

USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$2,346,378

Program: Community Connect Grants

State/County: WA/Mason

Congressman: Kilmer, Derek (WA 06)

Senators: Cantwell, Maria (WA), Murray, Patty (WA)

Recipient: Hood Canal Telephone Co., Inc.

Recipient Contact:

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 249 Union, WA 98592

Phone Number: 360-898-2481

Project Description: Hood Canal Telephone Co., Inc. d/b/a/ Hood Canal Communications (HCC) will use Community Connect funds to extend facilities to the Upper Lake Cushman area of Mason County. Due to its remote location, this area would be too costly for a private company to expand into without federal grant funds.

This grant would allow HCC to provide advanced broadband services to businesses and residents in the area. The Upper Lake Cushman area of Mason County is an unserved area within the County, with many homes unable to access the internet even with cellular devices or via satellite due to dense forestation and rugged terrain. The Upper Lake Cushman area will be connected using fiber optic technology in order to provide an ultimate infrastructure for the future without the need of ever replacing the core plant facilities due to obsolescence. A Community Center will be established in the PFSA, allowing residents to access broadband services free of charge for at least two years.

People Who Will Benefit: 364

Other Funding: \$351,957

Total Project Cost: \$2,698,335

RUS ID WA1401-B23