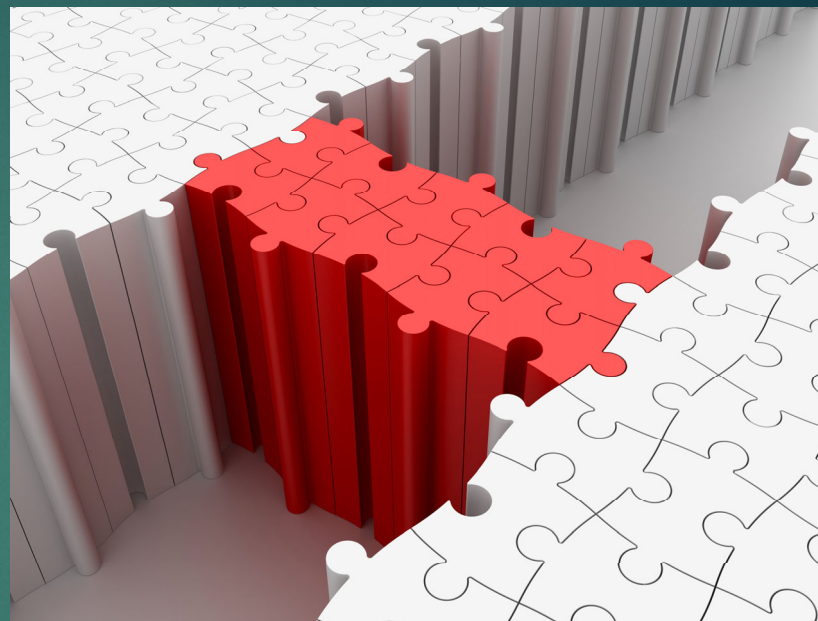




# Western CO Elevating Broadband

# Why we got here

- Numerous outages across region completely cut off communities
- Impacted governments, schools, businesses and public safety.....
- Existing providers didn't deliver reliable, affordable middle mile
- Non-competitive pricing compared to Front Range



# Rural Broadband Realities

- Broadband is essential for education, economic development and public safety
- Rural Colorado is underserved
- Rural communities need broadband to survive and flourish
- Each community is unique customized solutions required
- Regional and last mile approaches both needed
- Public Private Partnerships necessary



# Successful Program Strategies

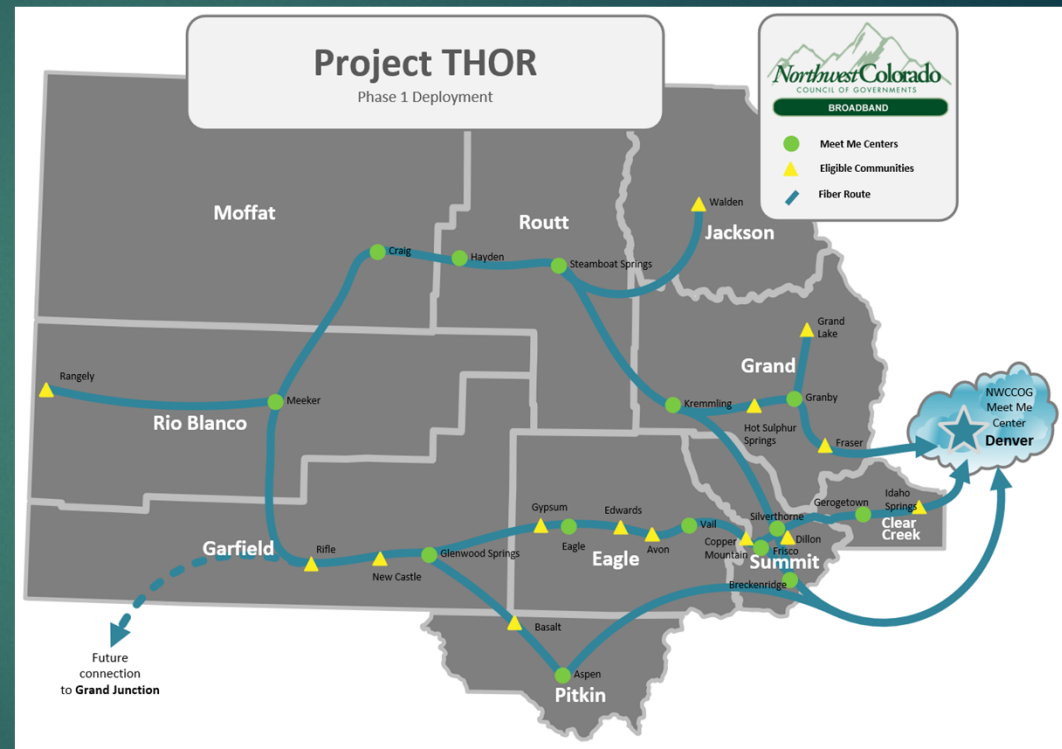
- Middle Mile Focus
- Support Last Mile ISPs
- Meet regional and community needs
- Tailored local solutions
- Close the broadband gap in more communities





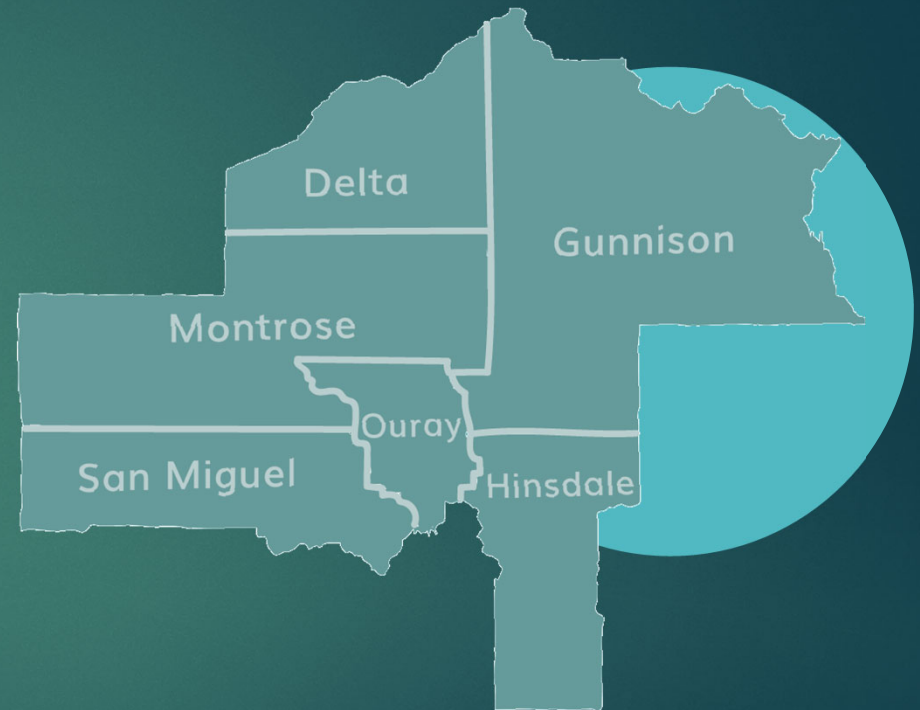
# Project THOR Network

- 9 Counties, 16 rural towns and cities
- Serves local governments, community anchors and last mile ISPs
- Network peak daily traffic has increased from 5G to 32G
- 17,121 Sq Miles
- 233,191 people
- 13.6 people/sq mile



# R10 Today

- ▶ 6 Counties, 18 Communities
- ▶ 18 CNL's (14 online, 4 in development)
- ▶ 600 Miles of Fiber
- ▶ Access to 14 Meet-Me Centers via Project THOR
- ▶ Expansion throughout Western Colorado



# Statewide Perspective

- State of CO pop 5,812,069
  - 104,185 square miles
  - 55.7 people/sq mile
- Denver Metro Area pop 2,963,821
  - 5470 square miles
  - 344 people/sq mile



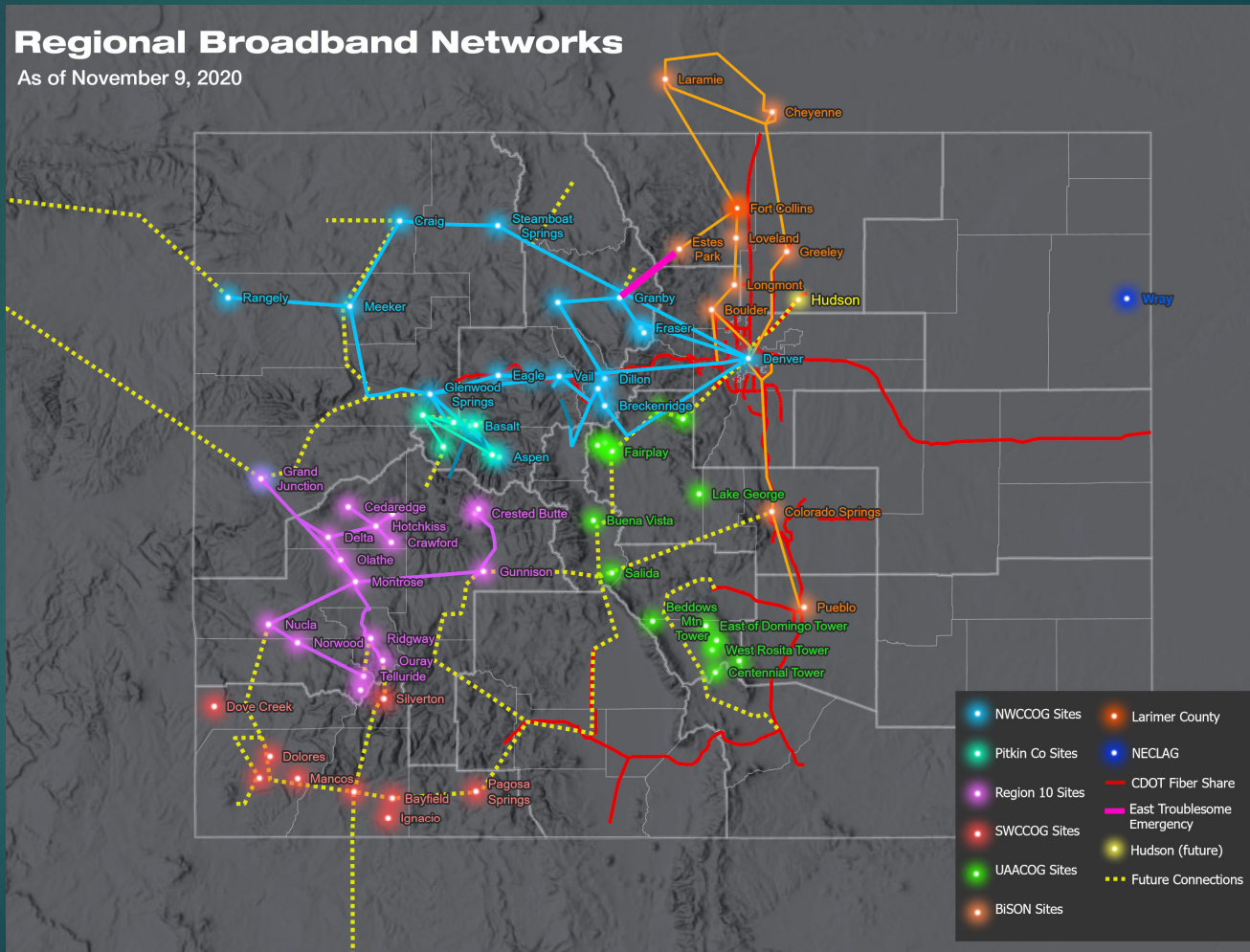
# Project THOR + Region 10 Delivers

- More access in more places
- Broke lock that inflexible national ISPs had on our communities
- Flexibility allows communities the ability to roll with changing needs
- Bandwidth costs reduced \$1.10/M to sub \$0.25/M
- Resilience helps reduce outages
- Support multiple smaller last mile ISPs





# Regional Middle Mile Future



# CO Funding Matrix

- ▶ DOLA Planning and Infrastructure Grants – 50/50 match
- ▶ ARPA CPF funding is coming to local communities with a broadband use call out (CBO Managed)
- ▶ IIJA funding is in Treasury rulemaking – Broadband Equity - \$100 - \$500M (CBO Managed)
- ▶ Colorado Broadband Fund assists provider innovations in last mile infrastructure deployment
- ▶ CAF, RDOF, ReConnect, USDA



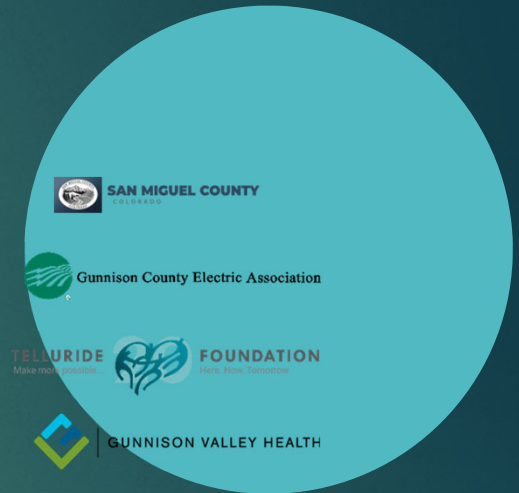
# NWCCOG Partnerships = Success





# R10 Partnerships

- ▶ Expand through Partnerships
- ▶ Connect the Regions
- ▶ Connect to Upstream Internet & Content Sources
- ▶ Extend FRGP to Western Universities
- ▶ Get Fiber Deeper into Rural & Remote Communities







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