



MEDIA ADVISORY  
October 29, 2020

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## **Yampa Valley Electric Announces USDA Grant Award to Increase High-Speed Broadband Access in Rural Northwest Colorado**

### **(STEAMBOAT SPRINGS & CRAIG, CO),**

Today, Steve Johnson General Manager/CEO of Yampa Valley Electric Association (YVEA) and Luminate Fiber LLC, and USDA Rural Development Colorado State Director Sallie Clark announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is awarding \$6 million to YVEA to expand broadband service in Northwest Colorado.

USDA will provide funding to YVEA/Luminate through its ReConnect program to deploy a fiber-to-the-premises network that will connect 264 rural households, 27 farms and ranches, 27 businesses, and three post offices to high-speed broadband. With this funding, YVEA/Luminate will construct 200 miles of middle mile fiber to connect Northwest Coloradans in Routt, Moffat and Eagle counties.

General Manager/CEO Steve Johnson said, “Across our territory, it has been increasingly clear that broadband services are not an option at this time, but a necessity for community health and wellbeing. The buildout of broadband is the single most important investment we can make in our communities-impacting economic development, student achievement, emergency services and health care. We are grateful to the USDA for helping us provide stability and opportunity to the rural and remote citizens of Northwest Colorado.”

[USDA’s ReConnect Loan and Grant Program](#) launched in 2018 as a pilot program to expand broadband service to primarily unserved rural areas.

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