

## Range Telephone Cooperative – Montana-CLEC (Study Area 489007) 5 Year Service Quality Improvement Plan

### Introduction

Range Telephone Cooperative, Inc. MT CLEC is an ETC serving Montana. The Montana study area is 354 square miles in the Forsyth Exchange in Montana served by 1 wire centers with 974 current access lines. Range has the following wire centers:

Wire Center	Sq. Miles	Access Lines
Forsyth (CLEC)	<u>354</u>	<u>974</u>
Total	354	974

### Current USAC Information

During 2013 Range Montana received the following amounts in support payments broken down as follows:

High cost loop	110,750
ICLS	
CAF	
Total	110,750

This 5 year improvement plan is a section of the Company's 2014 Annual Report. It is in compliance with # 54.313(a)(1) adopted in the FCC USF/ICC Transformation Order (11-161).

Range has developed its improvement plan, concentrating on the delivery and continuation of a robust network which provides, at a minimum, the federally required voice and broadband connectivity as stipulated by regulatory rule.

## **5 Year Service Quality Improvement Plan by Year**

For the next 5 years Range will deploy Broadband Loop Carrier (BLC) equipment to support increased bandwidth to its end users and to collapse its legacy circuit switched voice network into its next generation packet switched voice network. The majority of this Plan entails replacing traditional copper T-carrier facilities with Fiber to The Node (FTTN) infrastructure in support of the new BLC being deployed. In an effort to minimize retained copper loop lengths, additional BLC nodes will be designed for installation either during initial placement of the FTTN facilities or in a subsequent Plan year. Fixed wireless will also be considered where such technology may be more economically feasible to meet the same objective. As this Plan is implemented all subscribers falling within the definition of 'reasonable request' will have access to broadband service at speeds defined by the FCC.

### **Plan Year 2016**

#### **FORSYTH EXCHANGE - MONTANA**

##### **FORSYTH DOWNTOWN ACCESS CARRIER SITE**

The Forsyth Downtown project includes the placement of new electronics to establish a new Electronic Serving Area Interface (ESAI) on existing fiber route. The new Forsyth Downtown ESAI will connect seventy five (75) premises in a nine (9) square mile area. When complete the new site will support broadband service speeds of 50MB downstream and 10MB upstream. Anticipated funding for this project will be provided under a new Rural Utilities Service (RUS) loan design. Both the engineering and the construction of this project will be assigned to contract service providers. Expected completion of this project is within the 2016 calendar year.