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#### **New Broadband Services Could Be Available Soon**

**Loyalton, CA February 23, 2016** – A crowd of about 50 residents filled the old Loyalton middle school auditorium Monday night to learn when broadband Internet services would reach Loyalton and Sierra Brooks.

Corby Erwin, PSREC Member Services Director, said construction could begin as early as this spring with enough interest.

After a brief history of Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications' original mid-mile fiber optic construction project, Erwin said the majority of the network expansion now is via advanced wireless technologies backed by PST's fiber optic network.

"Construction is expensive," said Erwin. "We need at least 20 households to justify the buildout in this area. It's a matter of economics." When asked if the company needed 20 in Loyalton and 20 in Sierra Brooks, Erwin clarified needing only 20, total.

Erwin explained one of the major differences between PST's service and services offered by other area providers is its physical connection to the PST-owned fiber optic system. "The fiber backbone provides a more reliable, virtually unlimited backhaul service, for the wireless access points that supply Internet to the local area."

When asked how the company planned on getting the service to area residents, Bob Marshall, PSREC/PST General Manager said they were exploring several possible broadcast points.

Rich Green, PST Internet Technician, presented area maps from Google Earth which he overlaid to demonstrate coverage from different potential broadcast points in Loyalton and Sierra Brooks. He also answered more technical questions regarding the various advanced wireless technologies PST uses.

When asked about the quality of PST's advanced wireless service, Marshall noted that he has it at his home on Grizzly Road in Portola, and sees no degradation in signal quality or speed, even when his "twenty-somethings and their significant others" are all home using their devices at the same time.

One concern was how long it might take to respond to a service call. Someone noted it can take days or weeks with some service providers. With headquarters based out of Portola, this would not be an issue. According to Green, "Our eyes are on it as soon as we receive the call." Green explained many calls do not require a truck roll and can be handled over the phone.

When asked if service was already available in Loyalton, Marshall said yes, noting several local businesses directly connected to PST's fiber optic system, including Loyalton's schools and hospital. "Our interest is in spurring economic growth," said Marshall.

Marshall urged those interested in receiving services to contact PST as soon as possible. Several who attended the meeting signed interest forms that evening, and will be contacted as soon as service is available.

For more information or to ask about service, visit [www.pst.coop](http://www.pst.coop), or call (530) 832-4126.

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