

GLACIER BROADBAND INTERNET PROJECT

We have been presented with an opportunity to bring broadband service to Glacier. Northwest Open Access Network (NoaNet) has received Federal Stimulus Funding grants to create a fiber-optic broadband network for underserved and un-served rural communities in rural Washington State. They will be bringing open access fiber from the Whatcom County Parks Department building, on Smith Road and the Mt. Baker Highway, up to Kendall and the new Resource Center to be built in Kendall. They are very likely to have additional funds, which they can use on a discretionary basis. NoaNet is interested in using any unspent funds to extend service to Glacier. To do this, they will need us to provide the 30% match that is required by the grant. NoaNet estimates that the total cost for this final leg will be \$750,000.00. The Glacier area communities will need to provide \$230,000.00 and document a sufficient customer base and revenue stream to support the system.

This may sound impossible, particularly when you consider that we only have 45 days to demonstrate that we can provide this money. But much work has already been done on this and we have many key supporters throughout Whatcom County. The Whatcom Community Foundation and the Northwest Center for Economic Development are on our team. Whatcom County governmental organizations are helping as are many local community leaders. Our situation is being monitored and supported at both the state and federal level. It is up to Glacier businesses and residents to demonstrate that we want this badly enough to do our part.

This is a real opportunity with a significant commitment of funding offered by NoaNet. We have until December 15, 2010 to obtain a commitment for our part of the funding and to demonstrate sufficient demand to sustain the proposed ISP and maintenance costs. We need a total community effort to make this happen. We need financial donations and help with the logistics of data collection and fundraising.

Please contact Jeremy Standen at jeremy.standen@earthlink.net to let us know how you can help.

If you are a fulltime or part-time resident in this area and support broadband service, please complete the attached questionnaire and return it via email.

If you are a local business or have community Wi-Fi service, please complete the attached Business Broadband Questionnaire and return it via email.

Please use the attached Pledge Form to pledge what you can to help us reach our matching funds goal. Donations are tax-deductible.

Please send your response to us as quickly as possible. It will be helpful if we have before November 22nd.