectrum. In partnership with the Nez Perce Tribe, First Step has deployed high capacity FCC licensed bridges from DragonWave and Stratex that can deliver up to 100mbps full duplex speeds that will be utilized in the proposed middle mile network..

Interconnection and collocation in the proposed project partnership with the Nez Perce Tribe, Inland Cellular and First Step Internet will utilize the existing infrastructure capacity and expand middle backhauled in packets running at 200 to 300 Mbps. The Nez Perce Tribe last mile service areas proposed herein will from the 200 Mb DargonWave wireless link to 2.4 GHz and 900 MHz access distribution points. Inland Cellular and first Step Internet last mile service will utilize WiFi and WiMaxx service build out will be integrated into the tower sites as the demand increases priority will be in or near populated areas to serve small communities like the towns of Winchester, Craigmont, Kamiah, Kooskia, and with secondly the less populated communities of Gifford, Culdesac and Greer will also gain the option of receiving WiMaxx data along with mobile phone coverage, and mobile data coverage.



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**Is the applicant seeking a waiver pursuant to section IX.C of the NOFA so as to sell or lease portions of the award-funded broadband facilities during their life?**

No

## I. Project Budget

Project Budget		
	Federal Grant Request	Match
Last Mile	220,305	196,406
Middle Mile	1,348,804	517,074
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,569,109</b>	<b>713,480</b>

**Project Budget Total:** \$2,282,589

**Match Percent:** 31.3%

### Projects Outside Recommended Funding Range:

By Resolution, the Nez Perce Tribe has engaged two primary private sector telecommunications providers offering services within the Nez Perce Reservation: First Step Internet and Washington RSA No 8 Limited Partnership dba Inland Cellular. These partners were also sought to maximize the utilization of existing infrastructure (i.e. tower sites) as a measure to make fiscal efficiencies as well as implementation logistics more favorable for a timely implementation schedule.

The project development team has developed a very proactive private-public sector partnership to facilitate a fiscally and environmentally responsible proposal that will benefit all residents within the Nez Perce Reservation.

Outside Leverage	
<b>Applicant is providing matching funds of at least 20% towards the total eligible project costs?</b>	Yes
<b>Matching cost detail</b>	Cash Match pledged by the Nez Perce Tribe \$ 52,300 Includes switching equipment in support of middle mile network



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	<p>growth and collocation fees associated with utilizing First Step Internet tower sites for middle mile access equipment.          In kind match pledge by the Nez Perce Tribe \$ 710,631          Includes staff time for implementation, maintenance and management of the network, both middle and last mile; Customer Service technicians (2 FTE additional), Billing Clerk (1 FTE additional), Network Technicians (2FTE) and an IT Technician (1 FTE) ; and, a service vehicle to be used in project implementation.</p>
<b>Unjust enrichment</b>	<p>The Nez Perce Tribe does not have, nor has it applied for federal support for non-recurring costs related to broadband delivery across the Nez Perce Reservation.</p>
<b>Disclosure of federal and/or state funding sources</b>	<p>The Nez Perce Tribe has been proactive in addressing telecommunication needs identified over the past three years. Following a public health and safety emergency in Orofino, Idaho; all communication was down as a result of limited telco provider capacity, where four a series of several days no communication outside of the community existed. As an action the Nez Perce Tribe Information Systems department sought federal and state funding to consider expanding its wireless broadband network capacity to Orofino. For this project \$ 30,000 was awarded by USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant funds and \$ 50,000 was awarded by Idaho GEM Community Implementation grant funds. This project is underway and will provide the first link in the Reservation wide network proposed herein.</p> <p>In 2006 the State of Idaho was awarded \$ 2,300,000 to develop a statewide Homeland Security Broadband Network Partnership. The Nez Perce Tribe Information Systems department has been a key player in implementing this network, which enables radio, voice, data transmission and video conferencing statewide. The Nez Perce funding leveraged as a part of this effort includes tower, Cisco 2821 IP router, Cisco 3560 IP switch and 4.9 microwave radio system at the Bio Control Center (\$ 38,140), which is a key initial transmission site for the proposed Reservation wide broadband enhancement project.</p>
<b>Budget reasonableness</b>	<p>The Nez Perce Reservation encompasses 12,698 square miles in a region where over thousands of years water erosion has created a</p>



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	<p>landscape of steep river canyons, prairie plateaus, and heavily forested slopes west to east to the Bitterroot mountains. Scattered across this landscape are small communities, ranging in size from 210 – 3,800; most of the residents live outside of incorporated city limits and are beyond the copper line capacity for delivery of broadband telecommunications capacity from the two ILECS (Verizon &amp; Qwest) that serve the region. With such low population density (4 persons per sq mile) the lack of a positive rate of return on investment (IRR - 13.15%) has deterred private sector deployment of telecommunications infrastructure. This project looks outside of the typical developers' box and has facilitated a proactive partnership to leverage all available resources to deploy the most economical wireless broadband telecommunications infrastructure to serve the most underserved areas of the Nez Perce Reservation. Under the proposed deployment for last mile, this project expects to provide service through the Nez Perce Tribe Information Systems program to the targeted service areas (Lapwai Valley, Peck, Ahshaka/Orofino and Kamiah) for a cost of \$ 150/household passed. Costs used to develop the project are based on actual bids/quotes for equipment; from linear foot estimate of grid connectivity from power providers; estimates from similar projects regarding tower erection and engineering estimates from local experts as well as frequency/radio/antennae coordination from TESSCO. Staff expenses, access costs are based on existing operations and projected for added capacity requirements related to the proposed expansion.</p>
<b>Demonstration of need</b>	<p>Within the Reservation fifteen of the twenty-five Census Block Groups' telecommunications options are limited to dial up and/or satellite or are nonexistent. Due to the low population density (Clearwater County 3.6, Idaho 1.8, Lewis 7.8 persons per sq mile respectively) and topographic challenges across the landscape (river canyons and ridges with 3,000 ft elevation differences) deployment of a wireless telecommunications network is the most effective way to reach the remote places and provide reliable, affordable access to both private and public sector users. The Nez Perce Tribe in partnership with two private sector telecommunications providers is proposing to</p>



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	<p>share existing infrastructure as a means to maximize deployment of middle mile infrastructure throughout the Reservation; facilitating enhancement of affordable/reliable last mile service options to underserved residents, businesses and critical community institutions. In accordance with the BTOP CCI guidelines a calculation of NPV/IRR has been undertaken; without assistance the Nez Perce Broadband Enhancement project across the Reservation has an IRR of -13.15% and a -\$610,570 Net Present Value. Without the proactive partnership established to develop this project implementation would be beyond the financial capacity of any one of the partners.</p>
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**Funds to States/Territories**

States	Amount of Federal Grant Request
Idaho	1,569,109

**Funds to States/Territories Total:** \$1,569,109

## J. Historical Financials

Matching Funds			
	2007	2008	2009
<b>Revenue</b>	1,104,194	1,016,649	1,294,364
<b>Expenditures</b>	1,099,268	997,214	1,242,951
<b>Net Assets</b>	4,926	19,435	51,413
<b>Change in Net Assets from Prior Year</b>	4,926	14,509	36,904
<b>Bond Rating (if applicable)</b>	na	na	na



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## K. Project Readiness

### BTOP Organizational Readiness

Organizationally, the Nez Perce Tribe has exceptional capacity to develop and implement delivery of broadband network services across the region. Over the past ten years the Information Systems team has risen to the communication and network challenges faced by rural remote workstations and communities. With a territory that stretches from the Bitterroot/Clearwater Mountains to the east, Wallowa mountains to the west; south to the Payette River basin, and north to the North Fork Clearwater drainage the Nez Perce Tribe's influence in and management of natural resources across hundreds of thousands of acres requires a multi-faceted communications network. To meet the challenge of enabling communications networks across the vast area the Information Systems team has been proactively seeking technologies that are reliable and affordable. Over the past three years partnerships with emergency management, public safety and health care organizations have expanded the capacity of the Nez Perce Tribe's communication network and strengthened collaborative partnerships to implement network solutions.

Since 2003, the Nez Perce Tribe Information Systems team has offered connectivity via dial-up service to local residents and businesses. A pilot project, implemented in 2008, provides wireless broadband internet access to those outside of Tribal governance programs in the Lapwai Valley. With one hundred thirty clients in the immediate Lapwai area the Information Systems team has demonstrated the ability to deliver, maintain and sustain a wireless broadband network. An expansion of this network and service provider capacity now includes a 200 Mbps backbone and wireless service in the Orofino community in collaboration with First Step Internet, a project partner and Round 1 BTOP applicant (# 643). By reaching out and partnering with two local service providers, who have been delivering telecommunications across the region for over ten years, this project maximizes network build out efficiencies and expands existing provider service areas.

For the Nez Perce Tribal network, the Information Systems team includes:

- Program Director: overall responsibility for programmatic oversight
- Project developer: grant writing and project administration/implementation oversight and coordination
- Information Technicians (3 FTE's): overall responsibility for programming, network administration and technical support



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- Data Technicians (2 FTE's): overall responsibility includes equipment installation and technical support (includes customer service support and invoicing)
  - Telecommunication Technicians (2 FTE): overall responsibility for telecommunications systems installation, maintenance, support and service
  - Interns (2 Part time): Assisting in all program areas
- In addition, having a dedicated finance management branch offers tremendous support to the operational infrastructure ; a Certified Public Accountant is assigned to the program.

**Construction and Vendor Contracts**

The Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) on the Nez Perce Tribe Reservation has a process for contractor certification. This project will utilize contractors who are certified as Indian owned whenever possible. In addition to being Indian owned, a major part of the certification is a demonstration of readiness to provide services. Currently, there are twenty-six certified contractors; eleven of which are suitable for construction and site development for tower locations and associated control room outbuilding construction. TERO certified contractor listing is available on line at <http://www.nezperce.org/Official/certifiedindianbusiness.htm>

**Customer Base**

The Nez Perce Tribe's existing customer base is government, community institutions, businesses and residents. The proposed project herein will enable expansion of broadband connectivity to Tribal housing communities: the Lapwai Valley has 1089 tribal housing units, 26 private businesses, two libraries, a quick response unit, Tribal Police, County Sheriff and Idaho State Patrol; the Peck area potential customer base includes Big Canyon rural fire distract, a library, ten private business ventures and 294 households; the Ahsahka – Orofino area has nine tribal housing units, four rural fire districts, County Sheriff, Tribal Police and Idaho State Patrol; the Kamiah area has 53 tribal housing units, a library, Lewis and Idaho County Sheriffs that are potential customers.

First Step Internet currently offers broadband service within the Reservation in the communities of Orofino, Craigmont, Nezperce, Kamiah and Culatesac. This project will enable First Step to expand into the markets of Ahsahka, Peck, Winchester, Gifford, Reubens, Kooskia and the rural residences between them. Inland Cellular coverage currently includes the communities of Orofino, Kamiah, Kooskia, Nezperce, Craigmont and Winchester. Currently Inland Cellular



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serves 139 unique businesses based within the Reservation, which is approximately twenty-one percent of the market.

**Licenses, Regulatory Approvals and Agreements**

The project partners have a variety of licenses and land leases in place that will facilitate project implementation:

The Nez Perce Tribe tower sites are owned by the Tribe in trust; FCC construction permit and Frequency coordination; land site leases for Greer Grade, Culdesac and Peck (the 3 non Tribal Trust site) will be secured in the first quarter post award.

First Step Internet holds land leases for its towers that will be utilized: Teaken, Gilbert, Nezperce; and the 11 GHz frequency license is approved.

Washington RSA No 8 Limited Partnership dba Inland Cellular is licensed in Idaho under ID RSA 2 (B-2) (CMA 389); the WiMaxx is an approved nationwide license under Call Sign WQKE630; and the tower site to be utilized are also approved and existing lease agreements: Stoney Point, Hunter, Mason Butte, Nuxoll, Kamiah, Agee.

**SPIN Number**

## **L. Environmental Questionnaire**

**Project Description**

New Tower Construction Sites will include site preparation, tower installation, placement of a pre-fabricated control building (8'x8' or 8'x12'), entrenchment of cabling and placement of telecommunications antennae and radio relays. Existing tower sites activity will include only installation of telecommunication transmission and related cabling. On sites used for last mile distribution, additional installation of telecommunications transmission equipment and cabling will take place.

**New Site Development**

Winchester –Needs: Road access, site preparation, power line, tower erection, pre-fab shed placement, telecom equipment installation



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Culdesac - Needs: Road access, site preparation, power line, tower erection, pre-fab shed placement, telecom equipment installation  
Lauby Butte –Needs: tower site excavation, tower erection, power line to pre-fab control building on site, installation of telecom equipment  
Peck –Needs: tower site excavation, tower erection, power line to pre-fab control building on site, installation of telecom equipment  
Greer Grade –Needs: Road access, site preparation, power line, tower erection, pre-fab shed placement, telecom equipment installation  
Greer 2 –Needs: Road access, site preparation, power line, tower erection, pre-fab shed placement, telecom equipment installation

**Property Changes**

Each tower site in the Nez Perce Reservation Broadband Enhancement project is located on a site with a current tower, on agricultural production or bare land. The sites with newly proposed tower construction include: Gifford, Tribal Unit 17 – agricultural; Kamiah, Tribal Unit 61 – bare land/Rock pit, Tribal Fee Unit 99-101 – agricultural and bare land. The Peck and Lauby sites have existing towers in place; the Greer Grade - existing use utility corridor, and Culdesac - existing use is agricultural, sites are located on private lands.

All sites except Peck and Lauby will require an access roadway, a tower site and foundation to be excavated. Less than three acres per site will be removed from agricultural production or current use; the actual sites themselves will be approximately half an acre, or 22,500 sq ft.

**Buildings**

Technology support buildings will be constructed for each proposed tower site by the Nez Perce Tribe TANF program staff; the buildings are 96 sq feet (8' x 12'), are prefabricated and delivered to each site.

**Wetlands**

None of the proposed tower sites or related construction take place in wetland areas.

**Critical Habitats**

None of the proposed tower sites or related construction take place on areas of critical habitat for any listed threatened, endangered or sensitive species.



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**Floodplain**

None of the proposed tower or construction related sites lie within floodplain areas.

**Protected Land**

The project proposed herein by the Nez Perce Tribe lies within the Reservation; there are three new proposed tower construction sites located on Tribal lands. These sites are located on Tribal trust Units 17, 61 and Tribal Fee land Unit 99-101; none are within or in proximity to culturally or historically protected resource areas. The remaining five towers proposed for construction are located on privately held lands within the Reservation; and, none are located on or in proximity to culturally or historically significant areas.

**Coastal Area**

There are no coastal areas within the Nez Perce Reservation.

**Brownfield**

None of the proposed tower sites are located within identified Brownfield sites on the Nez Perce Reservation.



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**Uploads**

The following pages contain the following uploads provided by the applicant:

Upload Name	File Name	Uploaded By	Uploaded Date
Service Offerings and Competitor Data	Competitor.xls	St Germaine, Christina	03/19/2010
Network Diagram	Pathway_Greer2 to Greer Grade.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Network Diagram	Pathway_Hunter to Peck.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Network Diagram	Pathway_Lauby Butte to Nezperce.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Network Diagram	Pathway_Mason Butte to Nuxoll.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Network Diagram	Pathway_Mason Butte to Winchester - East.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Network Diagram	Pathway_Nuxoll to Agee.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Network Diagram	Pathway_Nuxoll to Greer2.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Network Diagram	Pathway_Nuxoll to Kamiah.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Network Diagram	Pathway_Peck to Gifford.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010



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Network Diagram	Pathway_Teaken Butte to Gilbert Grade.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Network Diagram	Pathway_Winchester - East to Culdesac.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Network Diagram	Pathway_Winchester - East to Gifford.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Network Diagram	Pathway Stoney Point to Hunter.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Network Diagram	Pathway_BioControl to Stoney Point.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Network Diagram	Transport Network.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Network Diagram	Wireless Distribution Equipment.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Build Out Timeline	Timeline-BuildOut.doc	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
List of Community Anchors and Points of Interest	Ancho-PointsInterest.xls	St Germaine, Christina	03/18/2010
Management Team Resumes and Organization Chart	DepartmentalResumes&OrgChart.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Government and Key	ONeconomy-Support.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/16/2010



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Partnerships			
Government and Key Partnerships	MOU_Inland-Signed.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/16/2010
Government and Key Partnerships	MOU-FSR-Signed.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/16/2010
Historical Financial Statements	Audit06&07.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/18/2010
Historical Financial Statements	Historic_Financial.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/18/2010
Budget Narrative	Budget_Narrative.doc	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Detailed Budget	Budget.xls	St Germaine, Christina	03/25/2010
Pro-forma Forecast	ProFroma.xls	St Germaine, Christina	03/25/2010
Subscriber Estimates	SubscriberEstimates.xls	St Germaine, Christina	03/19/2010
Dashboard Metrics	Dashboard.doc	St Germaine, Christina	03/26/2010
Service Area Data	ServiceAreas.xls	St Germaine, Christina	03/18/2010
Waivers	ServiceArea_Waiver.doc	St Germaine, Christina	03/16/2010



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Network Maps	Last Mile3.5lineOfSIght.jpg	St Germaine, Christina	03/23/2010
Network Maps	Middle Mile Line of Sight.jpg	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
BTOP Certifications	AuthenticationCertification.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/26/2010
SF-424 C and D	424C-D.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/26/2010
Supplemental Information	Libraries-Support.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/25/2010
Supplemental Information	SupportLETTERS1st.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Supplemental Information	SupportLETTERS2nd.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Supplemental Information	Pathway_Gilbert Grade to Lauby Butte.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/24/2010
Supplemental Information	Indirect Rate.pdf	St Germaine, Christina	03/25/2010