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Rural Washington increasingly 'wired'

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Construction is now complete on Northwest Open Access Network's (NoaNet) nearly 1,000 mile expansion of broadband fiber, according to the non-profit mutual corporation headquartered in Tacoma that provides wholesale telecommunications transport.

This newest build-out connects nearly all unserved areas of Washington state that have struggled with limited access to high-speed Internet. NoaNet received two federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act grants to lay the ground work for bringing affordable broadband service to thousands of businesses and households. An additional 600 miles of expansion is scheduled for completion this summer through the second grant.

"This broadband initiative created immediate jobs during construction and brings economic investment to rural areas for years to come that have been left behind by the digital revolution," said Greg Marney, CEO of NoaNet.

NoaNet is leading the effort on behalf of a consortium of more than 60 private, governmental, tribal and non-profit participants. Members include 12 public utility districts and a joint operating agency that have served wholesale customers in Washington State since 2000.

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