

# PRESENT AND FUTURE



July 13, 2022

New Mexico

Indian Affairs Committee



# NM Broadband Initiative Consortium

- ▶ Org established to develop a "Road Map" for the incoming Director of the Office of Broadband
- ▶ Mission:
  - ▶ THINK BIG
  - ▶ THINK OUT OF THE BOX
    - ▶ Current programs are insufficient
  - ▶ FIND UNIVERSAL COVERAGE SOLUTIONS

# NM BROADBAND INITIATIVE CONSORTIUM

Past & Present State & Federal Grant Program Selection Criteria Comparison		
Business as Usual		<b>RECOMMENDED</b> Consortium's 5 Pillars
Standard grant criteria	Selected by accepted technology, affordability w/ emphasis on FTTP	<b>Innovative approaches:</b> spectrum coordination; mix of technologies
No emphasis on collaboration	Single applicant working in isolation	<b>Collaboration</b> for Middle Mile Projects (SEN/PEN) & Last Mile with Tribes, communities
Piece meal projects	No fit with a State plan	<b>Coordination</b> with Statewide Plan (NM Fiber Network LLC)
Priority given to highest speeds at lowest cost	FTTP primarily, Fixed Wireless in affordable remote areas	<b>Alternative technologies</b> demonstrated for specific topographies and other circumstances
No end targeted	Crescit Eundo - no State action plan to end the digital divide	<b>100% connectivity in 5 years</b>

# Sacred Wind Communications

IN 2006, ONLY 26% OF HOUSEHOLDS IN Sacred Wind territory had access to emergency 911 and there was no high-speed internet.

2006

2022

Today, almost all households in our territory have access to emergency 911 and telephone service; at least 90% now have access to high-speed internet

# SACRED WIND ENTERPRISES, INC.

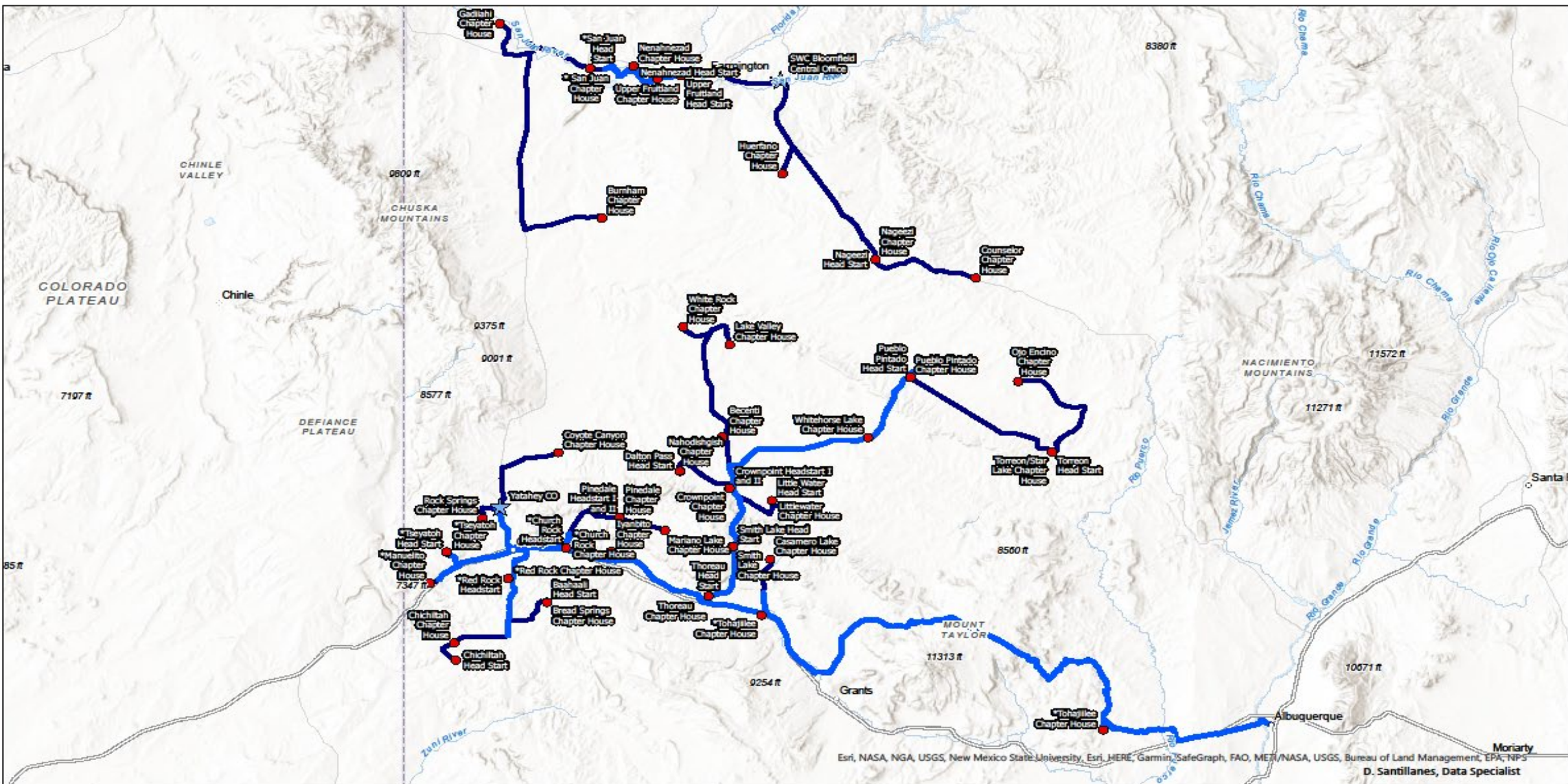
## Affiliate companies:

- ⑩ Sacred Wind Communications, Inc.
- ⑩ SW Dinehnet, Inc.
- ⑩ Ethos Broadband
- ⑩ Connect66 Internet

# Current Projects - Funded

- E-Rate
- Fiber to the Home
- FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)
- FCC's Connect America Fund Auction (CAF II)
- FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program and Lifeline
- Navajo Nation 2.5 Ghz Spectrum





## Navajo Nation Tribal Consortium - RFP# 20-01-2232LE Head Start & Chapter Houses/Libraries



## Sacred Wind Delivers First-Ever Fiber to Navajo Homes

- Sacred Wind has provided the highest broadband speeds available to Navajo homes wirelessly and is now able to deploy fiber optic cable to replace copper cable within the housing developments managed by the NHA and HUD, starting with NHA developments.
- As of today, we have fiber to over 850 Navajo homes and we are adding fiber to new homes daily

### Huerfano:

- NAPI NHA
- Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle NHA

### To'hajiilee:

- Old NHA
- North Tribal Road N56

### Nenahnezad:

- N3005
- Ojo Amarillo NHA
- Region 2 NHA

### Church Rock:

- Telestar Road

### Iyanbito:

- Turtle Butte Road
- Windmill Road





# Sacred Wind Communications

## Navajo Nation Fiber to the Home



Huerfano Chapter Fiber to the Home  
NAPI NHA and Dzilh-Na-O-Dith-Hle  
NHA



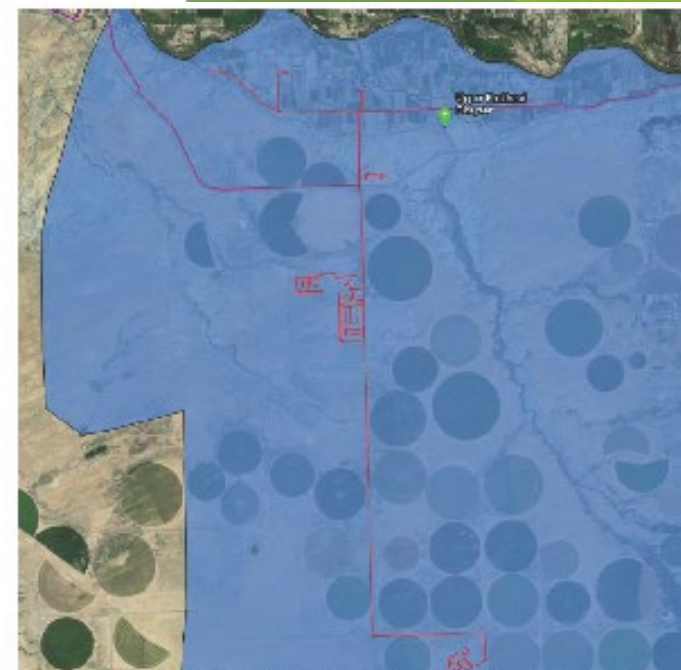
To'Hajiilee Chapter House - Fiber to the Home Chapter House  
NHA and Tribal Road N56



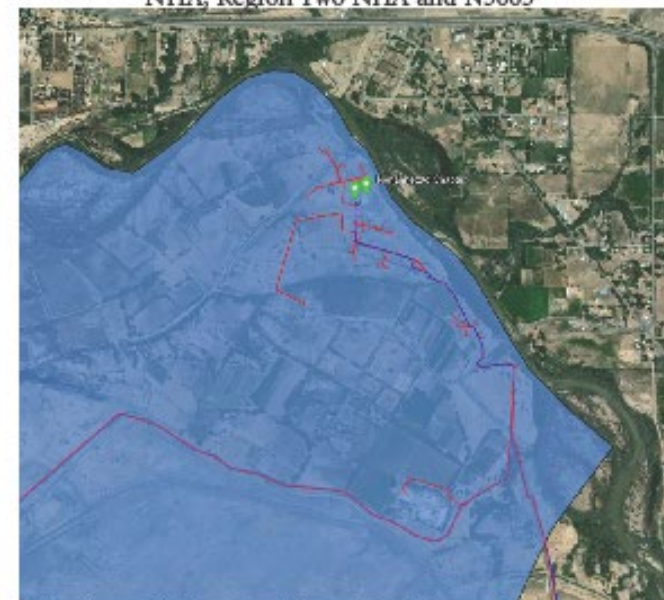
Iyanbito Chapter House - Fiber to the Home - Windmill Road and  
Turtle Butte Rd



Church Rock Chapter  
Fiber to the Home  
Telestar Rd

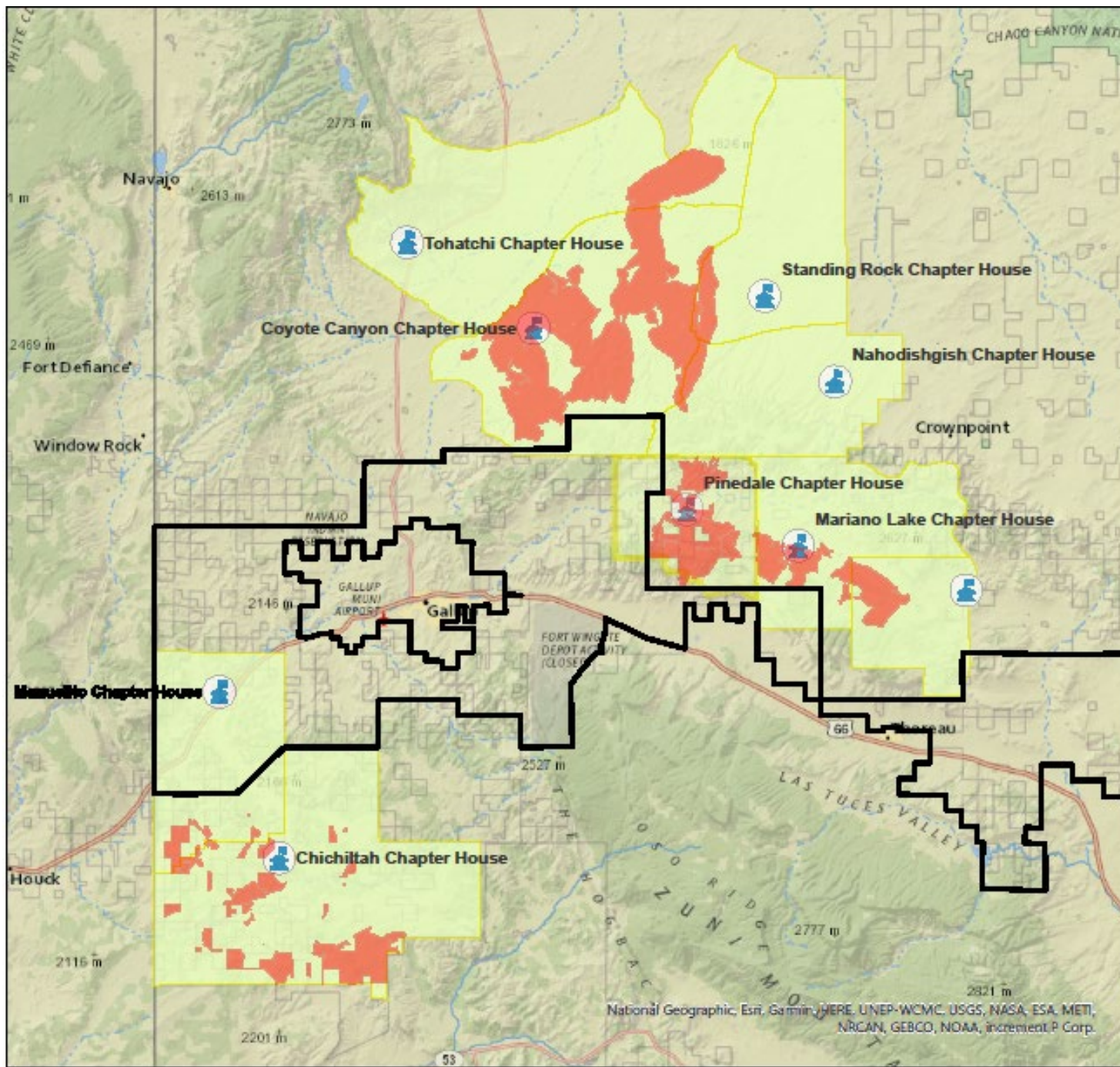


Upper Fruitland Chapter - Fiber to the Home - Ojo Amarillo  
NHA, Region Two NHA and N3005



Nenahnezad Chapter - Fiber to the Home - Chapter House





### Legend

Connect America Fund II (CAF II)



CAF II Navajo Nation Chapters



CAF II Navajo Chapter Area



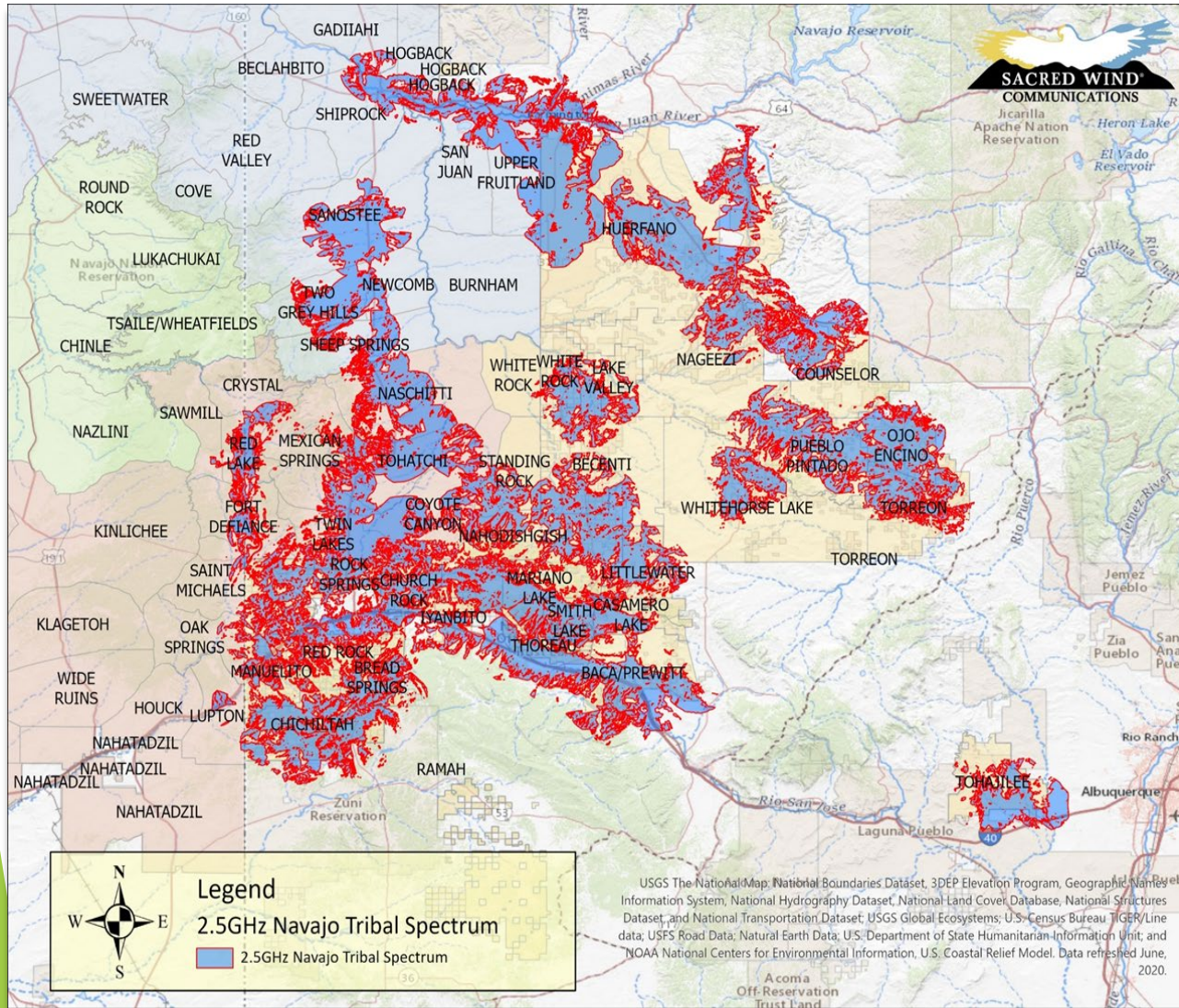
Sacred Wind Boundary



0 3.25 6.5 13 Miles



# Navajo Nation 2.5 GHz Spectrum



- The Navajo Nation has granted SWC sole use of 2 channels as part of its 2.5 GHz spectrum lease to SWC
- SWC's 2.5 GHz expansion plan will help facilitate broadband access to unserved and underserved homes in Eastern Agency on Navajo Nation in NM
- Demonstration of the 2.5 GHz spectrum at 14 tower sites in and around the Navajo Nation
- The project aims to connect at least 500 rural Navajo homes/locations, with reduced broadband rates for students

## Pending - Future Projects

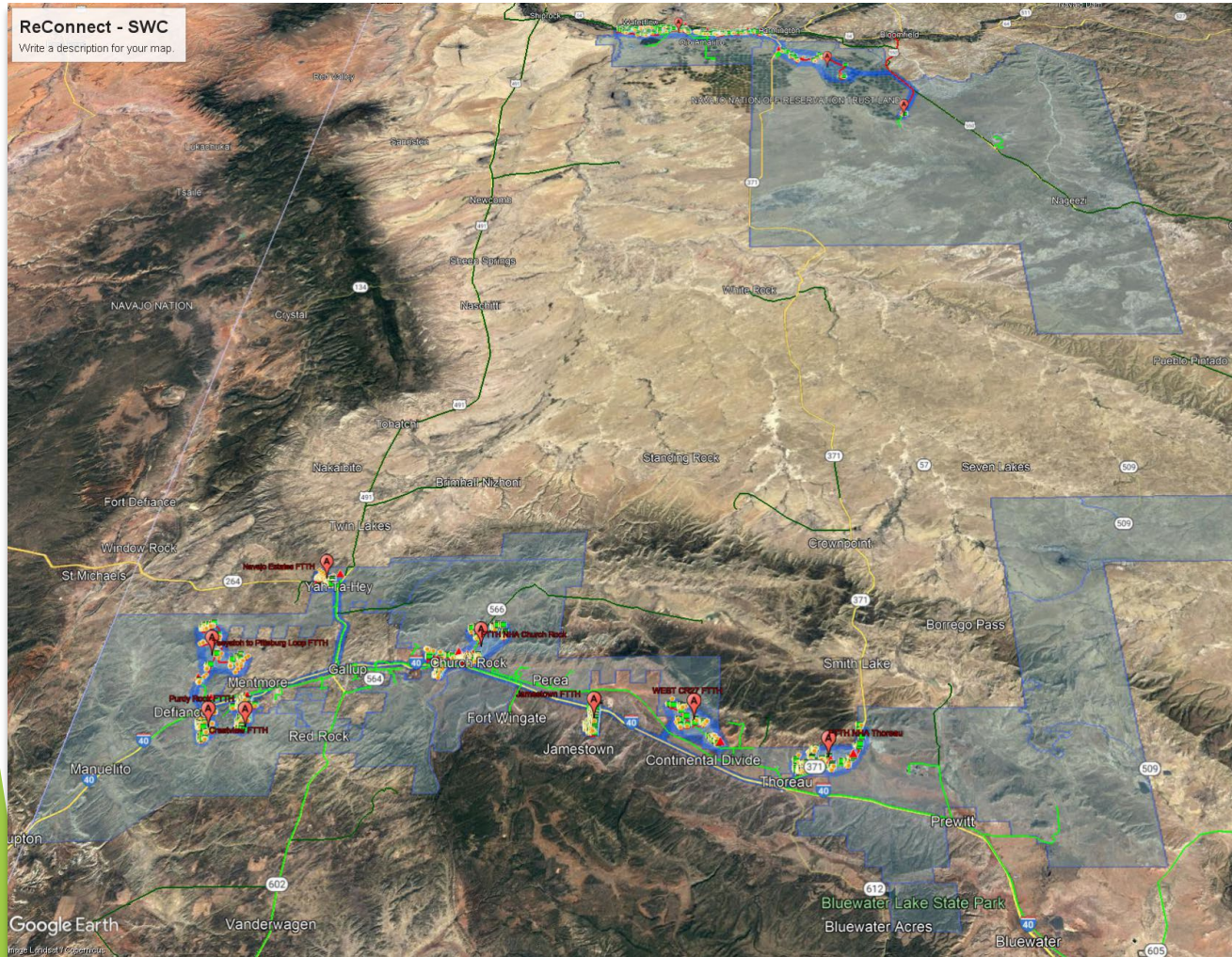
SWC and SWD USDA Reconnect 3  
Applications - \$49 million - 30 FTTH  
projects - 4,900 homes

NTIA Projects - \$6.3 Million - 11  
FTTH projects, 1,745 homes

ARPA - \$68 million - FTTH - Deploy  
2.5 Ghz - expand fiber buildout



# SWC and SWD USDA ReConnect 3 Applications - Pending



- 30 FTTH Projects all on the Navajo Nation
- Provide broadband speeds upto 1 gig to over 4,900 Navajo homes
- Estimated project cost for potential funding by USDA about \$49 million



# Sacred Wind Outreach

Bill inserts

Mass emails

News articles on our  
website

Landing pages

Door to door  
communications

Social Media

Radio

Newspaper

Phone calls

Attend local chapter and  
regional meetings

Positioning  
for now and  
the future

A Hybrid approach

**Fiber**

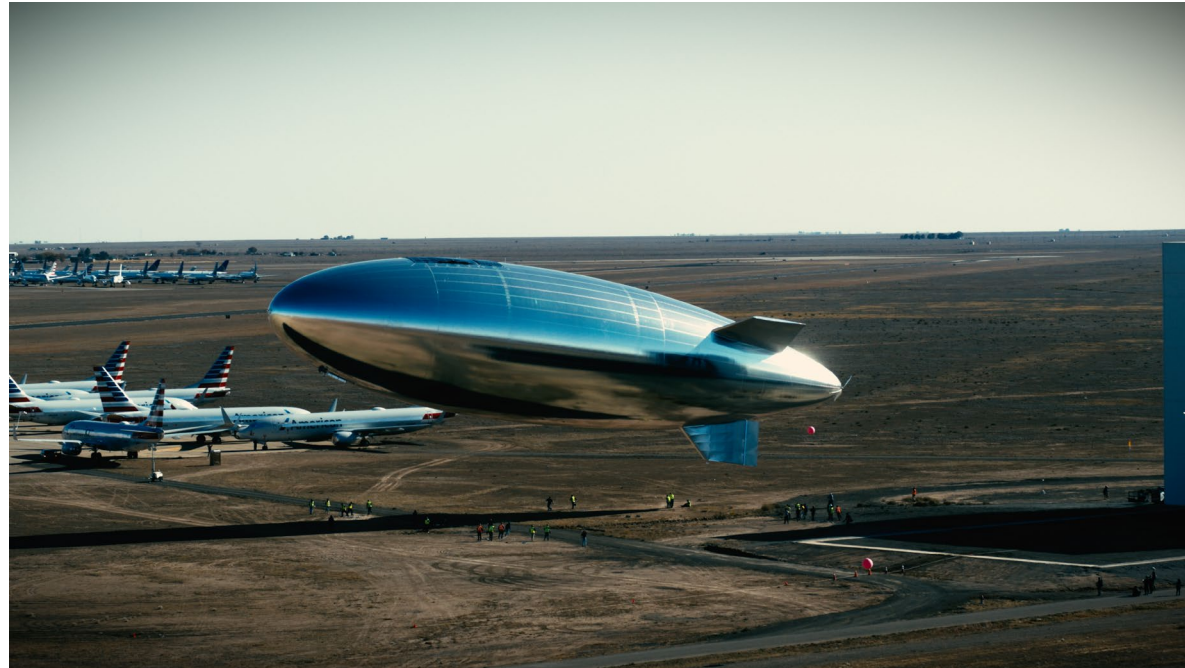
Middle Mile and FTTH

**Fixed Wireless**

Less dense Areas

# A Hybrid Model

► Alternative to middle mile for the hardest to reach areas. In 2023, Sacred Wind Communications and Sceye located in Roswell, NM has begun discussions on a pilot program to test a hybrid model for fixed wireless.



# In closing,

The impacts of COVID have led to increased and new funding opportunities for broadband. Funding is now available and may not be available in the future.

Funding sources have differing guidelines on what and who is eligible for services, therefore multiple projects are simultaneously being deployed.

Projects are interdependent on one another to expand services to as many homes and business.

Projects are on a short timeline for completion.

Advocating for digital equity and digital inclusion.

Thank you.