

**DATE:** March 17, 2014

**TO:** Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission (PSCC)

**FROM:** Troy Babbitt, Broadband Enterprise Architect, ETS

**SUBJECT:** FirstNet – State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP); Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) Grant Update

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

FirstNet - the First Responder Network Authority (responsible for deploying the NPSBN) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) invited western SLIGP recipients to attend a one-and-half-day SLIGP workshop, Mar 11-12, in Phoenix, AZ.

WY was represented by:

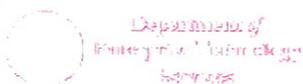
- 1) Troy Babbitt – Broadband Enterprise Architect – ETS
- 2) Bob Symons – SWIC - WOHS/PSCC
- 3) Mark Harshman - PSCC Chairman - Fire Chiefs' Association Casper Fire & EMS
- 4) Dave Adsit – Gillette Police Dept
- 5) Mike Nickel -Sheridan County Commissioner

The three primary goals of the workshop where to:

- Share and discuss programmatic and implementation progress, successes, and challenges among recipients.
- Create a forum for FirstNet to meet with, hear from, and provide guidance to states and territories.
- Provide recipients with essential information relating to grant administration and compliance with award terms and conditions of their SLIGP grant award.

Key bullet points from the workshop include:

- A new FirstNet website is in place at: [www.firstnet.gov](http://www.firstnet.gov)
- If recommendation were needed for the Governor today, Opt IN would be recommended.
- Some states have ramped up, hired managers and now have no duties assigned.
- All 5 of the WY representation agree: taking this slowly for WY is the correct approach.
- FirstNet plans on starting initial state consultation visits Apr-Oct. WY recommended visit in the fall and will put together a team of officials and users.
- FirstNet would like to work with states in FEMA designated regions. WY is in FEMA region 8 with MT,ND,SD,UT,CO.
- CASM (communications, assets, survey & mapping tool) with WY data will be given at the OEC meeting May 25th.



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

As required by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Act), the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has established the SLIGP to fund state, local and tribal planning activities in support of the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN) to be deployed by the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). NTIA released the FFO setting forth the application process and rules for the grant program

|         | Federal      | Non-federal | Minimum Total |
|---------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Wyoming | \$ 1,383,000 | \$ 345,750  | \$ 1,728,750  |

NTIA will require recipients to show seven key deliverables by the end of the grant period:

1. Governance structure to consult with FirstNet as provided in the Act
2. Process for including local and tribal representatives in the consultation
3. Process for education and outreach to stakeholders
4. Identified potential public safety users
5. Standard agreement for use by FirstNet’s contractor(s) of existing infrastructure
6. Staffing plan to facilitate governance structure
7. Description of public safety needs included in the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan

**Funding Challenge:**

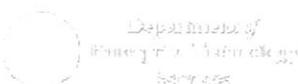
Congress authorized \$7 billion for the network, \$5 billion is dependent on the receipt of revenues from incentive auctions of spectrum which is currently licensed and used by other entities. The FCC plans auctions to begin in 2014. FirstNet is allowed to borrow \$2 billion from the U.S. Treasury in anticipation of the auction in revenues, but it must also pay this amount back to the U.S. Treasury.

Statutorily, FirstNet is required to become self-sustaining through revenues it generates from spectrum leasing and user fees.

**FirstNet Cost Model/Business Plan Development:**

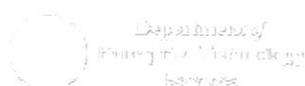
No cost model currently exists for the National Public safety Broadband Network.

A cost model on financial analysis would show states NTIA’s projection of how much the NPSBN will cost. It would also include how it will operate, how it will reach and maintain self-sufficiency, fund upgrades, and how much NPSBN service will cost each state annually or on a cost per user basis.



## ADDITIONAL FIRSTNET BACKGROUND:

The events of September 11, 2001 focused national attention on the critical need for an interoperable communications system that enables state and local first responders (e.g., police, fire and emergency medical), as well as federal agencies (e.g., Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation), to communicate during emergencies. In February 2012, a new law was enacted that addresses this important national objective. The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Spectrum Act) requires the establishment of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) to oversee the construction and operation of a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). FirstNet, which will be operated as an independent entity under the National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA), will have access to 20 MHz of spectrum in the 700 MHz band and \$7B of federal funding through grants awarded by NTIA. The Spectrum Act requires FirstNet to work with states and local municipalities in building out the network, and encourages it to partner with commercial carriers, to the extent economically desirable.



## WyoLink Support Manager Report to the PSCC

March 20, 2014

There are 69 WyoLink sites in operation, 65 of which have had construction funded by WyoLink. Two additional sites (Signal Mountain and White Pine) are planned for 2014 and will bring the count of operational WyoLink sites to 71.

WyoLink is working on identifying sites to provide coverage in the Moran area. One of these sites is at Black Mountain, Idaho and WyoLink is working to share one of the existing sites at that location. The other may be Monument Ridge and WyoLink is discussing this site with the Forest Service. Union Wireless has approved WyoLink's co-location application and we are working on the site lease.

Sheriff Lankford has received verbal approval for Sublette County to modify their site at White Pine. We will now work on completing the PCE agreement. White Pine should be operational late in the summer of 2014.

WyoLink has completed 634 codeplugs to date in 2013, with an average wait time of 6 days. There are currently 118 codeplugs on the schedule to complete, with a projected wait for newly requested codeplugs of about 2 weeks. I urge everyone who has codeplug work scheduled to contact WyoLink if there are any questions about their codeplugs or their place on the schedule.

Two WyoLink towers (85 South and Cheyenne Water Tank) have been seeing very high usage and will be expanded by two channels each. The expansion of Cheyenne Water Tank will be scheduled in the next month. WyoLink is working with WYDOT Telecommunications to obtain frequencies for the expansion of 85 South. We continue to perform coverage testing across the state and upload the results to WYDOT's GIS program for display on a map. We still have about 35% of our testing results remaining to upload to GIS as well as the testing we continue to perform. I encourage any agency having radio communication needs or issues with WyoLink to contact the WyoLink Support Office at 307-777-WLNK (9565) and we will be happy to help.

The monthly WyoLink Status Meeting Agenda and Minutes are an excellent source of information regarding the status of WyoLink. The minutes from the most recent WyoLink Status Meeting are attached to this report.

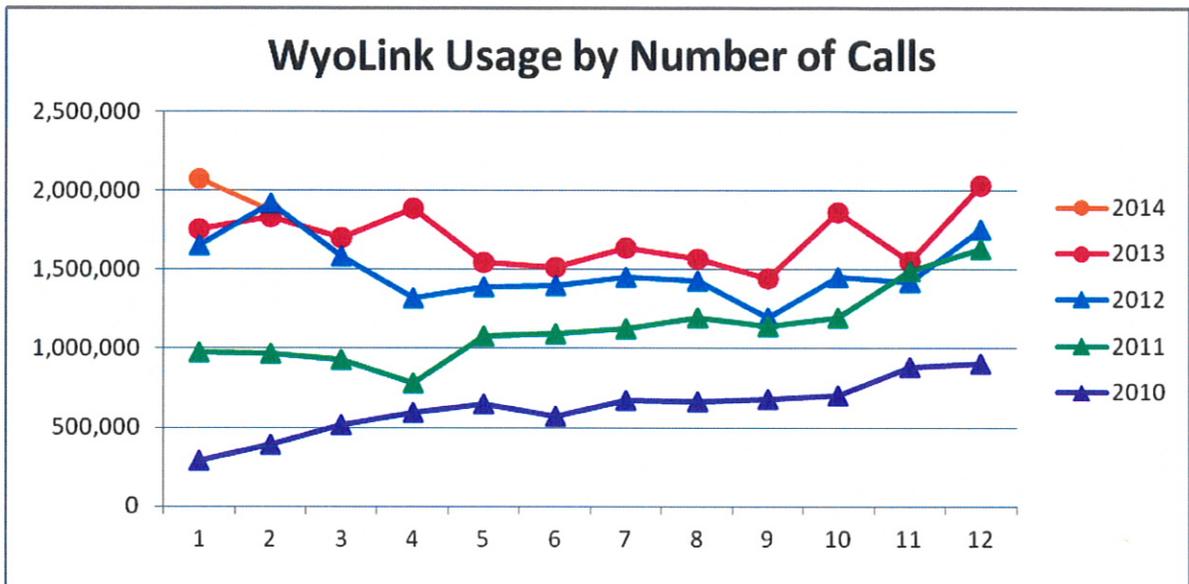
WyoLink will be updating the software from version 7.11 to version 7.14 beginning August 4<sup>th</sup>. As the schedule for this update is developed, both WyoLink and Motorola will be contacting agencies with consoles to schedule any necessary work as part of this update. This update will not require any changes to mobile or portable radio programming.

There are over 17,200 radios and consoles able to use WyoLink. There are 275 agencies approved to use WyoLink with 112 State and Federal agencies and agencies in 19 Counties having moved their operations to WyoLink. During a typical day, there are between 3,200 and 3,600 radios affiliated with WyoLink depending on the time of day, weather conditions and other factors. To date in 2014 (January 1<sup>st</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup>) the WyoLink system handled over 3.9 million radio calls. Following the chart showing

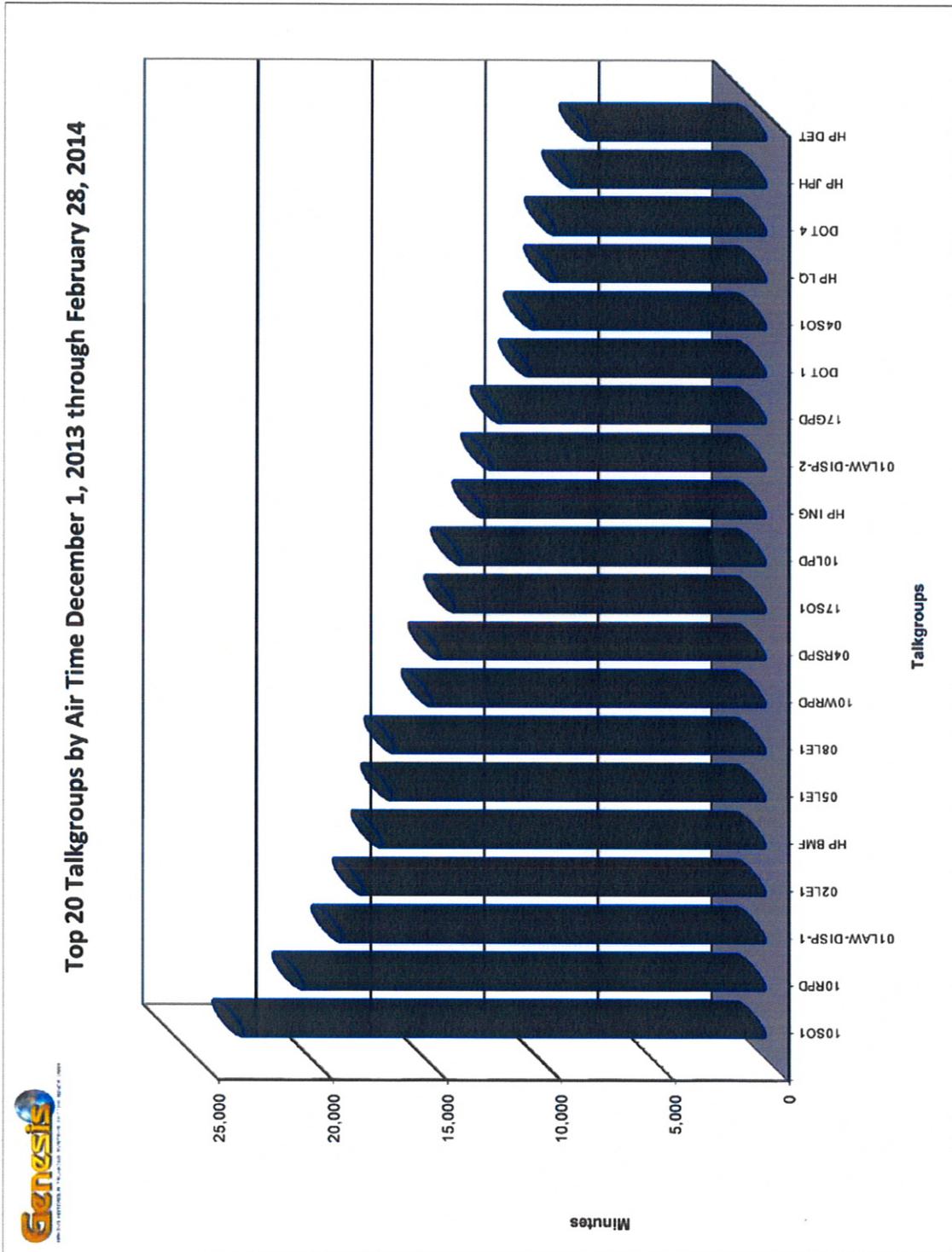
## WyoLink Support Manager Report to the PSCC

March 20, 2014

WyoLink Usage by Number of Calls is a chart that shows the Top 20 Talkgroups for December 1, 2013 through February 28, 2014 by time. This provides a quick visual indication of who the top users of WyoLink are. Busy indications have been 0.01% of total call time system wide. WyoLink reliability so far in 2014 has been over 99.9%.



Wyolink Support Manager Report to the PSC  
March 20, 2014



# Application for New Connection to WyoLink

Agency

Date

Address

Contact

Telephone

Email

|   |                  |                          |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|
| Type of device to be connected to WyoLink | Console          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   | Radio Site       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   | Other (Describe) | <input type="text"/>     |

Description of Device (Number of seats for a console, number of channels and frequency for a site, etc. . .)

Location of Device (Street address or Latitude & Longitude)

|                               |                |                          |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Type of connection to WyoLink | Leased Circuit | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                               | Microwave      | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Monthly Connection Cost

Agency Responsible for Connection Cost

Yearly Effect to the Software Upgrade Agreement due to this device

Agency Responsible for This Yearly Effect

Yearly Effect to the WyoLink Maintenance Agreement due to this device

Agency Responsible for This Yearly Effect

# Application for New Connection to WyoLink

Agency Comments:

WyoLink Support  
Manager Comments:

Operations Work  
Group Comments:

PSCC Comments:

Approved:  
Disapproved:

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PSCC Signature

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Agency Signature

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PSCC Printed Name

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