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Organization:	Nez Perce Tribe
Project Name:	Nez Perce Reservation Broadband Enhancement
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
State:	Idaho
Federal Award:	\$1,569,109

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The majority of the **Nez Perce Tribe's** members and anchor institutions are limited to dial-up or inadequate satellite Internet connections on the 1,200 square miles of reservation land, limiting opportunities to access the digital economy. The Nez Perce Reservation Broadband Enhancement project intends to build a wireless microwave network to provide high-speed, affordable broadband services across four northern Idaho counties: Clearwater, Idaho, Lewis, and Nez Perce. Another BTOP grantee, One Economy, will utilize the Nez Perce Tribe middle and last mile network to extend its broadband adoption efforts into tribal communities. In addition, the project plans to expand sparse wireless coverage through partnerships with regional providers Inland Cellular and First Step Internet, also BTOP grantees.

The Nez Perce Reservation Broadband Enhancement project also proposes to:

- Connect as many as 18 community anchor institutions with speeds between 20 and 100 Mbps, including 12 public safety entities, four libraries, and the tribal government facilities. The network will also enhance distance learning through Northwest Indian College, the only Native American higher educational entity in the area.
- Facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for up to approximately 4,800 households and 2,400 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network. Three existing last-mile providers have already committed to provide service in the region.
- Construct four new microwave towers to cover a 119-mile, four-county region on and around the Nez Perce Reservation.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Nez Perce Tribe has been delivering telecommunications service to anchor institutions on and around its tribal territory since 2000. The Tribe has a long history of obtaining and managing grants for high tech projects in support of its residents.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- State of Idaho
- One Economy
- Idaho Commission for Libraries
- First Step Internet
- Inland Cellular Telephone Company

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant. An executive summary of this application can be found on www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa.

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or press@ntia.doc.gov. For the general public, contact BTOP@ntia.doc.gov.

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