The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe is a federally-recognized Tribe. Our Reservation covers 500,000 acres and includes a 112,000 acres terminal lake. While one area of the Pyramid Lake Reservation is located 35 miles northeast of Reno, the Tribe is remote in the sense of lack of access to cost effective and fast broadband. There are 1580 residents and 2000 enrolled members who would benefit from bringing fiber access to public facilities and enterprises within the reservation. Residents live in the communities of Wadsworth, Nixon and Sutcliffe that are separated by 20 miles. Distance and disparate levels of internet service means that the communities are like islands within the reservation. Our Project name "Pyramid Lake Paiute: Natukwena Nagwesenoo" is a Paiute phrase which means ‘to weave information.’ If we are funded, the tribe hopes to use the fiber to weave the communities and the outside world together, to level the playing field for those living on the reservation and to bolster economic development and jobs. The Pyramid Lake middle mile CCI project will fiber-link anchor institutions and key government departments throughout the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation. This project will enable the tribe to bring 100 mbps service with expansion capabilities up to 2.5 gbps to the area. This will directly support the growing needs for a community library and medical services; police, rangers, fire and emergency response services; schools, higher education; and economic development. It will assist many tribal departments to become part of an integrated network for information sharing, and provide the quality of service needed for database sharing with other tribal, federal and state agencies at an affordable cost. Pyramid Lake is a popular recreational area for visitors from Reno/Tahoe, California and around the world. In winter, the tribe opens up Pyramid Lake for prize fishing, and boating, skiing, and swimming in the summer. Eighty thousand permits were issued in 2008, and visitors topped 200,000. Despite the popularity of the Lake in the region and the world, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation Service Area remains underserved and economically disadvantaged. The town of Fernley, three miles from Wadsworth, beyond the reservation boundaries, is a thriving community with industrial growth. Our proximity to Fernley poses a great opportunity for economic development especially in the area of providing service to enterprises if a fiber grant was awarded. The wireless network that currently links tribal departments and services in the three communities is insufficient for interdepartmental networking, accessing remote medicine opportunities, coordinating emergency response, police services, courts and victim services. The high school and health clinic, located in Nixon, pay for T1 service costing $6,000 to $14,000 per year. Phone lines are at capacity in Sutcliffe and near capacity in Nixon. The project has a budget of $10,957,588. Over 40 miles of fiber conduit will be trenched in and the 24-strand dual-conduit fiber will run along existing roadways. It will pass through the three communities and feed 29 tribal anchor institutions that 1580 tribal members and visitors rely upon. The proposed line
will provide splice points for the planned Wadsworth Community Center, currently in the design phase, a planned industrial business park in Wadsworth, as well as the future geothermal energy plant at Astor Pass, north of Sutcliffe. Basic services will be circuits only, shared 100 mbps bandwidth, and dedicated fractional 10 to 100 mbps Metro E. The Wadsworth node will support third party service providers in Fernley. It is estimated that the Pyramid Lake Paiute project will create 119 direct job-years, 76 indirect jobs and 40 induced jobs. With a fiber linked business park, it is estimated that the twenty-five business tenants will eventually create 2500 direct jobs, and 1600 indirect jobs. The Pyramid Lake Paiute tribe is able to provide an in-kind match of $2,432,000. The majority of this in-kind match is an IRU for fiber to Reno which the tribe obtained in 1999 in a right-of-way agreement with Williams Communication Inc, now Level (3) Communications. If these dark fiber lines were not available to the Tribe, the cost to link to Level (3) NOC in Reno or Fallon would be cost-prohibitive. With the BTOP funding available, it is now feasible to capitalize on this important resource available to the tribe and use it to boost economic growth as well as improve and expand services to the region. As the reservation is a rural area, virtually all anchor institutions are located on or very near the highway which will be the fiber corridor. The fiber network will pass by a regional youth treatment facility, a future Industrial Business Park, Natchez Elementary School, Day Care Center and Headstart, future Wadsworth Community Center with library and computer center, Nixon Store, Health Clinic, Museum/ Cultural Center, Pyramid Lake High School, Tribal Administration Building, Social Services, Housing, Police Department, Fire Station, Courts, Consolidated Higher Education, Library, Diabetes and Children’s Cabinet, Sutcliffe Fire Station, Fisheries Administration, and the Marina/ Ranger Station. This fiber network will enable the tribe to provide best in class network data, video and voice services in an open network. All tribal related sites will implement applications which filter content deemed as posing a threat to the security of their internal networks and information systems. The tribe will institute a Telecommunications Committee which will create an acceptable use policy and oversee issues concerning the use and availability of the network. The current website will prominently post these policies. Third party service providers will be encouraged to subscribe to the available circuits and provide competitive broadband services to homes and businesses in these communities and neighboring communities. Pricing will be fair and competitive. Costs will be in line with comparable services in metropolitan areas across the country. The Paiute tribe currently operates a wireless broadband network throughout the three communities for some of these buildings. The fiber network will deploy the same technologies, including: routers, firewalls, switches, network security software, and bandwidth management software. The tribal office already has a climate-controlled, secured datacenter that houses servers and network equipment. The additional equipment will be housed in this facility. Network services are completely handled by staff; and relationships with outside vendors with network specialties are established to address specific service needs at the expertise level. Our Tribal Finance and Management Team has extensive experience with billing and providing enterprise and utility services to the communities. We are partnering with Praxis Associates Inc, a California-based architectural and engineering firm on this project. They have experience in both working with Native American tribes and designing and installing fiber networks. They bring the expertise the tribe needs to launch a network of this scope in terms of engineering design, budget, proper documentation and the construction of a state of the art fiber network. The Pyramid Paiute project will directly benefit the residents of the three communities and enable the tribe to partner with a third party service provider for last mile service. A last mile solution is not part of this project because
the fiber project would leverage a no cost solution to bring last mile service to communities that are underserved and unserved. The wireless backbone the tribe is currently using, while inadequate for tribal and enterprise demands, can be dedicated to a home wireless solution. A third party service provider has expressed interest in providing WIMAX wireless service to the unserved homes using the wireless infrastructure. The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe believes that this is a cohesive, comprehensive and worthwhile project that will attain the goals of BTOP and meet the expectations of ARRA.