

klickitat-skamania horizons telecommunications committee



WSU EXTENSION LOCAL TECHNOLOGY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Led by WSU Extension, with primary funding from the Northwest Area Foundation, 40 communities in Washington have participated in Horizons, a poverty reduction and leadership capacity building program. In 2007, a survey of residents in Horizons communities was conducted to determine community satisfaction and identify ways to create prosperity. It reported more/better jobs as the greatest need. Klickitat County Horizons recognized lack of broadband as a limiting factor for new jobs as well as access to education and government services. In November 2007, a telecommunications committee was spearheaded by WSU Extension Horizons in coordination with Klickitat County Economic Development and other local partners. The committee expanded to include members from Skamania County in 2010.



The team...WSU Extension, economic development, telecommunications, non-profits, libraries, education, community members as well as local and state government.

The goal...have broadband available throughout the county to all who want it and at an affordable rate.

The plan...committee efforts focus on broadband capacity building, community education, and infrastructure development.



Accomplishments to date...

Glenwood Internet Survey – a Horizons community member served as mentor and coach for a high school student whose senior project was a telecommunications assessment for the community of Glenwood. The results identified a business case for broadband deployment.

Klickitat County Internet Survey – building on the successful assessment effort in Glenwood, the committee adapted the survey for use throughout Klickitat County. The results identified unserved and underserved areas in the county, a need for community education about broadband uses, computer literacy needs, and concerns regarding affordability.

Broadband Funding – the telecommunications committee efforts led to inclusion in a multi-county federal stimulus broadband proposal through local ISP Sawtooth Technologies and NoaNet. In March 2010, \$84.3 million was awarded for the project which includes funding for a \$3.7 million fiber optic infrastructure investment in Klickitat and Skamania counties.

Broadband and Jobs Workshop – in April, 2010 the committee hosted, *Rural Job Opportunities in the New Economy*, a workshop about job opportunities using broadband.



For more information contact:

Linda Williams, Horizons Coach, lindaj@gorge.net

Monica Babine, Senior Associate for Digital Initiatives, babinem@wsu.edu