



Pend Oreille County

Board of Commissioners

Karen Skoog
District #1

Mike Manus
District #2

Stephen Kiss
District # 3

Rhonda Cary
Clerk of the Board

Phone: 509-447-4119
FAX: 509 447-0595

PO Box 5025
625 W. 4th Street
Newport, WA 99156-5025

E-mail: commissionersoffice@pendoreille.org

April 23, 2018

Department of Natural Resources
ATTN: Wildfire Division
1111 Washington St. SE
PO Box 47037
Olympia, WA 98504

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the Board of Commissioners of Pend Oreille County, support the application by Ferry County for funding of a wireless broadband pilot project in support of emergency management, law enforcement and public works purposes. Ferry County has been federally designated as a broadband desert with limited internet access and sparse, in some areas non-existent, cell phone coverage.

This project is intended to demonstrate broader impact and the potential for commercial viability across Ferry, Stevens, Okanogan, and Pend Oreille counties. The ability to communicate during disasters, like wildfire and flooding, will help community leaders avoid home loss and homelessness.

We fully support Ferry County's application being given primary consideration to receive funding for the Ferry County Demonstration Network.

Sincerely,

PEND OREILLE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Stephen Kiss, Chair

Mike Manus, Vice-Chair

Karen Skoog, Member