



# Status Meeting Minutes

Wyolink Contact Number: 307-777-WLNK (9565)

---

**Date:** Monday, April 29, 2013 **Time:** 10:00 A.M. To 10:56 A.M.

**Location:** Geology Conference Room on the first floor of the Planning building (south end)  
Conference Phone: 877-278-8686 PIN: 085726

**Attendees**

Bill Walter, FBI & PSCC	Marty McCoy, WyoLink
Bob Symons, PSCC	Neil Clatworthy, Motorola
Dan Perko, WY State Forestry	Paul Newman, Motorola
Dan Wilson, BLM	Rick Clark, USFS / WYDOT Liaison
Glen Crumpton, Laramie County Combined Communications Center	Rob Wilson, WYDOT
Jim Pobanz, Motorola	Steve Langworthy, Motorola
Ken Shultz, WYDOT	

---

## 1. Core Site Status

- a. **Duncan Lake (BHNF):** May 6, 2013: **This site is on line.** Marty and Chuck are working with Clarke McClung and Gayle Laurent to meet BHNF's requirements for the appearance of the building. The new siding has arrived, and Gayle Laurent has agreed to a spring installation of this new siding – after the snow has melted and the site is accessible by truck. An inspection of this site with the BHNF is scheduled for June 19. Larry Sheridan reports that Mutual Aid at Burgess Junction is available on the WHP Console.
- b. **Hell Hole (USFS) 2012:** May 6, 2013: **This site is on line. No Change.** The lease for this site has been sent to Idaho for their comments before it is finalized and circulated for signatures. Marty has the lease with comments from Idaho and is currently reviewing it.
- c. **Pow Wow or Alternate (BTNF):** April 26, 2013: Marty has reviewed the budgetary estimates for construction of this site (\$5.5M) and has completed a document comparing possible sites at Pow Wow and Black Mountain. The PSCC recommended that Marty move forward with a more detailed proposal for using Black Mountain, ID and two other sites to provide approximately the same coverage as Pow Wow. The PSCC agreed that three sites for \$3M would be more cost effective to

construct and maintain than Pow Wow for \$5.5M. Marty will proceed with preparing a more detailed proposal. Marty discussed the Black Mountain site with Clark Wireless, and discovered that Silverstar Communications of Afton has equipment at this location. Marty will explore the possibility of sharing this site with Silverstar. Marty and Chuck are researching Monument Ridge near Bondurant for a possible site. Marty will ask the Forest Service to issue appropriate notices to entities who may want to share our sites when the time is appropriate so these sites can be permitted with these possible users in mind. At Rick Clark's suggestion, Marty will keep both Silverstar and the USFS involved simultaneously. Funding to construct Pow Wow or any other alternative site is lacking at this time. After discussing this site with Teton County last week, WyoLink and Teton County will revisit this site and possible ideas for bringing the cost down significantly. Marty will meet with Teton County, the BTNF and Union Wireless in Jackson on May 10 to discuss Pow Wow options.

- d. **Salt Pass (BTNF):** May 6, 2013: **This site is active. No Change.** The reclamation of the old site is expected to be complete in the spring of 2013. The movement of the equipment from the site at Old Salt Pass to the new site is complete. Star Valley Search & Rescue continues their evaluation of coverage from the New Salt Pass site. Marty and Michael Schrotz have discussed the reclamation of the old Salt Pass sites, and Michael will let Marty know what the BTNF would like to see. Marty will check with Jay Hokanson to see if there is any determination from Star Valley Search & Rescue on their coverage evaluation.
- e. **Signal Mountain (GTNP):** April 26, 2013: No contact with the GTNP has been made since the meeting with the BTNF and GTNP in March of 2011 because this site is permitted to Union Wireless and any sharing of this site or modification of the permit will need to happen in full cooperation with and led by Union Wireless. Therefore, until Union Wireless and WYDOT reach an agreement on possible sharing of this site, WYDOT will refrain from discussing this with the GTNP. Marty has spoken with Union Wireless about their progress on evaluating the possibility of WYDOT sharing at this site and they are working on obtaining a structural analysis on the monopole at this site. They would like to have us share this site with them, but are still working through all the details. Funding to construct a site in the Togwotee Pass area is lacking at this time. Marty will be meeting with Teton County, Union Wireless and the National Park Service in Jackson on May 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss this site.

## 2. Portable Coverage Enhancement Site Status

- a. **Douglas:** May 6, 2013: The installation of the RF equipment is about 60% complete, and is waiting on power to the site to have the batteries and combiner (that are on hand) installed. Power is scheduled to be connected at this site on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Following this, the site can be completed. Currently the site is scheduled for completion the week of May 20<sup>th</sup>, with optimization to follow the week of May 28<sup>th</sup>. It's possible this site could be on the air the first week of June.
- b. **Gillette:** May 6, 2013: **This site is on line.** Marty is working with Campbell County to have the lease for this tower completed and signed.

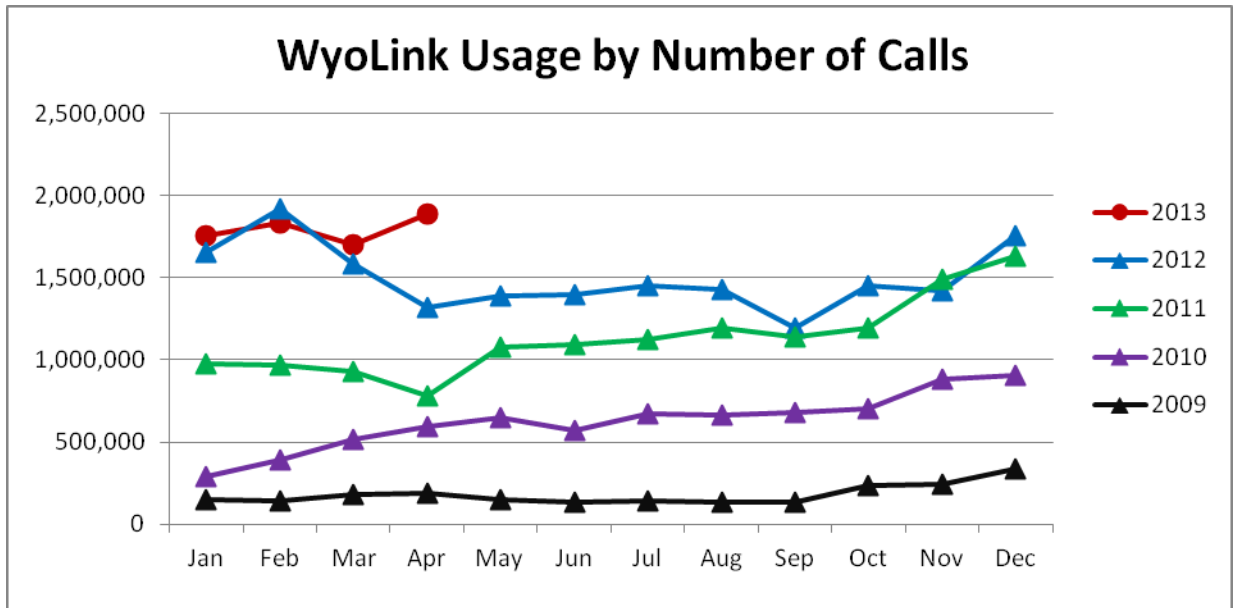
- c. **Green River:** May 6, 2013: **No Change.** The PCE site for Green River will be at Mansface, and a site has been selected on the mountaintop. Applications for the permits to construct at this site will be made by the City of Green River and the Green River PD. Barry and Marty will assist them as they prepare these applications. The frequencies for this site have passed coordination and have been submitted to the FCC for licensing. Larry Sheridan will track this application and keep Marty informed. Preliminary site plans have been distributed for review. The RF equipment for this site has shipped. The hearing for the permit was held, and the recommendation for this site will be forwarded to the Commission and then to City Council. The only additional requirement to date was that the utility be underground from the pole to the building. After discussing coverage concerns with Chief Steffen and reviewing the calculations and path drawings from Motorola, Marty has chosen a 100 foot tower for this location. The 30 foot reduction in site height will be offset by mounting the antennas higher on the tower, so the resulting coverage will be approximately the same. Barry is pressing for detailed design information, but has no date for these documents yet. The license application is still pending at the FCC.
- d. **Pinedale:** May 6, 2013: **No Change.** White Pine Ski Area has been approved by the PSCC, and Marty is working with Sheriff Lankford and Bob Symons to move this site forward. Marty is assisting Sheriff Lankford as Sublette County applies for a modification to the Special Use Permit to accommodate the new tower at this site. Bob will work with Sublette County on their PCE agreement after the USFS Special Use Permit has been modified to reflect the WyoLink tower. Bob is working with Sublette County on their talkgroup plan. Marty received a copy of the scoping letter from the BTNF. The modification of the special use permit for White Pine is now in the public comment phase. Once this modification of the special use permit is complete, the PCE agreement can be completed. Marty will meet with Sheriff Lankford at the White Pine Ski Area on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss final placement of the tower.
- e. **Powell:** May 6, 2013: This site was activated April 5, 2013, and is complete. Marty will inspect this site with Steve Langworthy, Motorola Project Manager on May 13.
- f. **Rawlins:** May 6, 2013: Site documentation will specify that the site owner will maintain, monitor and report the condition of the marker lighting at this site. The tower has been delivered and the building has been set at the site. Construction at this site is on hold due to weather and Sage Grouse restrictions. Marty will apply for an exception that, if granted will allow construction from June 4<sup>th</sup> through June 18<sup>th</sup>. The BLM responded that this was too early to apply for an exception for June 4<sup>th</sup>. Marty will re-apply on May 20<sup>th</sup>, per the BLM's recommendation. Following this, the RF equipment will be installed and optimized. When this is complete, this site will enter test mode followed by activation.
- g. **Wheatland:** May 6, 2013: WyoLink has received the signed PCE agreement, and is waiting for the site design documents from Motorola that Neil indicates should arrive the latter part of May.

3. **Low Speed Data:** May 6, 2013: WyoLink continues to work with WHP and other agencies interested in utilizing Low Speed P25 Data to address their concerns and ensure that their operations do not adversely affect WyoLink. The WyoLink Support Office will determine when WHP intends to begin using their new client so the effect of this can be monitored. The software for enhanced reporting of data usage is now operational, and WyoLink is working with Paul Newman to understand and customize the reports that are available. A Low Speed Data usage chart will be added to the end of the WyoLink Status Agenda and Minutes.
4. **Console Connectivity:** May 6, 2013: The next most promising console locations for lower cost T1 lines utilizing Metro Ethernet (ME) will be our T1 links to Pinedale. Marty and Mike Kurz (WYDOT Telephone section) have decided that the leased T1 circuits to the consoles in Lander and Riverton would be the next candidates for replacement with lower cost ME links. Mike Kurz will begin work on this. Lincoln County's new console in Kemmerer is scheduled to be shipped in July, with installation to begin around the end of 2013. This console is still on track for a July installation. Marty will be working to extrapolate future effects of new consoles and voice loggers on the SUA. Prior knowledge of and approval of new consoles and voice recorders may be necessary to accurately control and predict future WyoLink costs.
5. **Adjacent State Connectivity:** May 6, 2013: When WyoLink migrates to version 7.13, it will be possible to implement technical standards that will allow more advanced connectivity to neighboring states. After these standards are implemented, we can look at connecting to Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Utah. If WyoLink is able to obtain funding for implementing ISSI Version 2 (and CSSI), this will be a possibility. Bob reports that Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Utah are all in varying stages of system update and compatibility, and that he continues to have meetings and dialog with these states as they move forward and contemplate connectivity with WY among other states.
6. **Risk Management:** These are WyoLink issues posing significant risk to the system and a description of the risk.
  - a. **Pow Wow Replacement: High Risk.** April 26, 2013. A budgetary estimate to construct Pow Wow is \$5.5M. The PSCC recommended that Marty move forward with a more detailed proposal for using Black Mountain, ID, Monument Ridge, WY and one other site to provide approximately the same coverage as Pow Wow. The possibility for some site sharing with current or future parties interested in this area may lower some of the costs, and WyoLink and WYDOT will investigate this. Funding to construct Pow Wow or any other alternative site is lacking at this time.
  - b. **Local Activity Affecting WyoLink Performance: Medium Risk.** April 26, 2013. Cities that are building 800 MHz sites may bring heavy loading to nearby VHF sites, similar to the situation in Casper. WyoLink will need to monitor the trends in areas that are considering moving to 800 MHz, and review the effect of their operation procedures and the development of their talkgroup plans on surrounding sites. Bob and Marty will have discussions with local agencies to see what can be done to reduce the impact to WyoLink from their local operations. The WyoLink Office tracks usage on the system (including busies) to keep aware of possible issues on WyoLink both now and in the future, and is observing heavy loading on two sites in south east Wyoming – 85 South

and Cheyenne Water Tank. Marty will keep the PSCC Operations Workgroup informed regarding this.

7. **Coverage:** May 6, 2013: WyoLink is working with WYDOT's GIS program on displaying coverage testing results on a map and GIS is placing the finishing touches on the final version of their solution. Marty is working to schedule more BER drive testing. WyoLink is aware that more BER drive testing results are needed, and in very short order. Marty will work with WYDOT Telecommunications and other stakeholders who have volunteered their help to accomplish the most drive testing possible. Marty and Troy Berg (WyoLink Support Specialist) met with WYDOT GIS on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> to review the progress of the public map. GIS hopes to have the public version of this map available by Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.
8. **Busies on WyoLink:** May 6, 2013: There were a very high number of busy indications on WyoLink towers at 85 South and Cheyenne Water Tank as a result of heavy loading during the storms Wyoming experienced on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>. Marty has prepared Busy Reports for these days, and has forwarded them to Bob Symons for submission to the Operations Workgroup. These busies were due to exceptionally high use of WyoLink and heavy loading on the towers at 85 South and Cheyenne Water Tank. Very few of these busy indications were due to traffic being drug from across the state. The WyoLink Support Office is working with the Laramie County Combined Communication Center (and others) to identify heavy users and perhaps make adjustments to alleviate the heavy loading on 85 South and Cheyenne Water Tank. These two sites would still benefit from two additional channels each to increase capacity, though.
9. **Dragging Traffic:** April 26, 2013: The WyoLink Support Office has started researching instances when traffic is being dragged across the state, and has prepared a report form that will be used to document these occurrences. The WyoLink Support Office is not aggressively tracking instances of dragging traffic unless it results in busy indications, but does research occurrences when time permits and they are noticed. WyoLink users are encouraged to move off their normal dispatch talkgroup when traveling outside their home area to avoid dragging their dispatch traffic to a remote portion of the state unnecessarily. This can cause unnecessary loading on towers removed from their local area and create busy indications both in these remote areas and in their home area. During the recent snow storms on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>, there were a few cases where dragging traffic contributed to busy indications. However, with calls to the agencies involved these instances were quickly resolved.
10. **Codeplug Schedule:** May 6, 2013: The WyoLink Office has completed about 1440 codeplugs to date in 2013, with an average wait time of 1 week. Currently there are 100 codeplugs on our schedule to be completed. The predicted wait for codeplugs that are newly submitted is about 9 days. We are working diligently to process codeplugs and return them to each agency so they may insert them and begin to use their radios. If any agency has questions about their codeplugs, please call the WyoLink Support Office and we will be happy to help. Some Weston County radios need a flash upgrade, as they seem to have been overlooked during the statewide upgrade a few years ago. Paul Newman is working with Weston County to have these radios taken care of.

11. **WyoLink Usage:** May 1, 2013: Currently there are about 16,250 radios and consoles able to use WyoLink. There are 267 agencies approved to use WyoLink with 112 State and Federal agencies and agencies in 19 Counties having moved their operations to WyoLink. WyoLink usage to date in 2013 is 7,172,776 calls, with a busy rate (by time) of 0.025%. This is an increase over the busy rate (by time) of 0.014% for the first three months of 2013. In 2013 WyoLink has been available over 99.9% of the time. At the PSCC's suggestion, WyoLink will change the metrics that are reported to give a clearer picture of who is using WyoLink and to what degree. We will be looking at what to measure, what to report and the best method to disseminate this information. Part of this process will be changes to the WyoLink web site that will include updates and coverage maps as well as predictions, forecasts and budget issues related to WyoLink. WyoLink subscribers, member agencies and other interested parties are encouraged to use the new WyoLink contact number – 777-WLNK (777-9565) -- for all their WyoLink contact needs.



12. **PSCC Meeting:** May 6, 2013: The last PSCC meeting was held Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> in Pinedale. The next PSCC meeting will be a video meeting during the week of June 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. As the date approaches, more information on the actual date, time and video conference details will be available. If you know of anyone who would like to receive notices for PSCC meetings, please contact Bob Symons (307-777-5065 or [bob.symons@wyo.gov](mailto:bob.symons@wyo.gov)) or Marty McCoy (307-777-4756 or [martin.mccoy@wyo.gov](mailto:martin.mccoy@wyo.gov)) and we will add you to the distribution list for these notices.
13. **WyoLink User Training:** April 29, 2013: Bob Symons, Kim Lee and Lanny Applegate are working on a new WyoLink User Training program. This training program will focus on the radio each agency and user will be using. Survey results are driving this change, and the approach will be to train the trainer. The target is for the train the trainer sessions to begin around the end of May.

14. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 28, 2013 at 10:00 in the Geology Conference Room, Planning Building, first floor, south end.