

I am a wireless internet service provider who is facing some tremendous challenges. Here in rural Snohomish county, not only do I have to cope with 150' forest, but also very hilly terrain. To give adequate coverage to my whole rural population base using current equipment and policy is extremely cost prohibitive.

Modifying two policies in particular would help my company - and others - facing similar circumstances:

1) Open up the 700 Mhz band to unlicensed technology. The longer wave-length is much better at penetrating foliage than the shorter 2.4Ghz.

2) Raise the output power limits in rural areas. There are a number of good reasons to do this:

a. There is a much lower population density. In the city where there are population densities of over 3000/square mile even a small percentage of users can cause significant interference problems. In the rural model, 100/ square mile (based on the Granite Falls School district) is closer to the norm.

b. Add to that the natural attenuation that is mentioned in item 1, and interference becomes nearly a moot point.

In this increasingly hectic world, many people are opting for the rural lifestyle. Leaving the hustle and bustle of the world behind is something many of us would like to do, however, it also puts them and their children at a disadvantage when it comes to information technology. Modifying the policy in the above mentioned ways can help close the Digital Divide;

Thank you,

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