

News Release

October 7, 2002

For Immediate Release:

In recent weeks, SawNet completed a network bringing wireless broadband service to Stevenson and started the ball rolling to work with Skamania County to bring the same broadband access to the Wind River Valley as far as Hemlock, the Wind River Nursery and the Canopy Crane Project.

With the installation of a 4-node wireless mesh network, SawNet now provides Stevenson customers with a broadband connection from their home or business into the super fast NoaNet fiber-optic loop (www.noanet.net). The mesh links nodes on the peak of the Skamania Lodge, the SawNet headquarters on School Street, the Port of Skamania County's Tichner Building and the NoaNet POP on the Bonneville Power Administration right-of way. SawNet customers within 2 miles and in line of sight of any node will be able to connect to the system. This network provides users with rapid communication of data, graphics and other high-density data needs. With this new SawNet connection in Stevenson, users in Stevenson will have virtually the same access capability of any urban user.

SawNet is proceeding with a three stage fiber optic network in Stevenson which, when finished, will guarantee uninterrupted service with "redundant" connections. The System will have multiple loops, so if one leg is disrupted, information will have alternate routes without resorting to a slower copper connection. Stage 1 of the fiber network will be up and running in the next 60 days with Stage 2 and Stage 3 being completed in conjunction with the Stevenson Downtown Revitalization Project this coming winter.

In meetings Monday October 6th with congressional representatives and the County Commissioners sponsored by the Skamania County Economic Development Council (EDC), the EDC and SawNet presented a plan for developing broadband access up the Wind River Valley to Hemlock, the Wind River Nursery Site and the Canopy Crane Project. The staff of Rep. Brian Baird, Sen. Patty Murray and Sen. Maria Cantwell enthusiastically supported the project grant application. In a following meeting with the Skamania County Commissioners, the Commissioners voted to proceed with writing the grant application.

These SawNet projects in Stevenson provide the high speed reliable access required by Stevenson's residents and businesses competing in today's quick moving commercial world. The EDC project in the Wind River Valley will open that region to the same broadband access currently available in Stevenson, expanding economic opportunities to even more Skamania County residents.

For more information:

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