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BAT Roadmap

- Introductions
- What is a Broadband Action Team?
- How to start a BAT
- How to sustain one
- Statewide & national efforts

What is a Broadband Action Team (BAT)?

A small *but mighty* group of people who care about broadband and work to increase:

- **Awareness**
- **Access**
- **Use**



Why form a BAT?

Local communities know more about their
broadband availability and needs than
any state or federal agency.



Who should be on your BAT?

Everybody...because broadband touches **everyone**.

- Elected officials
(commissioners, mayors,
council members)
- Information technology experts
- Internet service providers
- Libraries
- Medical (clinics, hospitals)
- Schools (K-12, higher ed)
- Tribes
- Citizens (young and old)
- Emergency management
- Workforce development
- Economic development
- Fire districts
- State and Federal legislators

What are key BAT roles?

- **Local team leader**
(champion, facilitator)
- **Coordinator**
(note taker/task tracker)
- **Outside resources**
(for technical assistance)



How to decide what to work on?

- **Define** community priorities and goals
- **Assess** assets and gaps
- **Seek input** from residents and businesses
- **Meet regularly** to discuss needs and opportunities
- **Be action-oriented!**

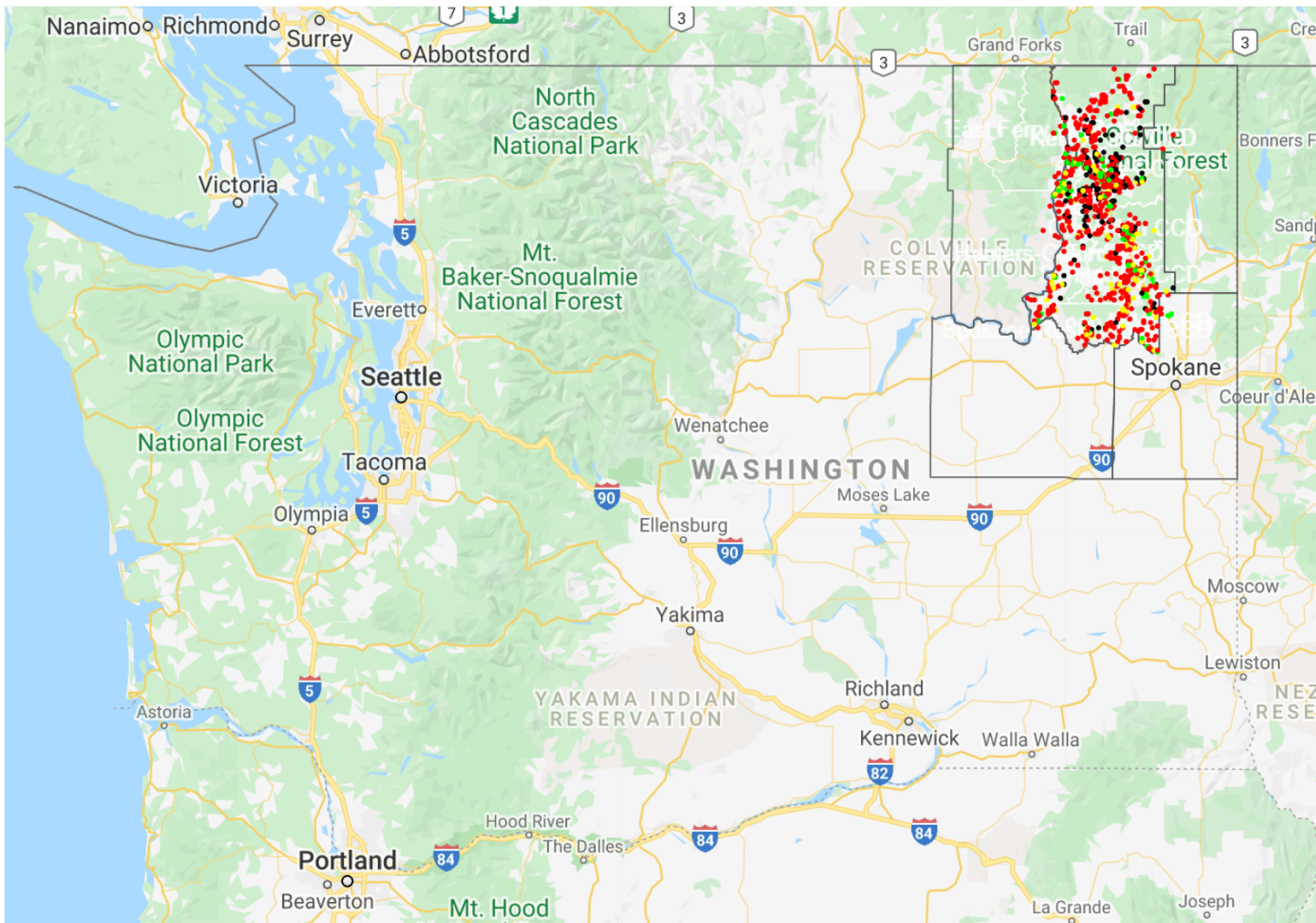


Speed test mapping

**Proof of concept:
Stevens County**

Statewide:

broadband.wa.gov



What are some BAT projects?

- **Awareness**
 - Tech Expo
 - Gadget Garage
- **Access**
 - Community Broadband Surveys
 - Pre-positioned Fire Camps
- **Use**
 - Digital Day Camps
 - Pathways to Prosperity Conferences



Why are we successful?

- Open to all
- Good coordinator
- Excellent note-taker
- Connections to state and national conversations
- Regular meetings
- Plans of Action
- Support for each other



We share our story

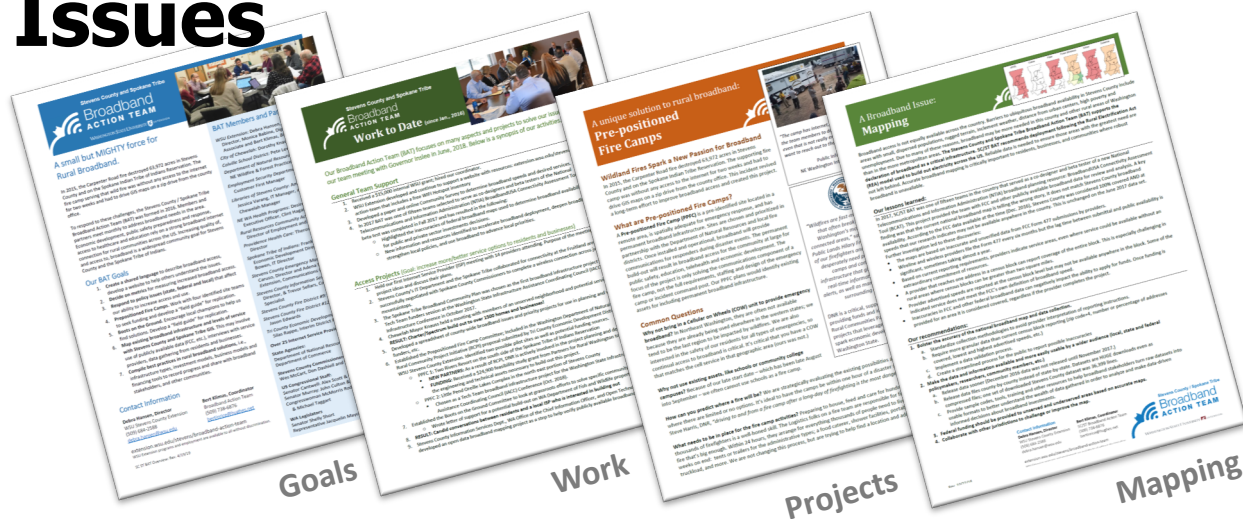
- Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers
- Governor Jay Inslee
- **FCC Chairman Pai**
- Visits to Washington DC



Information sheets and website

extension.wsu.edu/stevens/broadband-action-team/

Consistent • Responsive • YOUR Issues



Our Broadband Story: "They have access at libraries, don't they?"



Digital literacy is the new obstacle.

A hundred years ago in poor and rural areas librarians were focused on literacy – in the reading and writing traditional sense.

Work in rural areas in West Virginia lacked representation for their health care, their career goals, for their education. All the things they could not do because they could not read and write.

Today, digital illiteracy is the new obstacle that sets up kids to struggle through school, that prevents people from acquiring relevant job skills, that limits the ability of rural people to participate in state and national decision-making, and creates an uneducated work force that discourages new industries from relocating to our area. The very first step they need to learn is, "How do I use a mouse?" "Do I need to get an email to do this?" They are so far behind; it is a real illiteracy problem. It's becoming generational now.

Surely, libraries are the rural answer?

The Libraries of Stevens County provides high-speed Internet and wireless at all eight of our locations in Stevens County. Our patrons use broadband to take online classes, apply for jobs, conduct legal research, connect with friends and family, research homework projects, and more. We also provide programs such as tech-hours, virtual reality demonstrations, coding, and free access to Lynda.com where people can take thousands of training and professional development courses. We are a critical lifeline for thousands of people in this area so that they are able to both gain the technology skills they need to be successful and provide the high-speed access they need for a whole range of online applications.

At all of our locations, we need more speed to meet the demands of the public. Library staff are keenly aware that digital literacy in this area is low. 100 years ago, illiteracy (the inability to read and write) was a serious issue in rural and remote places across the US. Digital illiteracy is now becoming second generational in northeastern Washington and like traditional illiteracy sows deeply rooted social issues, such as poverty.

The Washington funding challenge: Libraries have no state funding, but instead are funded by a local taxing districts. In Stevens County 40% of the total land area is owned by the federal government, state government, or the Spokane Tribe, which means — a very limited tax base. This equates to lower taxable funds for libraries to be open, which translates to no weekend hours.

School-aged students who might look for Saturday and Sunday hours for homework are not possible unless you sit in the parking lot with a laptop... In fall, winter or spring. The libraries leave their Wifi on 24/7. Our area is a low-income rural area with little exposure to large industries in the STEM field. Our reports show we have a 47.4% free or reduced lunch population, and many of the area's families have not had much exposure to postsecondary education.

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extension.wsu.edu/stevens/broadband-action-team/
WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

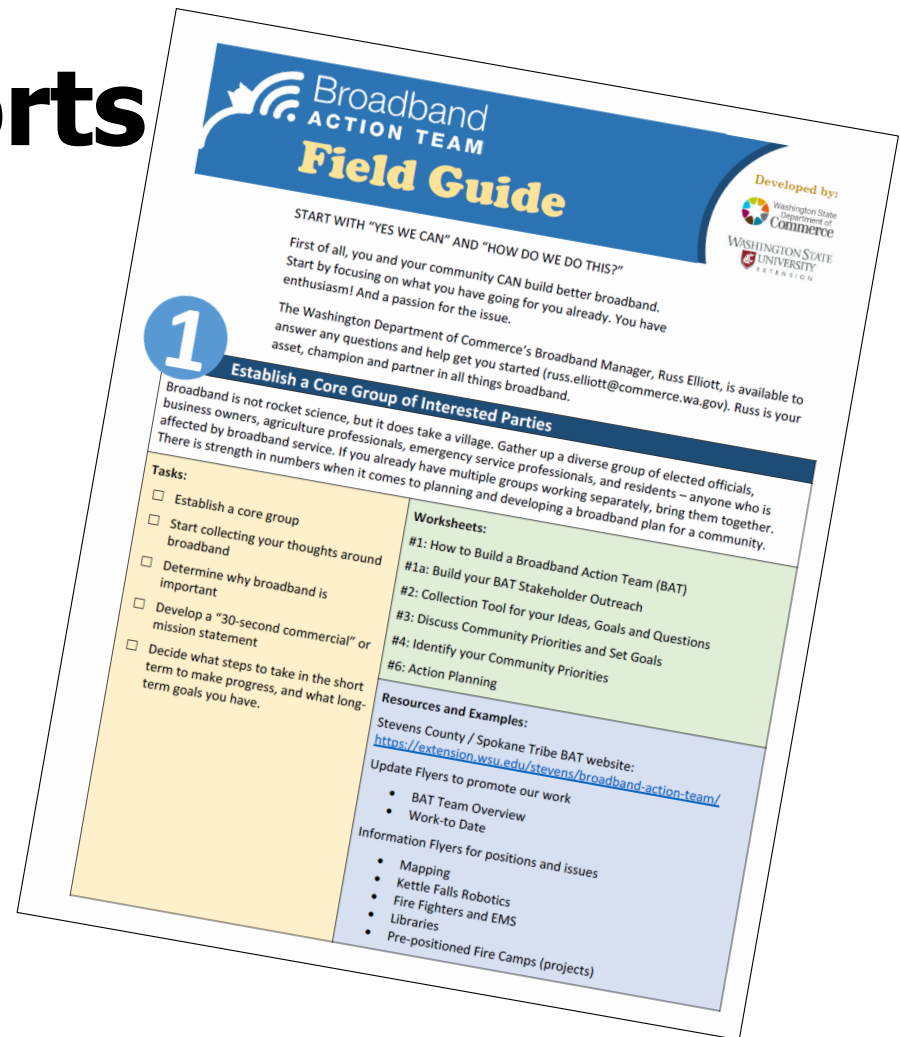
Strength in numbers!

- We don't work in silos
- We bring multiple perspectives
- We don't duplicate efforts
- We all have limited budgets and resources
- We have a broad range of skills and expertise
- We amplify each others' voices



Statewide Efforts

- Developed at WSU Extension
- Addressing interest across the state through MOA with WSBO
- Partnering with Commerce and the Washington State Library to finalize customizable resources
- Launching this fall



Teaming up to grow more BATs!



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