



September 8, 2022

Carrie Pipinich
Gorge Broadband Consortium
Deputy Director of Economic Development
Mid-Columbia Economic Development District
802 Chenoweth Loop Rd
The Dalles, OR 97058

Re: Trout Lake Broadband

Dear Carrie Pipinich and the Gorge Broadband Consortium:

We welcome the chance to provide our input at this meeting of the Consortium. We appreciate the work the Consortium has done over the years to improve broadband access in the Gorge.

However, Trout Lake continues to be underserved. Our rural center area can access high speed internet, with adequate upload and download speeds. In areas outside of rural center, even those in proximity fiber optic lines that have been installed at public expense, internet service is mediocre to poor.

The Trout Lake Community Council encouraged people to take the recent survey, as we have encouraged participation in past surveys. We don't know, of course, how many did participate. We do know, from our own tests, that download speeds of 2 mbps or less are common. We believe this is typical for the outlying areas in the Trout Lake Valley. This speed is unacceptable.

We are aware that large sums of public money have been spent in attempts to bring adequate service to us and to other rural communities. We feel that the return on this investment is not adequate. In the past the FCC collected data at the census block level. If one or a few households had adequate service the entire block was flagged as served. This is not appropriate, or useful, in rural settings where census blocks cover large areas where service can be unavailable or inadequate to some.

The barrier in Trout Lake appears to be the physical installation of fiber to places outside town center. This investment should be made by the companies who received, and continue to receive, public funding. It should not be a financial burden on the customer.

We urge the Consortium to do whatever is in their power to move the unwieldy funding process toward better outcomes.

Respectfully,

DAINA L. BAMBE
Chair, Trout Lake Community Council