



# We can do this!

## Let's bring fiber-optic internet to our communities!!

Dear Elk Falls Ranch and S. Elk Creek Road Residents,

It is not too late! Join the initiative to bring high-speed, fiber-optic internet to our neighborhoods. We are working with South Park Telephone (SPT), Staunton State Park and the communities of Mountain View Lakes, Woodside, Douglass Ranch and Preserve at Pine Meadows to apply for a State grant (January 2021 grant cycle) that would offset the cost of fiber infrastructure for households who commit now to this service.

### Reasons to consider high-speed fiber optic internet:

Stable, robust high-speed broadband is no longer a luxury, but a necessity, especially for rural communities such as ours. Our future depends on it as an increasing number of jobs and services move to the internet including work-from-home, telecommunications, telemedicine, home schooling, home automation and staying in touch with friends and family.

Fiber-optic technology is considered the purest form for data transmission and provides the foundation to deliver advanced services for substantially more bandwidth and reliability and fewer interruptions caused by inclement weather.

Did you know that high-speed internet increases your home's value by approximately 3%? That means if your home is worth \$500,000, that's an additional \$15,000 added to its value!!

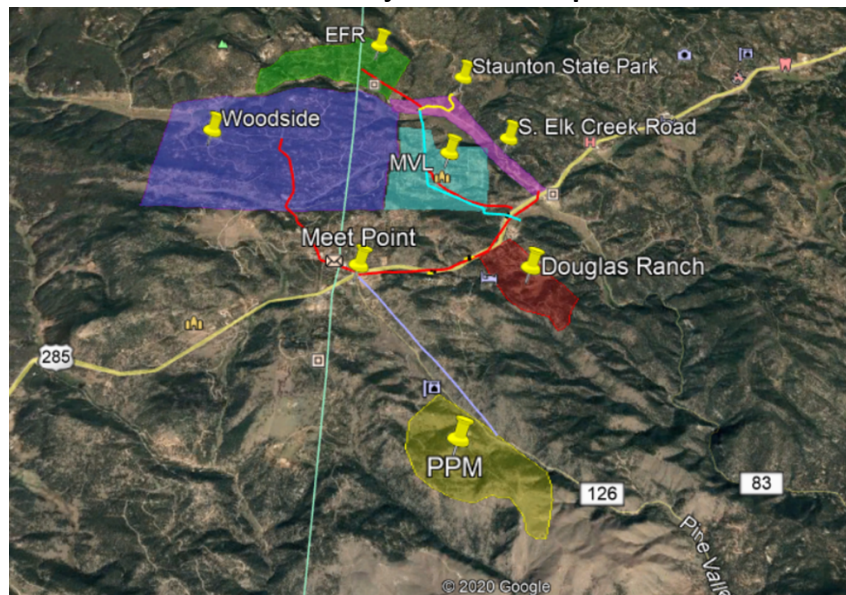
Signing up now **benefits you financially** as you will receive:

- pricing discounts (see attached pricing sheet)
- an incredibly low price of \$500 to install fiber from the main fiber route to your home.

### Here's what's different from when we tried for the July 2020 grant:

- **We have 144 commitments (see below for details on commitments).** We are not starting from zero.
- **Staunton State Park is now firmly on board.**
- **A closer fiber connection has been located** in Pine Junction; approximately a \$500,000 savings.
- **We have two new neighborhoods joining the effort (no change to the 350-commitment goal):**
  - Douglass Ranch - 42 lots, 39 dwellings
  - Preserve at Pine Meadows - 53 lots, 48 dwellings.
- We have **more service and pricing guarantees**, in writing, from SPT, which residents have requested.
- We have **new champions** for some of the neighborhoods with new energy and new ideas.
- A **new Communications Committee** is working together, on materials, mailings, signage, etc.
- **Silverheels (the first grant SPT received) has been a huge success!** In less than a year from receiving the grant, fiber infrastructure is installed with residents active on the system. This will hopefully ease the concern some residents may have about SPT's credibility as an Internet Service Provider. To read more about the Silverheels project, go to this webpage: <https://www.southparktelephone.com/fiber-to-the-home-ftth-silverheels/>

## New Project Route Map



### What is needed now:

What is needed now is commitment from 206 additional property owners to subscribe to fiber-optic internet service from SPT once it becomes available. There are approximately 900 parcels and 700 dwellings within the project area so this is doable! A commitment involves a \$500 payment, in-full or \$250 by November 15, 2020 with final payment due upon receiving the grant. This is your cost to bring fiber from the main fiber route to your home. **All funds are refundable if we do not get the grant.** It is important to note that this is a one-time offer. *If you choose to add fiber service in the future, the cost will be much greater than the commitment fee of \$500. In some cases, the cost may creep upwards in the range of \$3,000 or even more depending on how far your property is from the main fiber route.*

### How to commit to the project: by the deadline of November 15<sup>th</sup>:

- Sign the Commitment Form included with this letter or commit online at <https://www.southparktelephone.com/staunton-state-park-commitment-form/>. Note: PayPal charges apply for online commitments.
- Make a payment of \$500 (full) or \$250 (partial) by November 15<sup>th</sup>. Balance due when grant is awarded. See Commitment Form for instructions. **This cost is to bring fiber to your home from the main fiber route.**

### What will be needed soon:

- SPT is gathering information for the grant application and would like to include as much data as possible to substantiate a grant award and will ask residents of the project area to conduct a speed test from their residence/business and document the results. SPT will distribute a template and speed test website to use for the testing.
- Please send a personal letter of support from you and your business (if you have one) . This is really helpful to the grant. Refer to our website <http://www.285broadband.com/resources.html> for guidelines.

**A huge thank you to everyone who already committed.** You have given us a great start. Please help us spread the word about this incredible opportunity.

Sincerely,

**Your Project Champion:**

Bev Long, [bevlong2555@gmail.com](mailto:bevlong2555@gmail.com), 303-838-4373

**Attachments:**

1. Commitment Form
2. Pricing Sheet
3. South Park Telephone Fiber Stream Brochure

**For more information:**

- Project website: [www.285broadband.com](http://www.285broadband.com)
- Project Facebook page (**This is the best way to get the most current information**): Staunton Area Broadband Initiative <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2441495086101499>
- Grant information: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora-broadband-fund>
- To learn more about the benefits of Fiber Optic Internet Service <http://www.285broadband.com/benefits.html>