



Broadband to the Navajo Nation
FCC's Tribal Telecommunications Initiatives
July 16, 2008



Creation of Sacred Wind Communications

1. Out of state telco formula was unworkable
 - Network budget approved in Denver
 - Tribal landscape = high operating & construction cost
 - Alternative technologies not embraced
2. Navajo Nation not ready to create its own telco
3. A “jump-start” was needed to serve tribal customers



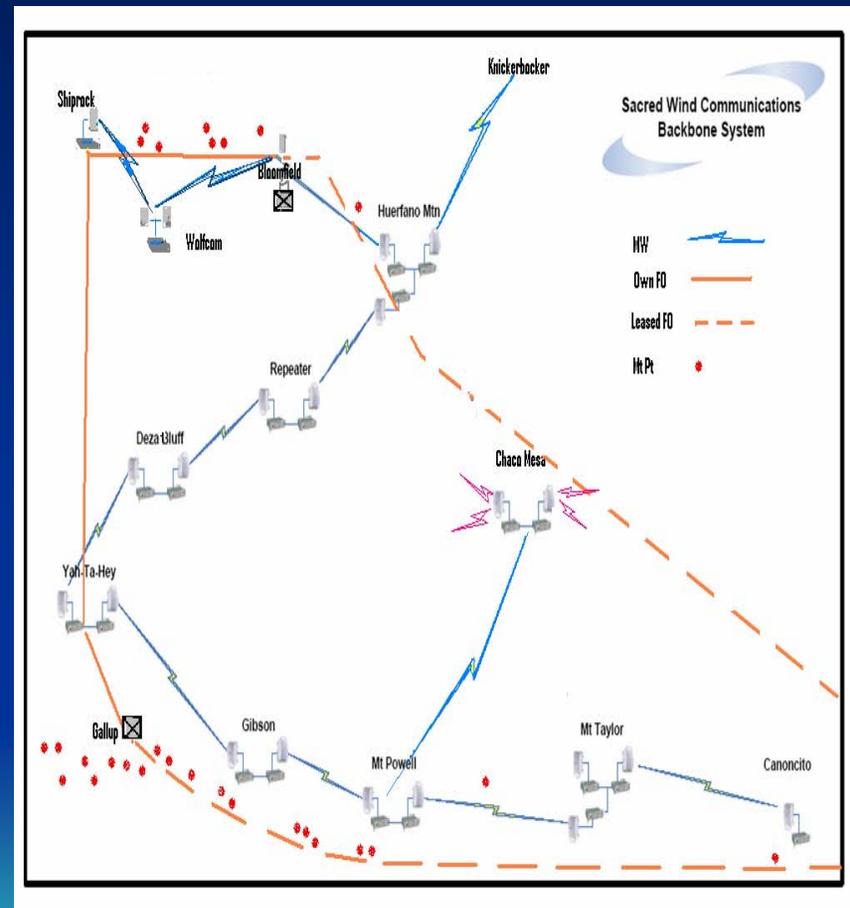
Creation of Sacred Wind Communications

- Private company formed by Navajo + non-Navajo telecom talent
 - Hired top telco expertise ... all retired
 - Obtained private investment for development stage
 - Acquired an incumbent telco's network to start with a customer base
 - Obtained RUS loan for full 5-year network growth
 - Received FCC waivers & authorizations
 - Serve as a model for the Navajo Nation
 - Telco experts to mentor younger employees



Network Plans

- Build new switching & backbone
 - Consolidate 8 wire centers into 2
 - Build 2 Central Office switches
 - Build backbone tower network



Network Plans (2)



- 2500 copper wire subscribers
 - Upgrade wire and cabinets where needed
 - “home in” copper to FWLL backbone network
 - Install BLC cabinets for DSL service

Network Plans (3)

- 6500 FWLL homes
 - 3-5 mile range to antenna site
 - Scalable radio path to each home
 - Completion by 12/2011



Broadband Field Trial

- Testing FWLL antennae using licensed spectrum
 - 6-month trial
 - 68 homes
 - High speed Internet
 - Free laptop PCs
 - PC/Internet training



Sacred Wind PC/Internet Training

- Huerfano Chapter
 - 10 Mbps RF system
 - 2 bilingual trainers
 - 3,200 attendees
 - 54 refurbished PCs donated
 - Skills & language



Sacred Wind PC/Internet Training

- Rock Springs Chapter
 - Demo project
 - 68 homes served
 - 68 refurbished laptops donated
 - Training for all families



Sacred Wind Successes

- Faster extension of service to customers
 - Over 400 new customers pending FWLL construction
- Growth of Tribal Lifeline subscriptions
 - From 26 customers to 1,003
- Improved customer satisfaction
- Broadband to Huerfano Chapter House & Rocks Springs demo area



SWC/ Navajo Nation Partnership

- Potential areas of collaboration:
 - Joint Ownership Fiber Rings in NM
 - Colocation on SWC or NN towers & poles
 - SWC interconnection w/ NN NOC
 - Sharing mobile licenses
 - Sharing other telecom resources

