



Whiskey Creek Ranger Station Communications Link Project

Project Proposal

In order to provide access to the National Park Service Intranet, Internet and Voice over IP phone systems, the park is proposing installing a microwave communication link connecting Whiskeytown National Recreation Area's Administration Building within the Headquarters complex (40° 36'39.77"N, 122° 31' 41.61"W, elev. 1303') to the Whiskey Creek Ranger Station (40° 38' 20.69" N, 122° 33' 35.75" W, elev. 1301'.)

Project Alternatives

1. Microwave System

Install a Motorola PTP 45600 Bridge to Bridge microwave communications link system. This system would have a lower project cost of \$ 40,000.00 for equipment and an estimated installation cost of \$ 12,000.00. The equipment would be purchased and maintained by the NPS. This would provide a direct link from the Whiskeytown Administration Headquarters and the Whiskey Creek Ranger Station. This system would require the installation of 2- 10 meter tall communications towers with 4 foot diameter high performance antenna. This system would not incur monthly service charges from providers.

2. Upgrade Telephone Connectivity

Have area communications contractor/provider (AT&T) install a telephone line that can provide internet service and support Cisco VOIP telephone systems. AT&T was contacted and due to the small number of residences along Whiskey Creek Road they were not interested in expanding their infrastructure to accommodate this need, even with a financial contribution from the NPS.

3. Satellite or other options

Satellite internet services may be available at this location. These services, however, would not provide adequate bandwidth to support NPS requirements. Due to security requirements, additional hardware or software would be necessary to access the NPS intranet under this option. Additionally, these services would require a monthly service charge.

4. Commercial Microwave System

AT&T, or another provider, could provide a commercial microwave link from their facilities on South Fork Mountain. There are existing communication towers at this location. Initial start-up costs were quoted to be between \$100,000 and \$200,000, and a monthly service charge would be assessed. Due to security requirements, additional hardware or software would be necessary to access the NPS intranet under this option.

5. No Change

The Whiskey Creek Ranger Station has limited telephone connectivity available and no internet access. There is currently no other park office space available with this connectivity.