

Red Mountain Networks

Full-lifecycle broadband for the Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe



\$498,075

TBCP federal grant secured

100

homes connected

7

tribal buildings served

100/20

Mbps service delivered

The Challenge

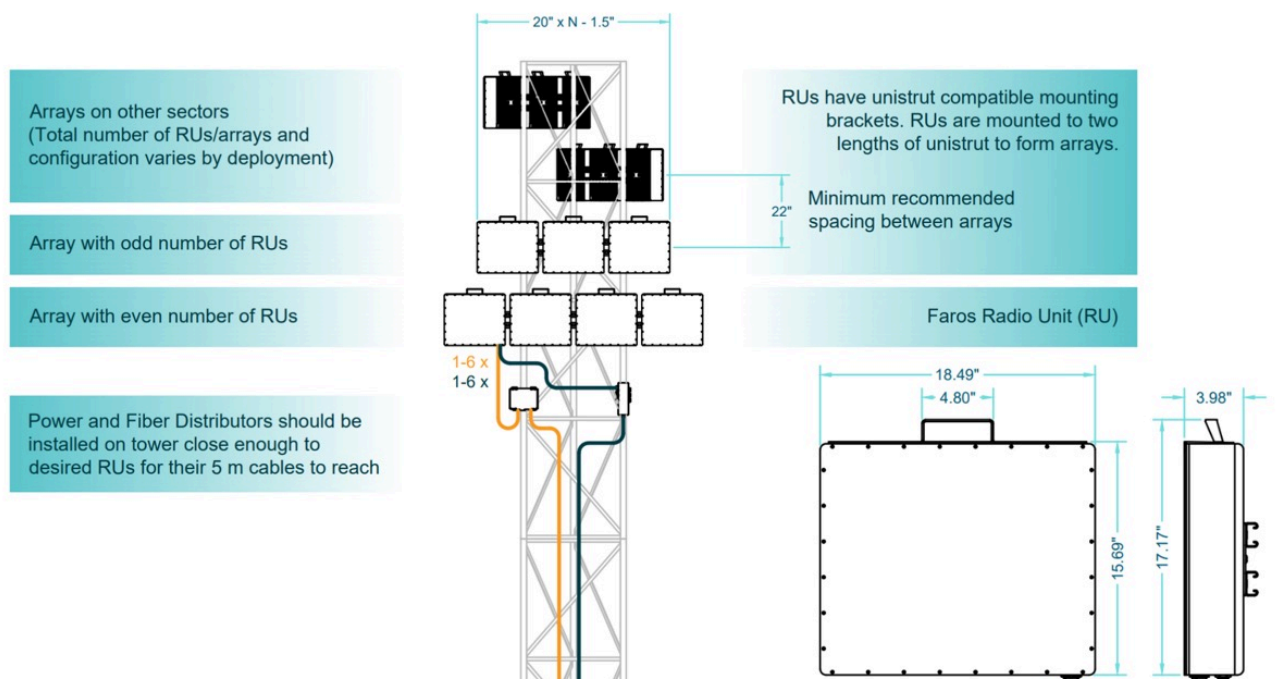
The Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe's reservation spans remote high desert terrain on the Nevada-Oregon border. Broadband options were minimal: the rural market was unattractive to large carriers, existing infrastructure was sparse, and the terrain made conventional deployment economics fail. Students, businesses, and tribal services all operated without reliable connectivity.

The Approach

Numu provided full-lifecycle consulting, beginning with a community assessment and a federal funding strategy built on three braided sources: a \$498,075 Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program grant, Treasury Capital Projects Fund co-investment, and Nevada Indian Commission state and local recovery funds. This structure funded construction while protecting operating cash.

The Technology

Numu selected Skylark Wireless Faros Massive MIMO base stations for their spectral efficiency and rural coverage. Fixed wireless reached every target location without the per-mile construction cost of fiber across desert terrain, and the design cleared the FCC 100/20 Mbps benchmark with room to grow.



The Results

Red Mountain Networks now delivers 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload service to 100 residential connections and 7 tribal community buildings. Students attend remote classes, small businesses operate online, and tribal services reach members effectively. The network is operated as a tribally owned enterprise, with expansion to additional territories underway.



Key Lessons

- Braided funding beats single-grant strategies: three complementary sources funded one coherent project.

- Terrain-appropriate technology matters more than technology fashion: Massive MIMO fixed wireless outperformed fiber economics here.
- Tribal ownership keeps revenue, jobs, and decisions in the community.
- A proven first project becomes the template, and the credibility, for every expansion that follows.

References

BroadbandUSA. (2026). *Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program*. National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

<https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/tribal-broadband-connectivity>

Federal Communications Commission. (2026). *National broadband map*. <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov>

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