



The American Broadband Initiative – 1 Year Update

NTIA Webinar Series

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Conference Line: 800-593-7190 Passcode: 984-4951#

March 18, 2020

Participants

Opening remarks:

- Greg Watson, Policy Advisor, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Presenters:

- Chad Rupe, Rural Utilities Service Administrator, USDA
- Andy Spurgeon, Chief of Operations, BroadbandUSA, NTIA
- Karen Montgomery, National Program Lead, Bureau of Land Management, DOI
- Jason Frels, Resource Programs Data Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, DOI

Moderator

- Karen Hanson, Manager of Interagency Affairs, BroadbandUSA, NTIA

Helpful Information

Questions

- Please type questions and comments in the question box on the right hand side of the screen. Questions will be taken after the final presenter.

Presentation

- The presentation along with a transcript and an audio recording will be available on the BroadbandUSA website within 7 days of this webinar under Events/Past Events.
- <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/past-event>

Technical Assistance

- Guides, products, publications, and other tools are available to assist you with the planning, funding and implementation of your broadband project.
- <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov>

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Greg Watson, Policy Advisor, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy



Opening remarks by Greg Watson, Policy Advisor, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy





The American Broadband Initiative – 1 Year Update

Thank you, Greg!

Chad Rupe, Rural Utilities Service Administrator, U.S. Department of Agriculture





ABI Efforts: USDA Rural Utilities Service and US Forest Service

 Rural Development
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

 Rural Development
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

American Broadband Initiative and USDA

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA, FCC, and NTIA Submit Rural Broadband Coordination Report to Congress

WASHINGTON, March 6, 2020 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Bette Brand today announced USDA has submitted the JOINT REPORT in response to SECTION 6212 of the 2018 FARM BILL to Congress.

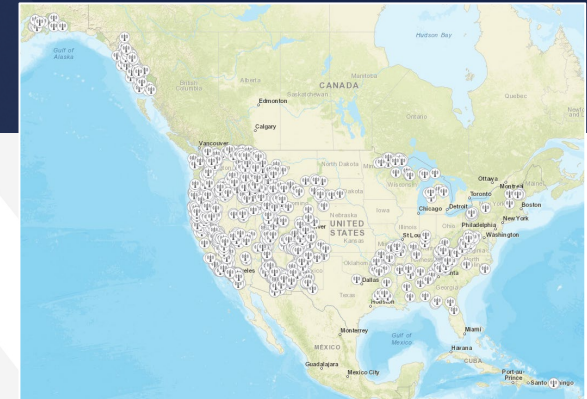
This report summarizes how USDA, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) are working together to deploy broadband to rural areas.

The full report can be viewed at:

http://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/FB_Section6212_FinalReport.pdf

US Forest Service Communications Mapping (Leverage Federal Assets)

- In October 2019, the Forest Service launched public map viewer that depicts communications sites located on National Forest System (NFS) lands that are owned by private and governmental entities and are authorized under a Special Use Authorization (permit or lease). Each communications site has geospatial coordinates (point).
- The purpose of the map viewer is to provide basic information, such as location, site designation, and contact information for the local Forest Service office that is responsible for administering the communications site.
- The Forest Service anticipates this tool will aid industry in siting new uses on NFS lands and is already a valuable tool for the agency.
- Map Viewer features:
 - Filtering Data:** allows user to filter data by prepopulated pull downs, such as by State, Region, National Forest or Site Designation.
 - Basemap Gallery:** allows user to select basemap, such as imagery or USA Topo Maps.
 - Activate Other Layers:** allows user to add additional details to map, such as wilderness, wild and scenic river corridor or roadless areas.
 - Measure Tool:** allows user to calculate the size of an area, the distance between two points, and the coordinates of a point.
- Map Viewer is accessible at (User Guide Available): https://www.fs.fed.us/specialuses/special_comm.shtml
- Map Service/Feature Class/Metadata available at: <https://data.fs.usda.gov/geodata/edw/datasets.php?xmlKeyword=communications+sites>



U.S. Forest Service - Communications Sites

Find address or place

Filter

Communications Sites

State is CA

Region is -empty-

National Forest is Angeles

Site Designation is -empty-

Communications Sites Name: MOUNT WILSON

Communication Sites Management Plan	Yes
Region	5
National Forest	Angeles
District	San Gabriel Mountains National Monument
Forest Telephone Number	626-574-1613
District Telephone Number	626-574-1613
Designation	High Power
Population Zone Served	Zone 1 - 5,000,000 plus
Approved Date	2017/12/15
Latitude	34.226000
Longitude	-118.066111
Acres	30
Site Elevation	5,713
State	CA
County	Los Angeles

US Forest Service Assisted in Creating Common Streamlined Federal Permitting Application

STANDARD FORM 299 (REV. 3/2020)

APPLICATION FOR TRANSPORTATION, UTILITY SYSTEMS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND FACILITIES ON FEDERAL LANDS AND PROPERTY

FORM APPROVED
OMB Control Number: 5098-0249
Expiration Date: 2/28/2023

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

NOTE: Before completing and filing the application for an authorization (easement, right-of-way, lease, license or permit), the applicant should completely review this package, including instructions, and schedule a pre-application meeting with representatives of the agency responsible for processing the application. Each agency may have specific and unique requirements to be met in preparing and processing the application. Many times, with the help of the agency representative, the application can be completed at the pre-application meeting.

1. Name and address of applicant

2. Name and address of authorized agent if different from item 1

3. Applicant telephone number and email:

Authorized agent telephone number and email:

4. As applicant are you? (check one)

a. Individual

b. Corporation*

c. Partnership/Association*

d. State Government/State Agency

e. Local Government

f. Federal Agency

5. Specify what application is for: (check one)

a. New authorization

b. Renewing existing authorization number

c. Amend existing authorization number

d. Assign existing authorization number

e. Existing use for which no authorization has been received *

f. Other*

* If checked, complete supplemental page

* If checked, provide details under item 7

6. If an individual, or partnership, are you a citizen(s) of the United States? Yes No

7. Project description (describe in detail): (a) Type of use or occupancy, e.g., canal, pipeline, road, telecommunications; (b) related structures and facilities; (c) physical specifications (length, width, grading, etc.); (d) term of day/year(s) needed; (e) time of year of use or operation; (f) Volume or amount of product to be transported; (g) duration and timing of construction; and (h) temporary work areas needed for activity/construction (Attach additional sheets, if additional space is needed)

8. Attach a map covering area and show location of project proposal.

9. State or Local government approval: Attached Applied for Not Required

10. Nonrefundable application fee: Attached Not required To be determined by agency

11. Does project cross international boundary or affect international waterways? Yes No (If "yes," indicate on map)

12. Give statement of your technical and financial capability to construct, operate, maintain, and terminate system for which authorization is being requested.

- As directed by Executive Order 13821 **Streamlining and Expediting Requests to Locate Broadband Facilities in Rural America**, the General Services Administration (GSA) determined that the **SF-299 would serve as the common application form.**
- The SF-299 replaces GSA's Common Form Application (GSA 3729).
- Minor modifications to the SF-299 were made to **clearly identify telecommunications uses throughout the form.**
- The new SF-299 can be obtained from individual agency websites or by visiting: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/ntia-resources/federal-permitting-overview>

ReConnect Program Introduction (Maximize Impact and Expedite Federal Funding)



- **Broadband pilot program**

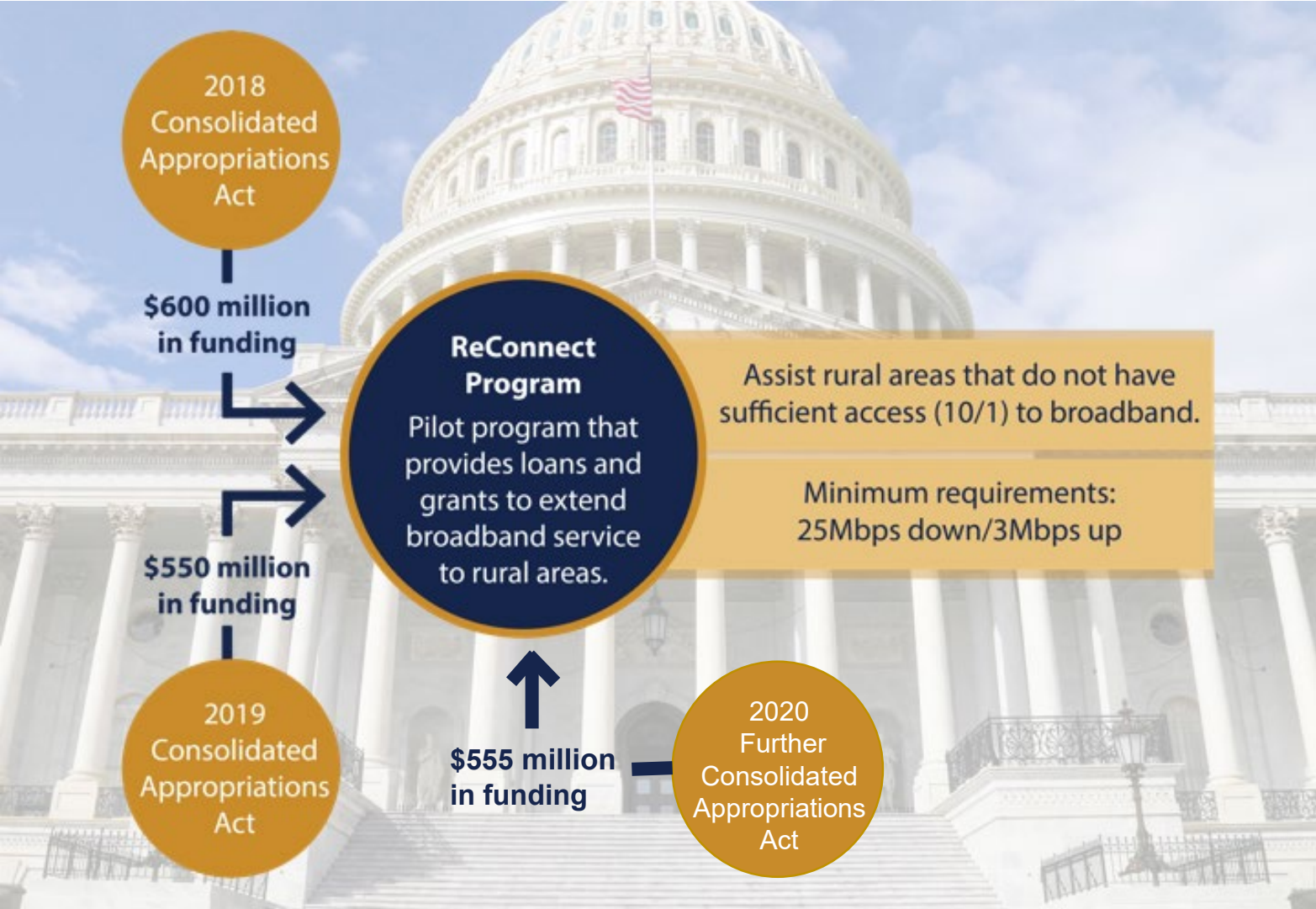
- Federal loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas
- Funds can be used for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas

- **Mission**

- To expand broadband service to rural areas without sufficient access to broadband, defined as 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream

To find out more: <https://www.usda.gov/reconnect>

**100% Online Application System:
Increases Speed of Decisions and Accuracy of Applications**





LOAN



COMBO



GRANT

Buildout Speed

25/3 Mbps minimum

25/3 Mbps minimum,
incentive for higher speeds

25/3 Mbps minimum,
incentive for higher speeds

Terms

Max award: \$50 million
2% Interest Rate

Max award: \$50 million
50/50 Loan/Grant
UST Rate

Max award: \$25 million
25% match

Application Review

Open (non-competitive)

Competitive Scoring

Competitive Scoring

Round 2 Federal Funds

\$200 million

\$100 million grant +
\$100 million loan

\$200 million

ReConnect Program Timeline



Funding Opportunity Announcement 1 (FOA)

\$600 million of funding available
Applications Received in 2019

- **Total: 146 applications submitted requesting over \$1.4 billion**

ReConnect Product Category	Number of Applications	Total Funding Requested
100% Grant	78	\$522 million
50/50 Grant/Loan	53	\$637 million
100% Loan	15	\$258 million
Total	146	\$1.4 Billion

Round One Results So Far: Overview as of March 18, 2020

ReConnect Product Category	Number of Awardees	Total Funding Awarded
100% Grant	38	\$222 million
50/50 Grant/Loan	27	\$310 million
100% Loan	5	\$89 million
Total	70	\$621 million

\$221 million in loans and \$399 million in grants in 31 states

Application Evaluation and Processing Procedures

- **Loans** are accepted, evaluated, and processed on a *rolling basis*
- **Combination Loan/Grants** are evaluated and scored in a *competitive process*
- **Grants** are evaluated and scored in a *competitive process*

- All applications are evaluated using the criteria set forth in the current Funding Opportunity Announcement

- **An Online Public Notification and Response (Challenge Process) Period is Provided for ALL applications for ANY incumbent service provider to challenge a proposed funded service area**

- Eligibility of Proposed Funded Service Areas are verified by USDA through Service Area Validations

- **Service Area Validations** on applications procedures:
 - Check for 10/1 Mbps service in the PFSA
 - Validate other information submitted in the application
 - Consider any public notice responses, which will be posted online for 45 calendar days
 - **SAV guidelines can be found at <https://reconnect.usda.gov> under Forms and Resources**

- RUS reserves the right to ask applicants for clarifying information and additional verification of assertions in the application

- Applications that have been selected for funding will receive award documents from RUS

Summary of Changes from FOA 1 to FOA 2

1. Application window January 31, 2020 through March 31, 2020.
Awards are expected to be determined this calendar year!
2. Definitions have been added for healthcare and educational facilities, and the name for critical community facilities has been changed to essential community facilities.
3. *90% of the Proposed Funded Service Areas cannot have sufficient access to broadband.*
4. The requirement for two years of unqualified, comparative, audited financial statements has been changed *to unqualified, comparative, audited financial statements for the previous year* from the date the application has been submitted.
5. The requirement that applicants must submit certifications from the appropriate state or tribal broadband office has been changed to a *voluntary* request.

Summary of Changes: Continued

6. Pre-application expenses that were incurred for round one, but benefit an application for round two, may be funded up to the 5% of the total award in round two.
7. Under certain conditions, a subsidiary can use the unqualified, comparative, audited statements of the parent to meet certain eligibility requirements.
8. The scoring criteria for farms has been changed. Applicants will receive 1 point for every 10 farms served up to a maximum of 20 points. Farms will be counted using 2017 Census of Agriculture data.
9. Tribal leaders can submit documentation supporting scoring points for the number of healthcare, educational and essential community facilities.
10. The time period incumbent service providers will be able to challenge if sufficient service is present in an applicant's PFSA is being increased from 30 days to 45 days.

FOA 2 Financial Requirements: Key Considerations

- **Applicants will need to submit the following:**

- A financial pro forma to include four years of historical data, the current (bridge) year, and **five years of projections**. This document should validate the sustainability of the project by including:
 - **Subscriber estimates related to all proposed service offerings**
 - Annual financial projections with balance sheets, income statements, and cash flow statements
 - **Supporting assumptions for the five-year forecast period** and a depreciation schedule for existing facilities, those facilities funded with federal assistance, matching funds, and other funds
- Unqualified, comparative, audited financial statements for the previous year from the date the application has been submitted
 - **An applicant can use the consolidated financials of the parent as long as the parent fully guarantees the loan, or in the case of a grant, guarantees that construction will be completed as approved in the application**

FOA 2 Scoring Criteria for Competitive Awards

25 points	Rurality of the Proposed Service Area
1 point for every 10 farms, up to 20 points	Farms Served
20 points	Performance of the Offered Service (100/100 Mbps)
1 point each, up to 15 points	Businesses
1 point each, up to 15 points	Healthcare Centers
1 point each, up to 15 points	Educational Facilities
1 point each, up to 15 points	Essential Community Facilities
5 points	Opportunity Zones
20 points	State or Tribal Broadband Activity

FOA 2 Environmental Requirements: Key Considerations

- **Overarching goal:** Minimize the potential for adverse impacts to the environment
- To get started, applicants should:
 - **Identify** the PFSA(s) and any environmental and/or historic resource areas that could be impacted
 - **Facilitate** early consultation with resource agencies
 - **Determine** if the service area will impact the native tribal land, protected farmland, or federal land
- **Applicants will need to submit the following:**
 - **Environmental Questionnaires** (or EQs) which consist of project descriptions for environmental review purposes
 - Required **environmental authorizations and permits**, including those required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (or NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (or NHPA), and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (or ESA), as applicable
 - **Project maps or site plans** are required to identify cable routes, building locations, tower locations, equipment locations, and all structures and facilities that are part of the project
- USDA reserves the right to request additional information as needed
- **Construction activities may not start until USDA confirms all environmental conditions are met**

Available Resources for Application Help

- **Technical Assistance**

- Workshops
- Webinars
- Subscribe to receive updates about upcoming events on the ReConnect website

- **Resources**

- ReConnect website <https://reconnect.usda.gov>
- Fact Sheets & FAQs

- **Help Desk**

- **Rural Development eConnectivity Toolkit**

- Rural Prosperity Taskforce
- Launched February 6, 2019
- <https://usda.gov/broadband>

Upcoming ReConnect Virtual Workshop for Awardees (FOA 1)

- **Tuesday, March 17 – Monday, March 23, 2020**
 - Post-Award Online Workshop
- **Topics to be Covered**
 - ReConnect FOA 1 Overview and Award Documents
 - Accounting
 - Financial Compliance
 - Construction and Advance Procedures
 - Post-Obligation Completion of NEPA & Section 106
 - NEPA & Section 106
 - Working with USDA Regional Resources
 - Early Coordination with Tribes
 - Management Analysis Profiles (MAP)
 - Reporting Requirements



The American Broadband Initiative – 1 Year Update

Thank you, Chad!

Andy Spurgeon, Chief of Operations, BroadbandUSA



aspurgeon@ntia.gov

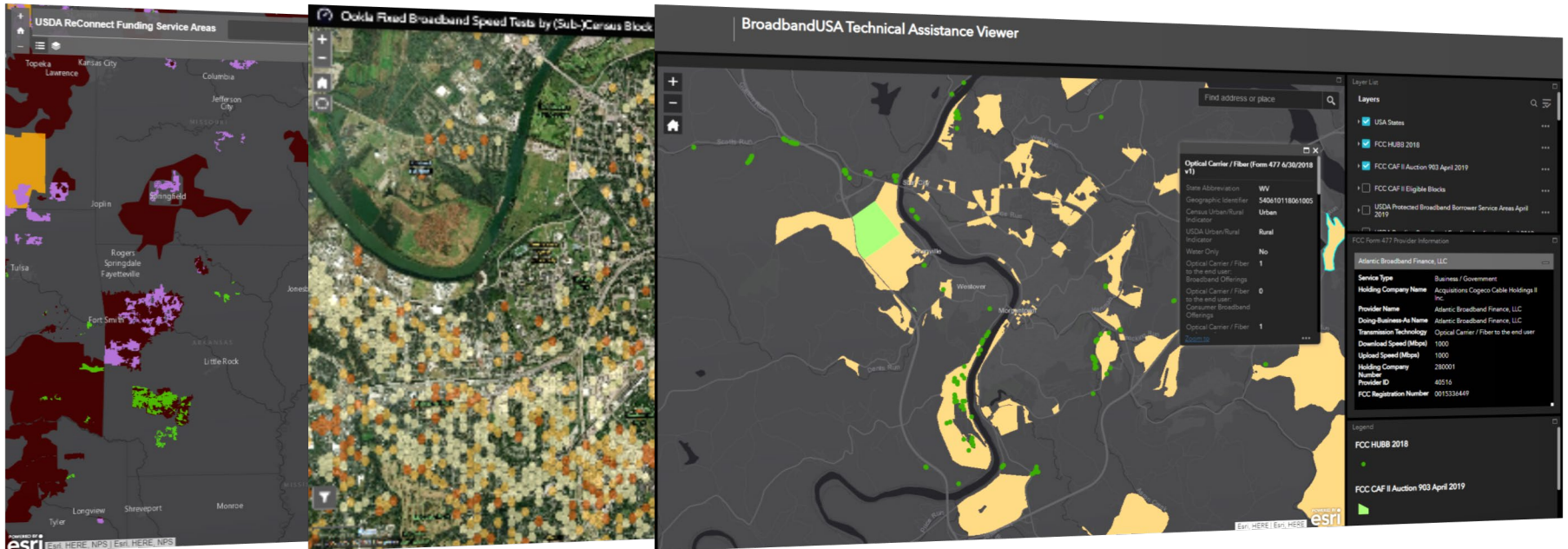


Broadband Mapping Overview

NTIA National Broadband Availability Map (NBAM)

March 2020

The **National Broadband Availability Map (NBAM)** is a platform for the **analysis and comparison of geospatial datasets** supporting broadband **planning, funding, and implementation.**



The NBAM leverages a combination of public and non-public data sets acquired under a variety of licensing models.

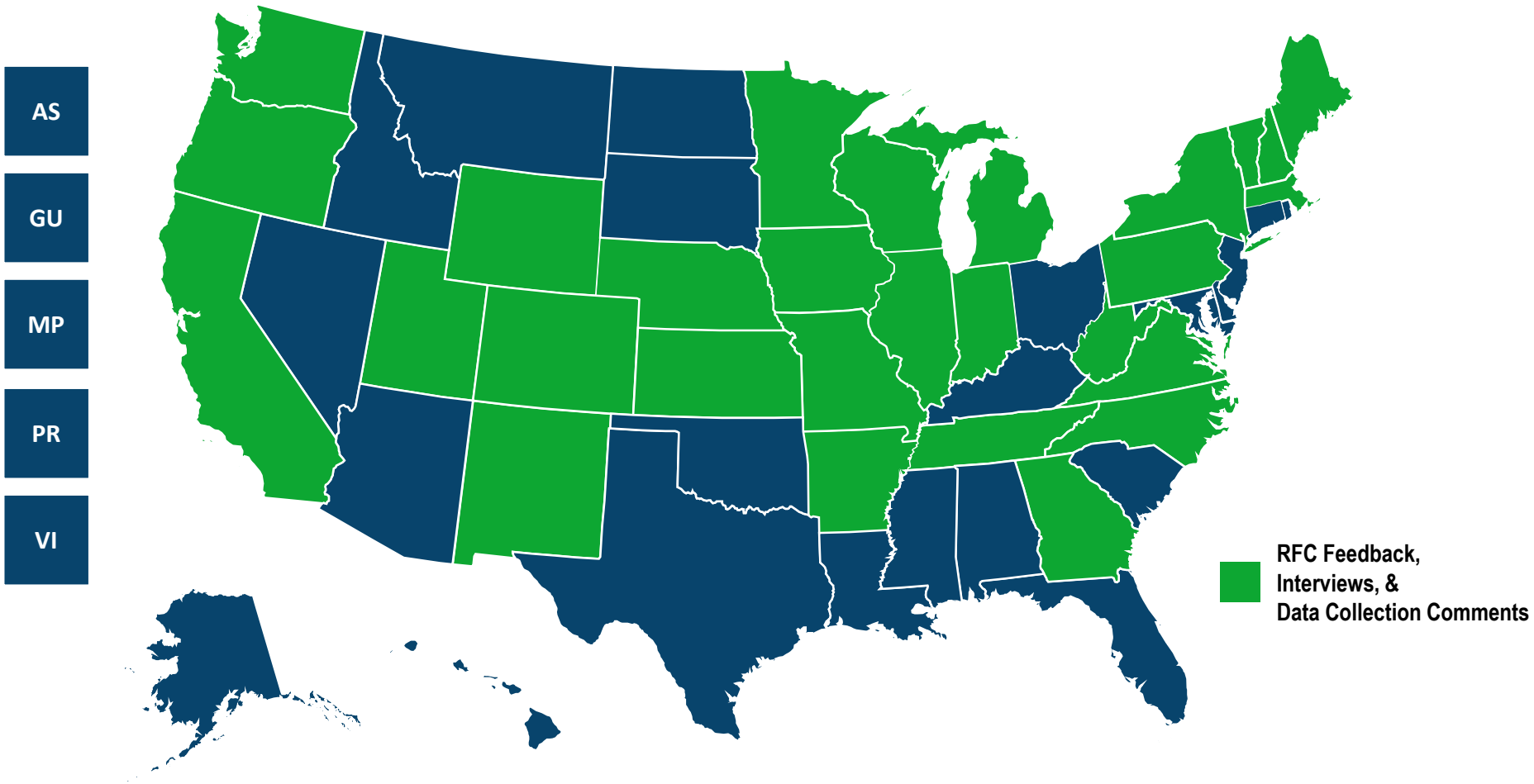
Because of its technical complexity and use of non-public data, access to the NBAM is limited to representatives of participating state and federal government agencies engaged in broadband planning, policy-making, and investment decision-making.

Objectives of the Broadband Map

66
That \$7,500,000 shall be to update the national broadband availability map in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission and using partnerships previously developed with the States.

- ✓ Expand understanding of broadband availability
- ✓ Partner with the states
- ✓ Partner with industry
- ✓ Collect and utilize additional existing data sets
- ✓ Do not duplicate efforts of the FCC
- ✓ Inform decision-making and policy-making
- ✓ Bring together data in new and informative ways
- ✓ Serve as a model for cooperative policy-making

Detailed Input from State and Local Governments



BroadbandUSA – National Broadband Availability Map

A platform for the geospatial analysis of broadband data

Background

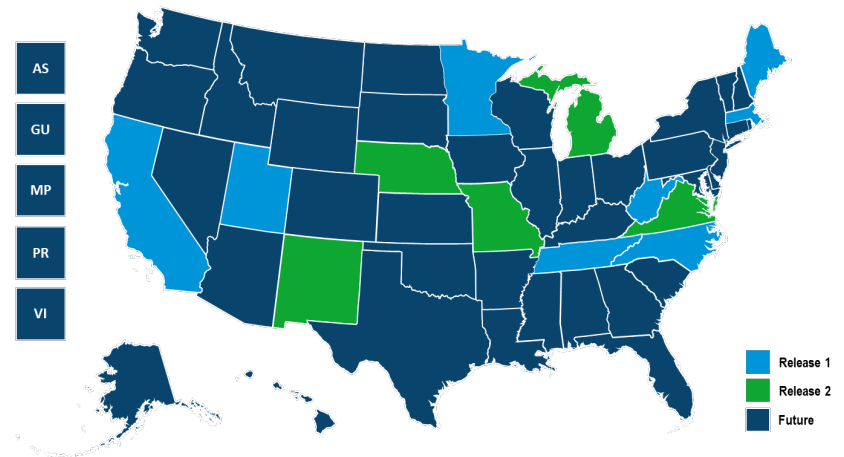
Multi-year program to improve the understanding of broadband availability, accessible to federal and state policymakers.

Data

Incorporating data collected by the FCC, states, and the private sector that informs broadband policymaking and investment decision-making.

Status

NTIA partnered with eight states on a pilot that launched September 2019. Five more states announced February 2020. Much more planned!



Off to a Good Start!



PARTNERSHIPS

- ✓ 8 States Contributing Data
- ✓ 5 New State Partnerships
- ✓ 4 Pending State Agreements
- ✓ Strong Federal Agency Interest



ON TIME

- ✓ FedRAMP
- ✓ Authority to Operate
- ✓ Program Launch (9/30)



SUPPORT

- ✓ \$22.5M Funding FY18 to FY20
- ✓ White House
- ✓ Bipartisan Congressional Support

Much More to Come!

- Federal and State Partners
- Integration with Investment Value Chain
- Comparison and Evaluation Across Data Sets
- Business Intelligence
- DATA Act, FCC 477 Changes, other external factors
- Automation, AI, Machine Learning
- Publications and Derivative Works



The American Broadband Initiative – 1 Year Update

Thank you, Andy!

Karen Montgomery, National Program Lead for the Bureau of Land Management, DOI





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

American Broadband Initiative
March, 2020

Broadband in Rural America - Leveraging Public Lands & Assets to Increase Connectivity





NTIA SUGGESTED DOWNLOAD SPEEDS

What **SPEED** Do You Need?



Hospital | 1 Gbps+

- Sharing health records
- Performing virtual consultations
- Connecting First Responders

School | 100 Mbps–1 Gbps+

- Sharing educational material
- Online testing
- Accessing databases

Small Business | 50 Mbps+

- Managing inventory
- Operating Point-of-Sale terminals
- Coordinating shipping

Home | 25 Mbps+

- Completing homework
- Streaming video
- Web browsing

Library | 100 Mbps–1 Gbps+

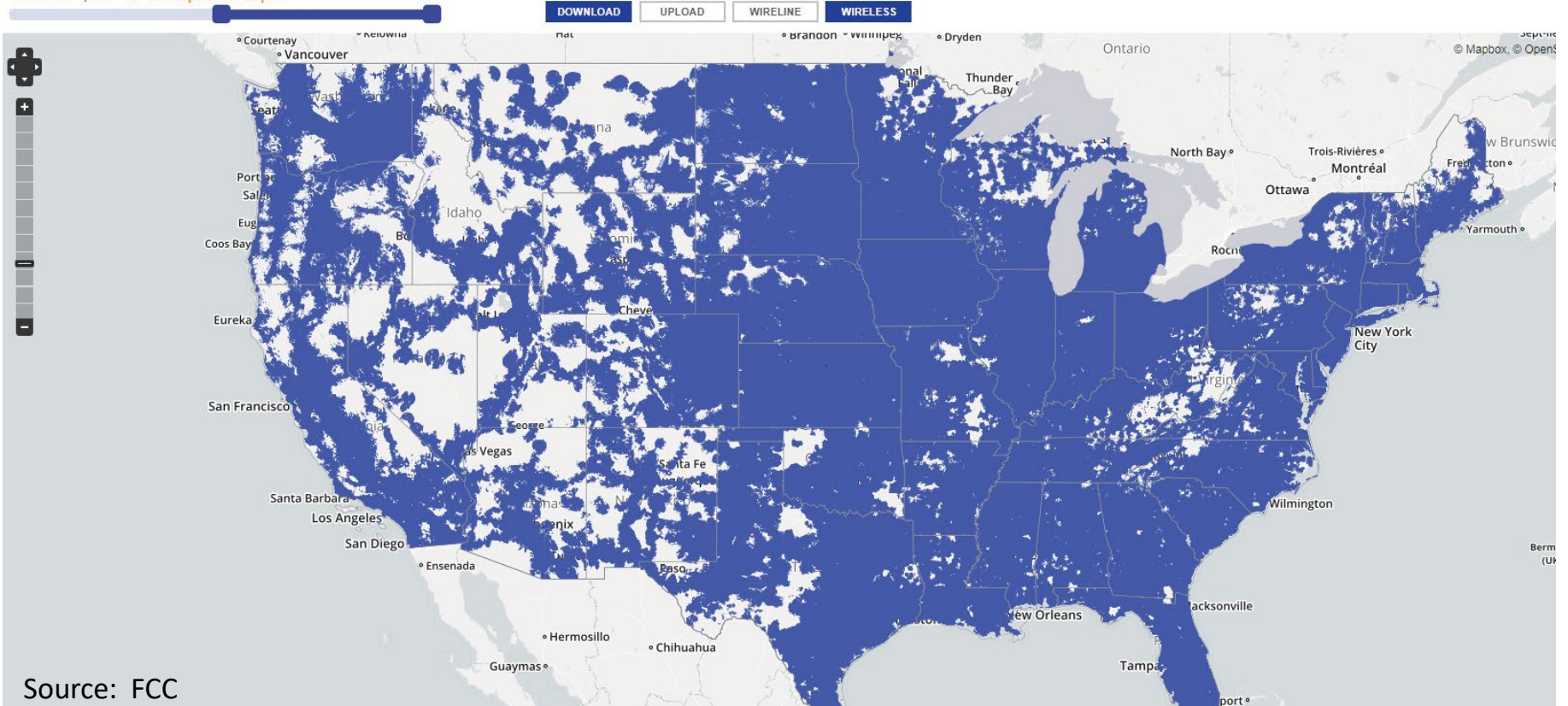
- Operating public computer centers
- Mobile hotspot lending
- Enabling Maker Spaces



WIRELESS – 10-25Mbps – 1 Gbps+

Maximum Advertised Speed Available Data as of: 06/30/14

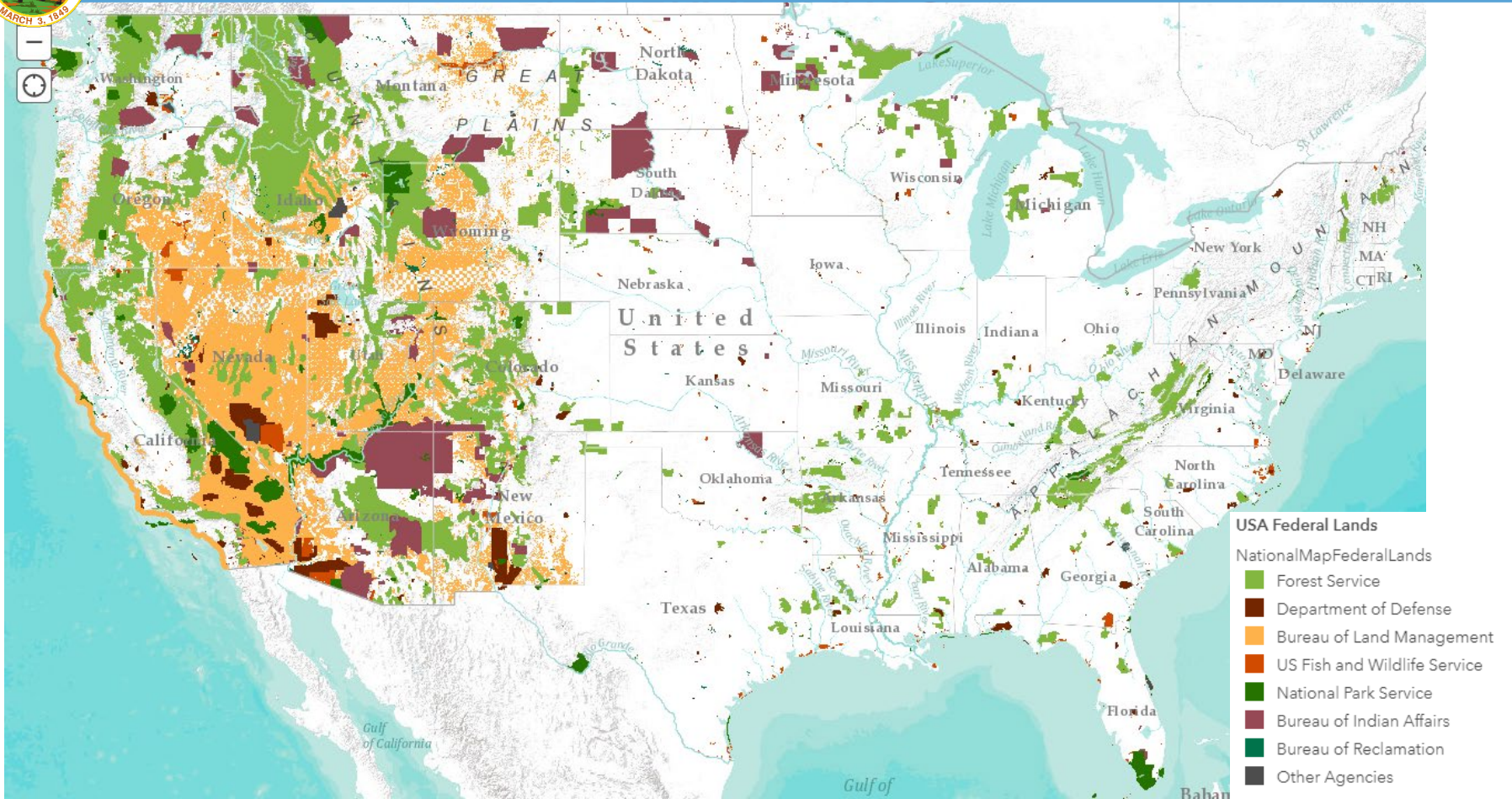
Download Speed: 10 - 25 Mbps ... 1 Gbps+



Source: FCC

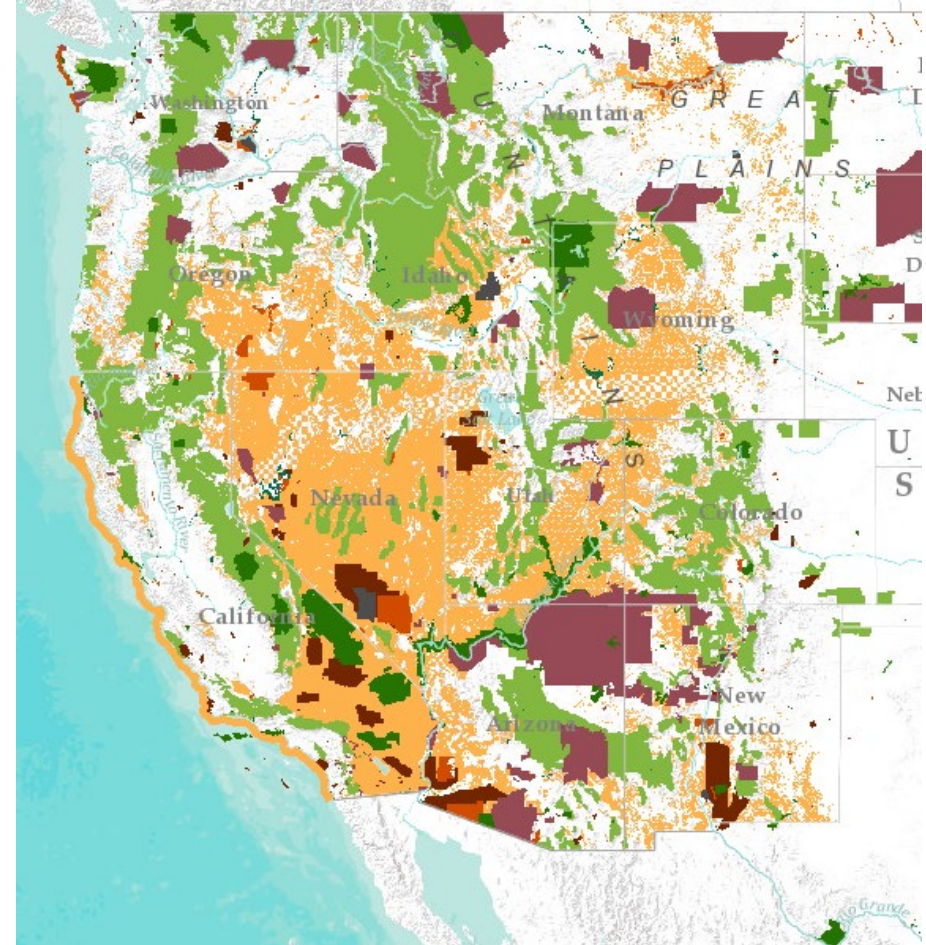
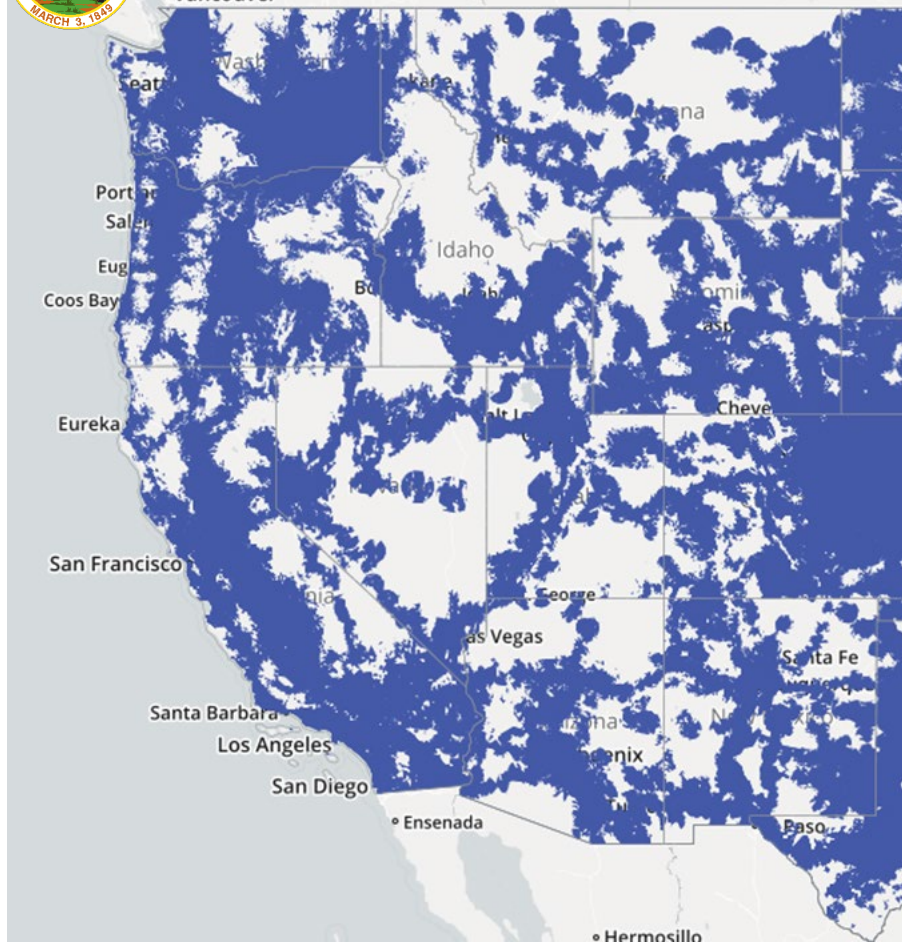


FEDERAL LANDS



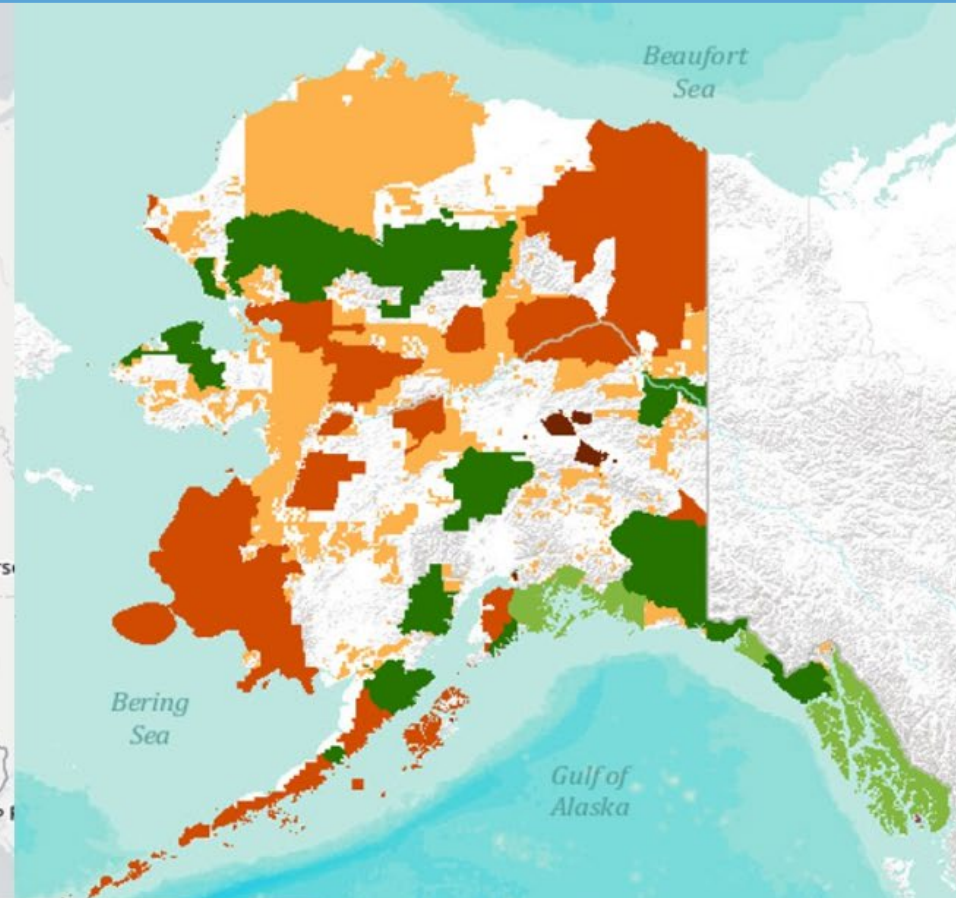
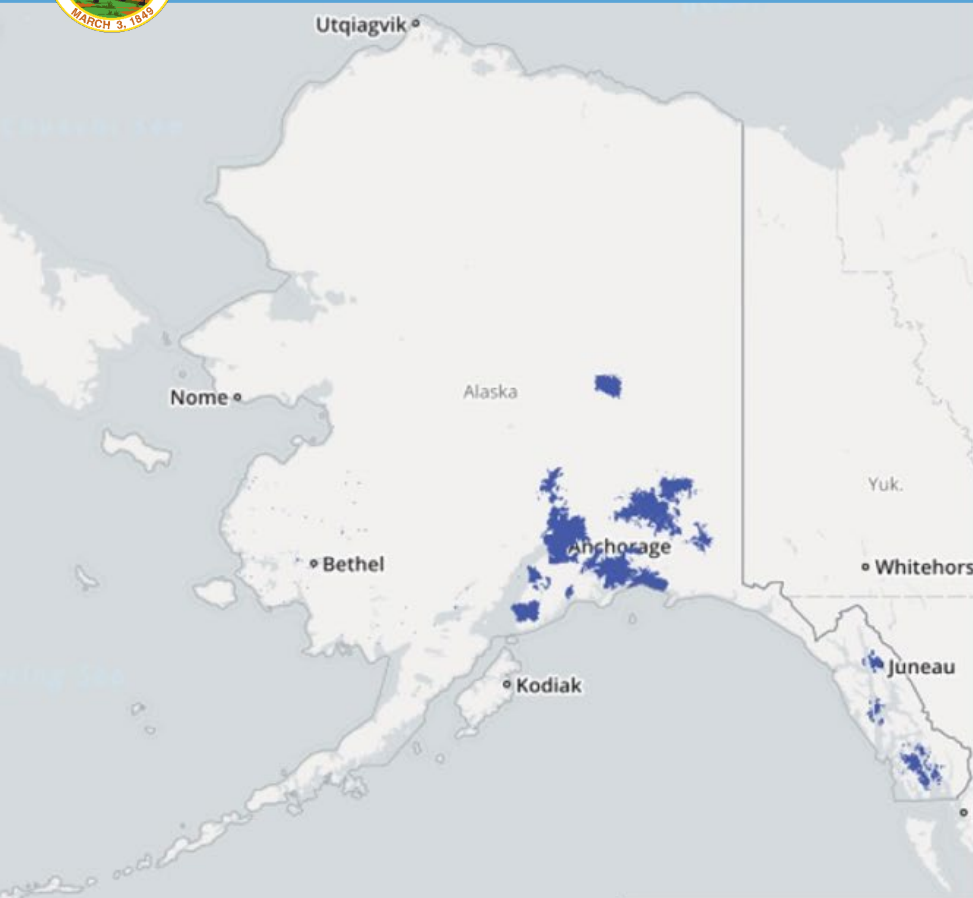


RURAL BROADBAND – ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS



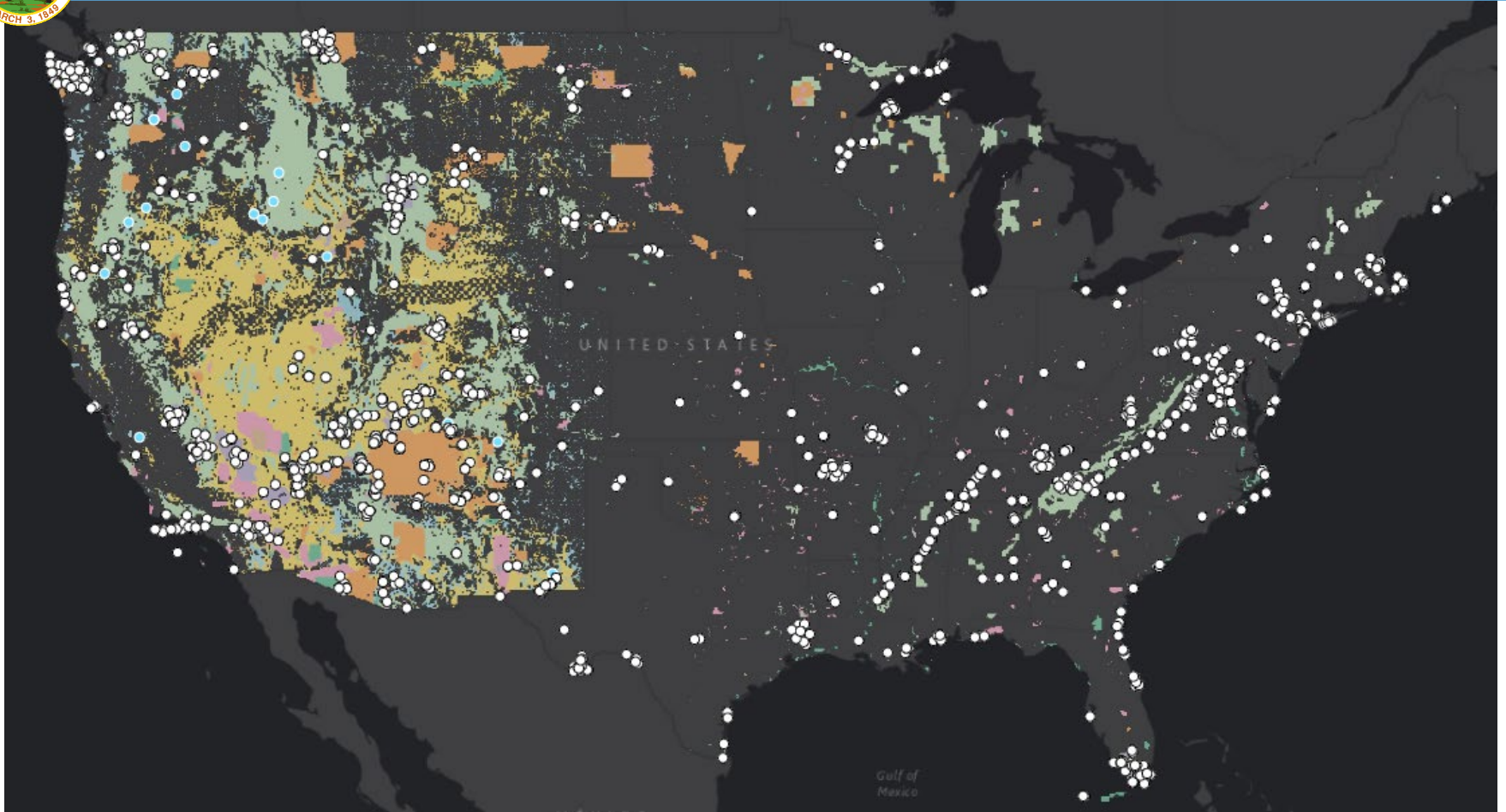


RURAL BROADBAND – ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS





PERMITTED INFRASTRUCTURE

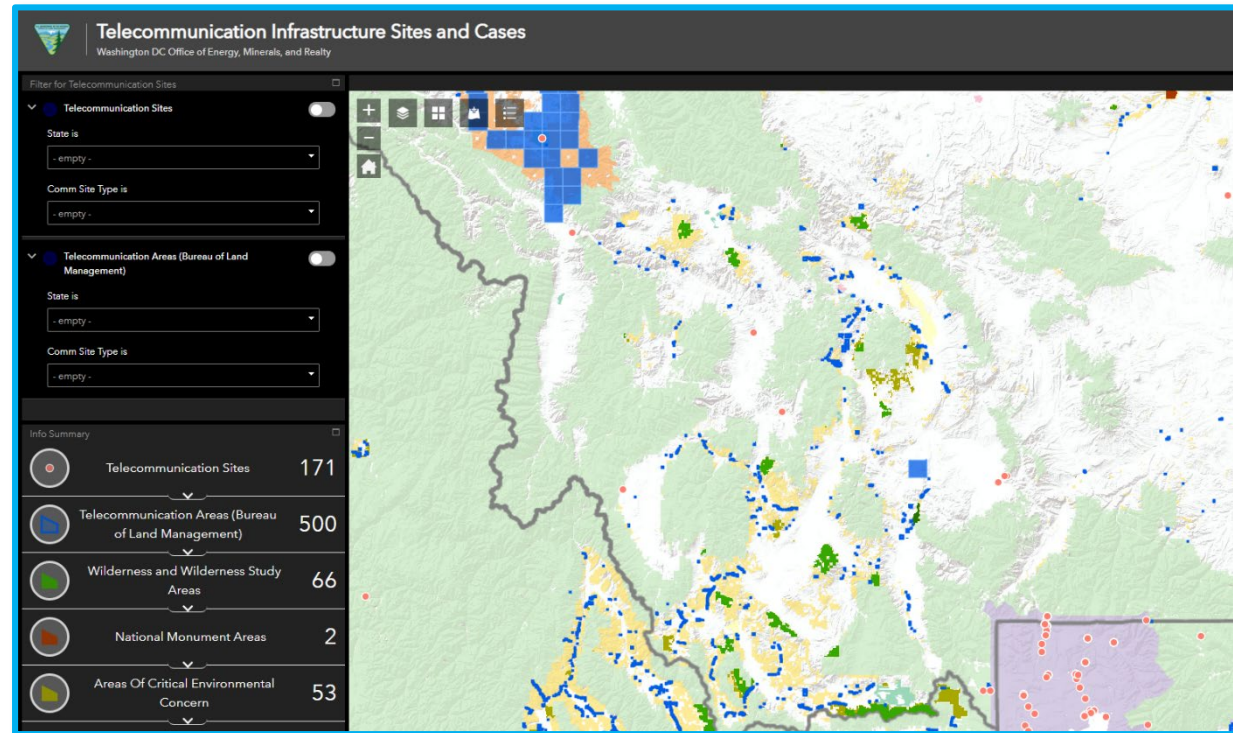




JOEL OVERVIEW-ESTABLISHED LOCATIONS (JOEL) MAP

JOEL Map is a government wide effort to provide accurate and accessible information to foster broadband deployment to rural America.

Public engagement is critical to the future of the JOEL Map system. Development is continuous and user centric.





JOINT OVERVIEW-ESTABLISHED LOCATIONS (JOEL) MAP

Telecommunication Infrastructure Sites and Cases
Washington DC Office of Energy, Minerals, and Realty

Filter for Telecommunication Sites

- Telecommunication Sites
- State is:
- Comm Site Type is:

- Telecommunication Areas (Bureau of Land Management)
- State is:
- Comm Site Type is:

Info Summary

	Telecommunication Sites	171
	Telecommunication Areas (Bureau of Land Management)	500
	Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas	66
	National Monument Areas	2
	Areas Of Critical Environmental Concern	53

Map controls: +, -, Home, Layers, Full Screen, Print, Share

Telecommunication Sites

State is:

Comm Site Type is:

Telecommunication Areas (Bureau of Land Management)

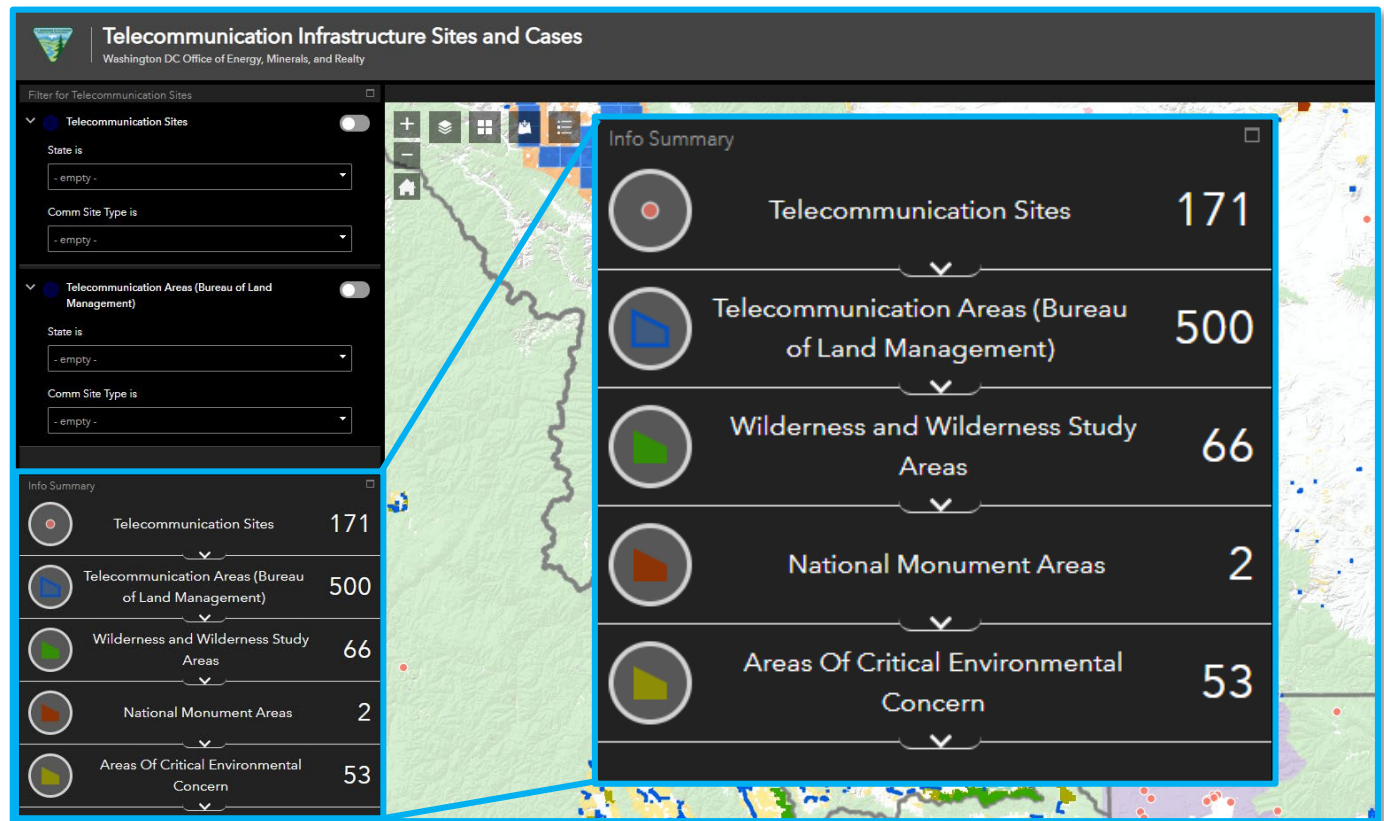
State is:

Comm Site Type is:



JOINT OVERVIEW-ESTABLISHED LOCATIONS (JOEL) MAP

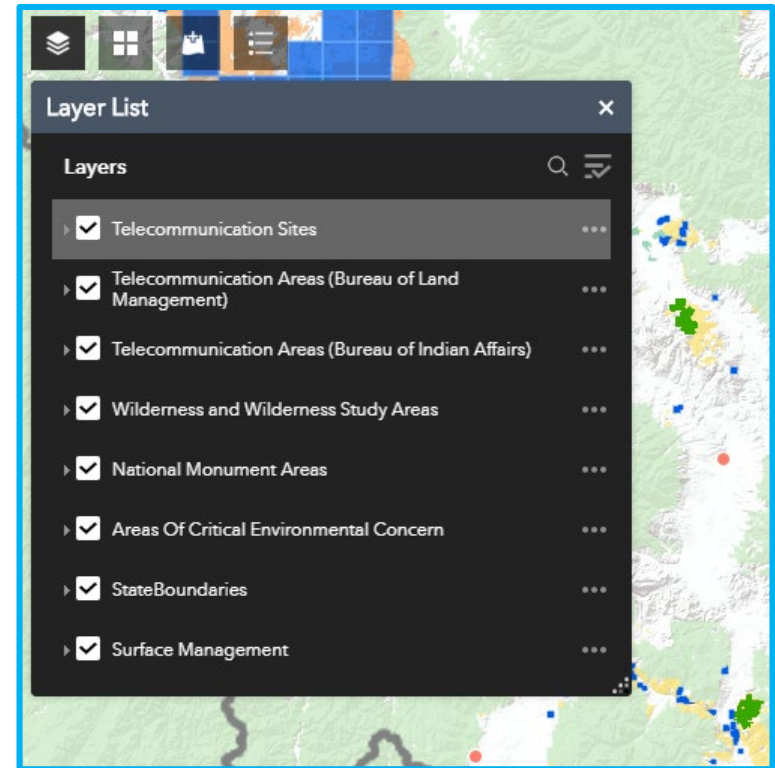
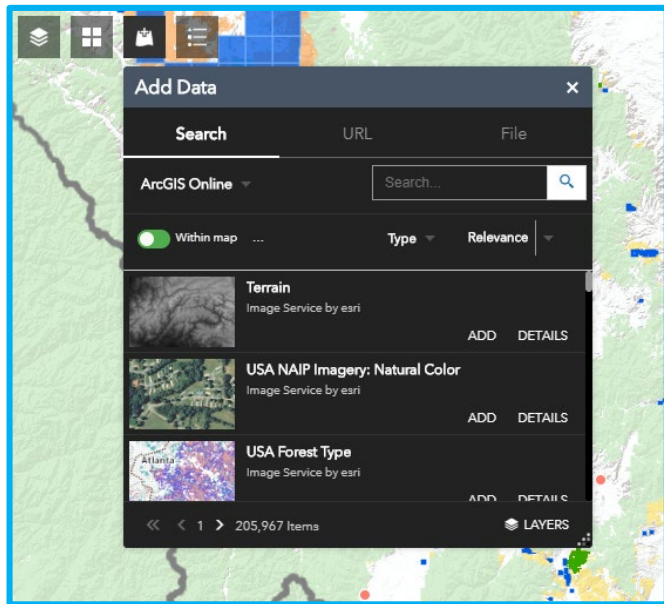
- Land use designations can be displayed on the map.
- Designations may affect areas available for permitting.
- This issue was raised by many stakeholders during our engagement process.





JOINT OVERVIEW-ESTABLISHED LOCATIONS (JOEL) MAP

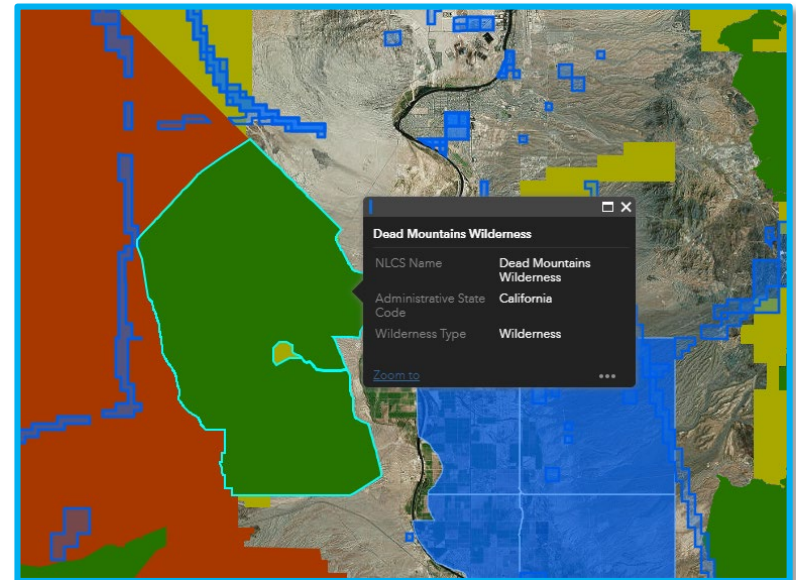
Select relevant information from JOEL's existing layer list or add other data from ArcGIS Online to their map.





JOINT OVERVIEW-ESTABLISHED LOCATIONS (JOEL) MAP

JOEL Map provides details on the location or site, including managing agency information.

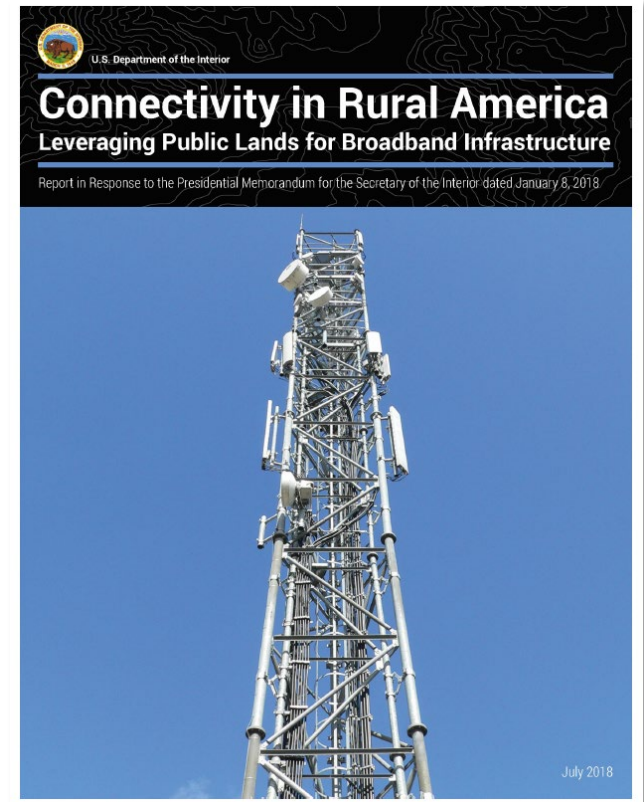


Allows users to quickly identify Agency points of contact or areas where permitting may be easier.



CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AMERICA, LEVERAGING PUBLIC LANDS FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Comprehensive review of Department-wide permitting procedures.
- Identifies challenges within permitting process and opportunities to streamline broadband deployment of public lands.
- Provides framework for common-sense improvements to facilitate broadband infrastructure.





CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AMERICA, LEVERAGING PUBLIC LANDS FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE



- Proposed Rule to Streamline Permitting of Broadband Uses on Public Lands
- New Categorical Exclusion specific to Broadband Uses
- Electronic Filing of Applications (SF-299)



CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AMERICA, LEVERAGING PUBLIC LANDS FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Proposed Rule to Streamline Permitting of Broadband Uses on Public Lands**
 - FWS requirements to process an application
 - Pre-application meetings to minimize delays
 - No-cost Pre-application meetings





CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AMERICA, LEVERAGING PUBLIC LANDS FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE



- Updating NPS policy as appropriate
- Maintaining right-of-way and broadband NPS websites
- Training NPS field staff on permitting processes



CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AMERICA, LEVERAGING PUBLIC LANDS FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

- Publish a new Use Authorization Manual
- Hold stakeholder meetings
- Update the Reclamation website



CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AMERICA, LEVERAGING PUBLIC LANDS FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE



**NATIONAL
TRIBAL
BROADBAND
SUMMIT** 
September 22-23, 2020

- Develop and implement handbooks and tools
- Focus on broadband types of leases and easements



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Thank you, Karen!

The American Broadband Initiative – 1 Year Update

Questions and Answers

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- The slides, transcript, and an audio recording will be posted on the BroadbandUSA website within 7 days of the webinar.

<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/past-event>

BroadbandUSA

Thank you for attending.

Tune in for the next Practical Conversations Webinar

Rural Broadband: Business Models and Solutions from Three Service Providers

April 15, 2020

2:00 pm ET

Registration is required for each webinar:

<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/event>

BroadbandUSA is available to help communities with their broadband access and digital inclusion efforts

For General Information:



202-482-2048



broadbandusa@ntia.gov



<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources>

To Request Technical Assistance (TA):



Broadband TA Request Form -
<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/ntia-common-content/how-we-can-help>

BBUSA Resources

- [Implementing a Broadband Network Vision: A Toolkit for Local and Tribal Governments](#)
- [Community Broadband Roadmap Toolkit](#)
- [Guide to Federal Funding of Broadband Projects](#)
- [Using Partnerships to Power Smart Cities](#)