- Wyoming communities **received more than $30 million** in Connect America Funds. We are working with the winning bidders to focus efforts and coordinate state initiatives around their projects. We have introduced the winners to other communities to spark creative discussions.

- **Defined the term underserved** with consensus from providers to include quality of service, reliability of service and redundancy of service. This is an example of Wyoming setting a standard for others to follow and is a result of trust between providers and public entities.

- Continued to **champion broadband in rural parts** of the state where communities do not have a champion due to lack of resources, funding, human capital and time.

- Continued to look at **leveraging the assets of the University of Wyoming,** including professional and student internships to stretch our team

- Tangible wins include **Torrington redundancy, Saratoga fiber, Hulett redundancy, Farson competitive provider introduction** and **Guernsey contract with provider**.

- Significant **federal funding** is being introduced now. The Broadband Advisory Council will be a central point of contact for communities, people or organizations in Wyoming seeking to leverage as much of that federal money as possible based on pre-organization around state broadband initiatives.

Russ Elliott
Broadband Manager
307-777-6430
russ.elliott@wyo.gov

Wyoming
BUSINESS COUNCIL

BROADBAND ENHANCEMENT

Increasing Wyoming's Prosperity

wyobbmap.org

The 2018 Wyoming State Legislature charged the Wyoming Business Council with improving access, speeds and reliability for every Wyoming citizen.

That legislation also provided the Wyoming Business Council new tools to fulfill that mission, including $10 million for a broadband infrastructure grant fund and $350,000 to establish a broadband manager and broadband advisory council to oversee the agency's efforts.

Since Senate File 100 passed,
the Wyoming Business Council and Broadband Advisory Council has:

- Created and published a comprehensive **State Broadband Plan** that outlines Wyoming's mission, vision and moonshot goals. The plan focuses on funding, mapping, public private partnerships, future technologies, barriers and opportunities.

- Created rules and procedures for the **Broadband Grant Fund** for unserved regions of Wyoming.

- **Built a website** featuring a map of broadband speeds statewide, a speed test, a survey, a FAQ and more.

wyobbmap.org

- Researched and implemented a **speed test** to map speeds at a micro level unmatched in the U.S.

- Worked with University of Wyoming GIS team to design a **multi-layer map** for internal and public-facing broadband speeds.

- **Established four subcommittees** to focus on: emerging technologies, public private partnerships and funding, barriers and opportunities, mapping and creating a telemedicine team.

- **Presented to statewide professional associations** in multiple settings.

- **Visited many rural communities** to educate them on options, listen to concerns and offer solutions.

- Joined the National Telecommunications and Information Administration State Broadband Leaders Network to **ensure Wyoming has a voice** on the national level and to be updated on best practices nationwide.

- Presented to and joined in surrounding state broadband discussions to **ensure we cover the border regions** and to share and learn current broadband efforts.

- **Brought an impartial voice and view** to discussions between providers and communities.

- Established a strong working relationship with WYDOT, BLM, SHIPO to **coordinate right-of-way and easement discussions** with each department and state providers. Leaders of each organization will do everything they can to ensure they are not a barrier to broadband propagation statewide.

- **Gained confidence and trust** with state and national providers ensuring we have collaboration and are all working to accomplish our moonshot of "setting a standard for others to follow".

- **Encouraged uncomfortable conversations** around underpromising and overdelivering as a standard for state service. This is another example of Wyoming setting a standard.

- **Started a pipeline discussion** and looking to build on this to create potential policy around a "dig once", "perfect once" to include communications infrastructure in pipeline corridors.