

Digital Equity in Central Nebraska

September 2023



CENTRAL NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

September 2023

Record of Amendments

A listing of future changes to this document will be included in this section.



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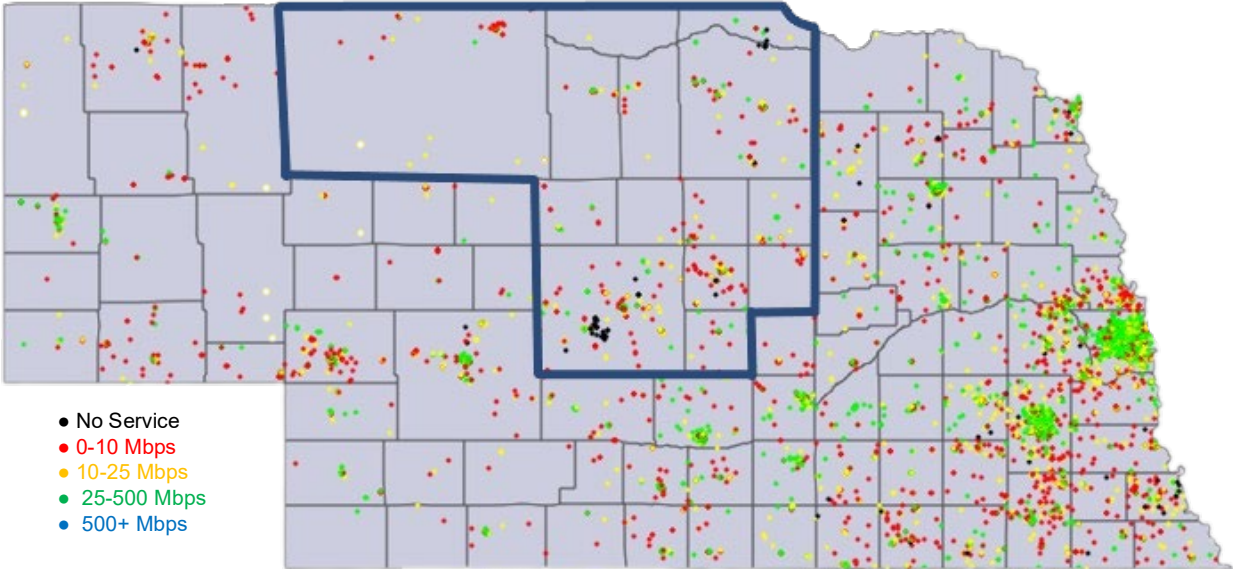
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CENTRAL NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

The Central Nebraska Region (Region) encompasses fourteen (14) counties, including the counties of Blaine, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Holt, Keya Paha, Loup, Rock, Sherman, Valley, and Wheeler in north central Nebraska. There are sixty-one (61) communities within these 14 counties. This Region of Nebraska covers twenty-two per cent (22%) of the state and two (2) time zones. The District is the largest economic development district geographically with the smallest population.



Map 1. Central Nebraska Region (outlined) with Upload and Download Speed Testing

| CNEDD Regional Demographics | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Per ACS 2021 5-Year Estimates | | |
| 14-County Region | | State of Nebraska |
| 45,997 | Total Population | 1,951,450 |
| 18,634 | Square Miles | 77,421 |
| 2.47 | Population/Square Miles | 25.21 |
| 47.4 | Median Age | 36.7 |
| \$53,865 | Median Household Income | \$66,644 |

Table 1. CNEDD Regional Demographics

The *Central Nebraska Region has the greatest deficient percentage in the State of Nebraska* of households without internet access, without cellular data plans, and without home or mobile broadband service (See Figure 1). Speed test data (See Map 1) also shows the unserved and underserved areas of our region. One-third of our 61 communities do not have a library, community center nor a senior center therefore, no space for public access.

CENTRAL NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

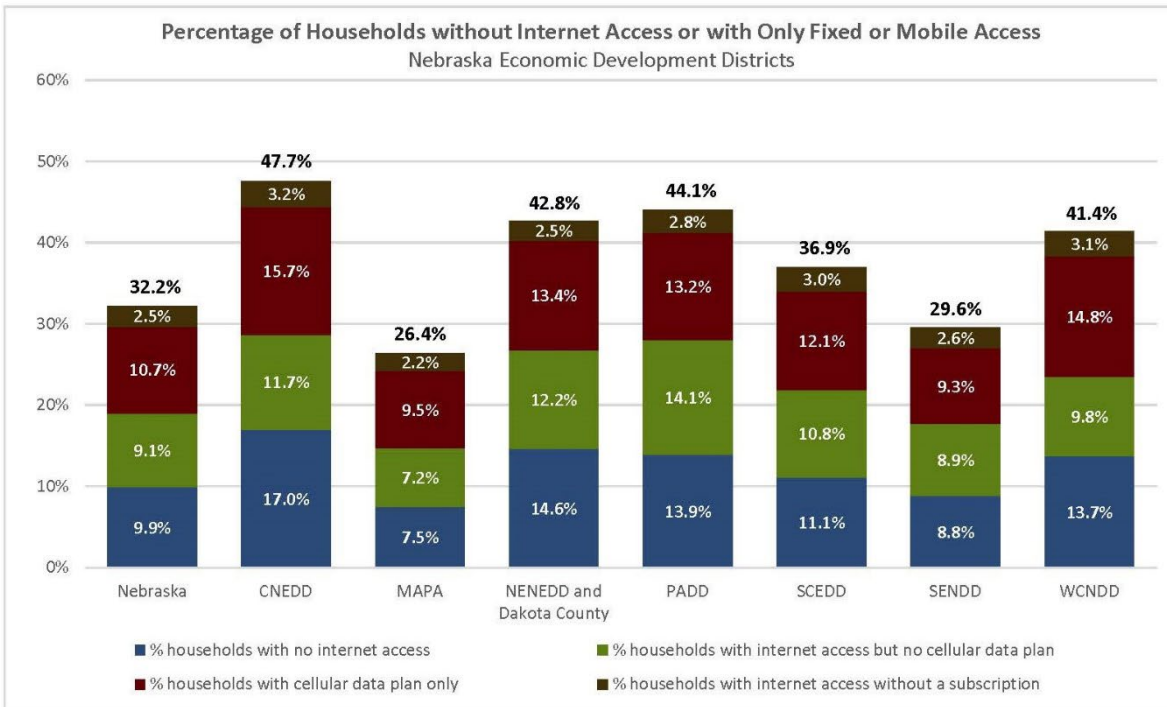


Figure 1. Percentage of Households without Internet Access or Only Fixed or Mobile Access by Economic Development Districts

Addressing the Digital Divide has been a long-time effort for the Central Nebraska Economic Development District. Many communities in the Central Nebraska Economic Development District region lack access to affordable, sufficient, reliable, and high-speed internet. Having access to broadband is only one of the keys to shrinking the digital divide, another need is having Technical Assistance available. Knowledge to operate the device or device applications, Device Repair, Device Management, are few examples to explain the term, ‘Technical Assistance’. There are many other barriers and needs that the district needs to achieve digital equity and the regional digital planning grant process has highlighted them. Details of these needs and barriers are included in the *Baseline Assessment: Broadband Assets of the Central Nebraska Region*.

The Regional Broadband Committee chose to include all covered populations for our region’s Digital Equity Plan. The covered populations are defined as

- **Covered household**-means a household the income of which for the most recently completed year is not more than 150 percent of an amount equal to the poverty level as determined by the Bureau of Census.
- **Aging Individuals**-we are going to include in this group anyone over the age of 60.
- **Incarcerated individuals**, other than individuals who are incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility.
- **Veterans**-anyone who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service and who is discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

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- **Individuals with disabilities**-means with respect to an individual a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual.
- **Individuals with a language barrier** including individuals who are English learners and have low levels of literacy.
- Individuals who are members of **racial or ethnic minority group**
- Individuals who primarily **reside in a rural area**. Rural area means any area other than city or town with a population greater than 50,000 inhabitants, urbanized area adjacent to a city or town with greater than 50,000 inhabitants.

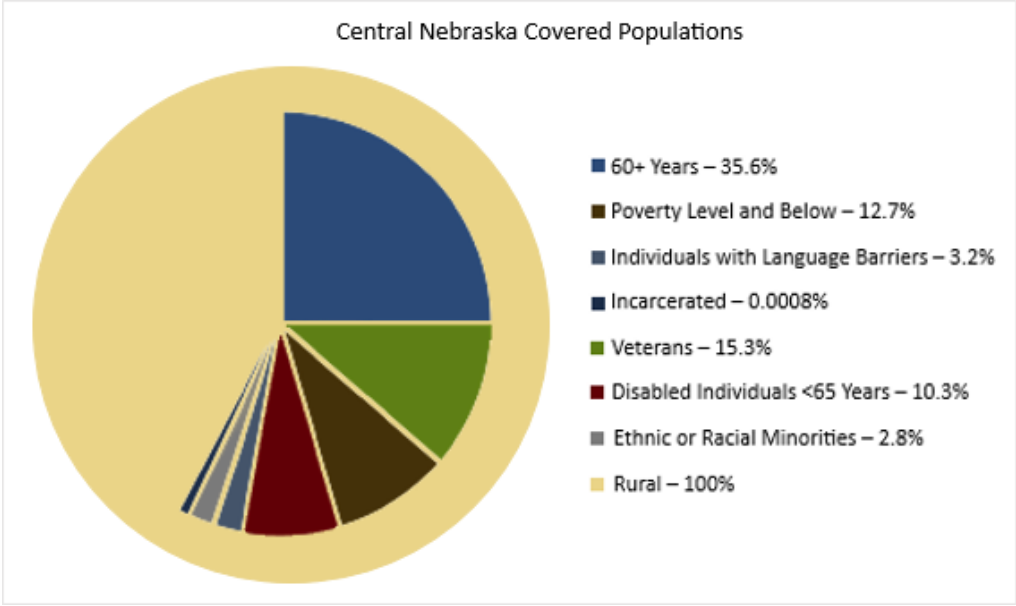


Figure 2. Central Nebraska Covered Populations by Percentage

The Central Nebraska Economic Development District’s Regional Digital Equity Plan provides a guided roadmap to Digital Equity in our Region. Each section of the Digital Equity Roadmap is guided by a goal, with associated objectives and action items. The goals are categorized under different pillars to Digital Equity:

- **Cross-Cutting Challenges** – Cross-cutting challenges are those that impact multiple pillars (Internet, Devices, Digital Skills and Technical Support, and/or Applications & Services, Precision Agriculture and Telehealth). Identify the challenges, strategies, and potential solutions that require collaboration across the multiple pillars, agencies, and stakeholders to bridge the digital gap and attain Digital Equity for all in the region.
- **Internet** - Having access to internet that is affordable, sufficient, and reliable to obtain necessary resources and both download and contribute content online. Support and increase the availability of mobile cellular and broadband internet services, internet service providers and the expansion of reliable connectivity infrastructure.

CENTRAL NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Devices** - The computers and accessories necessary to be productive, create content, and participate (homework, job application, reading, etc.). Support device affordability programs to increase device ownership in the region and promote public access locations.
- **Digital Skills & Technical Support** - The knowledge and skills required to use the equipment, applications, and internet effectively with training and support provided in a culturally appropriate manner. Expand access to and the availability of digital skills/literacy training and promote technical support organizations.
- **Applications & Services** - Including diverse users in the design and rollout of services while considering placement, outreach, training, user controls, privacy, universal design, and language. Support applications and services to enhance the digital experience of diverse users.

By addressing these outlined assets, barriers, goals, objectives, and action items will help the Central Nebraska Economic Development District region achieve Digital Equity. Ensuring Digital Equity in our CNEDD Region is important for the sustainability of our rural district and our state's economy.

CENTRAL NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

Introduction

Who We Are

The Central Nebraska Region encompasses 14 counties, which include the counties of Blaine, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Holt, Keya Paha, Loup, Rock, Sherman, Valley, and Wheeler in north central Nebraska. There are 61 communities within these 14 counties. This region of Nebraska covers 22 percent of the state and two time zones. The District is the largest economic development district geographically with the smallest population.

Central Nebraska Regional Digital Equity Principles

The purpose of the Central Nebraska Digital Equity Plan is to promote the achievement of digital equity and support digital inclusion activities, through an implementation strategy that is holistic and addresses the barriers to participation in the digital world, including affordability, devices, digital skills, technical support, and digital navigation. The strategy will (a) establish measurable goals, strategies, and proposed core activities to address the needs of covered populations, (b) set out measures ensuring the plan's sustainability and effectiveness across the region's communities, and (c) adopt mechanisms to ensure that the plan is regularly evaluated and updated.

Vision Statement

To ensure access to available, affordable, safe and secure services and devices for all.

Mission Statement

Responsible development and implementation of robust broadband internet to wired and wireless, unserved and underserved users in our region; while ensuring the digital skills necessary for all to live and work in Central Nebraska today and into the future.

State Digital Equity Planning Partners

Anne Byers, Digital Equity Manager/Administrative Manager, Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) and the Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO).

Nebraska Regional Officials Council (NROC):

- Central Nebraska Economic Development District
- Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)
- Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District (NENEDD)
- Panhandle Area Development District (PADD)
- Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO)
- South Central Economic Development District (SCEDD)
- Southeast Nebraska Development District (SENDD)
- West Central Nebraska Development District (WCNDD)

CENTRAL NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

Central Nebraska Regional Broadband Committee: A committee of 15 individuals who are community leaders and who represent different sectors of our communities to include government, business, agriculture, education, and veterans.

- Amy Shane, Holt County
- Becky Ries, Valley County
- Beth Rutar, Keya Paha County
- Daniel Kluver, Wheeler County
- Don Linqvist, Holt County
- Duane Lauridsen, Boyd County
- Gregory Nollette, Cherry County
- Jessica VanDeWalle, Garfield County
- JD Furrow, Blaine County
- Joe Hebbert, Holt County
- James Welniak, Loup County
- Kristine Beard, Rock County
- Laura Arp, Greeley County
- Macey Lackaff, Rock County
- Mary Ridder, Custer County
- Schyler Schenk, Brown County



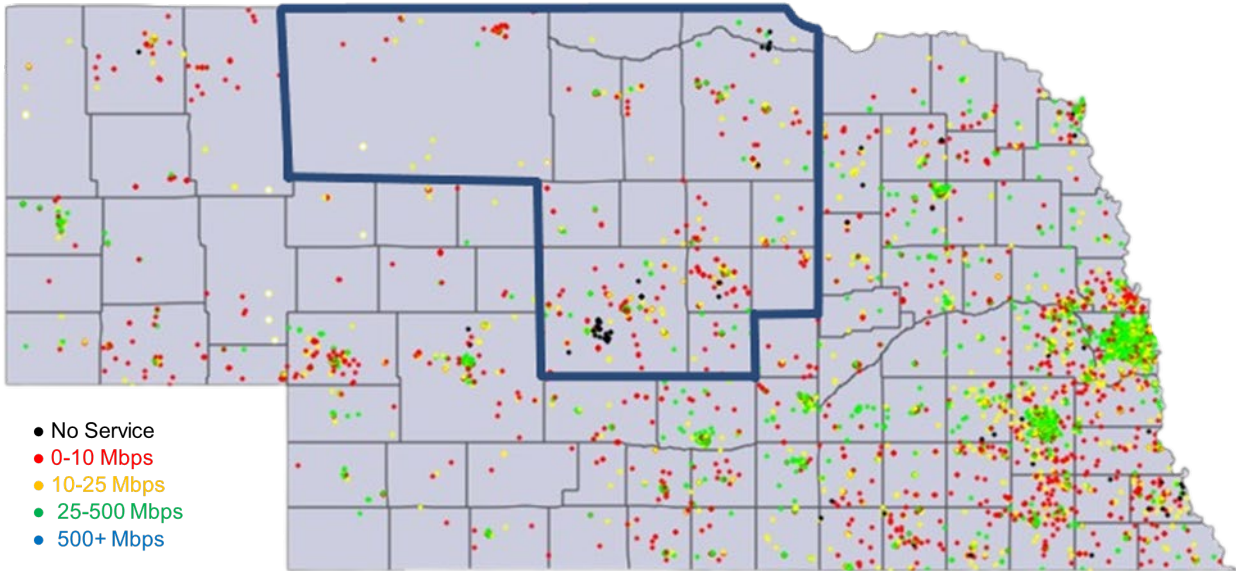
Figure 3. Regional Broadband Committee at work

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Broadband – Where We Started

In 2020, the Central Nebraska Economic Development District (CNEDD) was asked by the United States Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) to submit a grant application which identified the most crucial sectors of our region impacted by the pandemic and develop programs and plans that would help our region recover as quickly as possible and become more resilient to future disasters.

Broadband was one of the sectors identified and awarded for the CARES Act Funding. CNEDD partnered with the other Economic Development Districts across the state, to provide citizens with an opportunity to complete an internet speed test at their home, work, school, or anywhere with an internet connection. The Districts subscribed to a plan with GEO Partners and their software was able to analyze the upload and download speeds that were anonymously taken across the state. The results of the testing data were compiled and incorporated and displayed on a map to show the unserved and underserved areas within the State of Nebraska – including our region.



Map 2. Central Nebraska Region (outlined) with Upload and Download Speed Testing

CNEDD staff was tasked with ways to create awareness on how and where citizens could access and complete the speed testing. Posts were created for our social media accounts and Constant Contact. Business cards detailing the campaign, including the link to access the speed test, were handed out to all CNEDD events. The CNEDD staff created bright-colored flyers that included information on how to access the testing software on our website and how to complete the testing.

CENTRAL NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

The flyers were then mailed out through the United States Postal Service's Every Door Direct Mailing Program (EDDM) and there were delivered to every doorstep within the District's 14-county region.



Figure 4. Speed Test Marketing Materials

CENTRAL NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

Speed testing began in 2021, with the definition of “served” as anything over 25 Megabits per second (Mbps) (download)/3 Mbps (upload). The year-long testing showed a majority of the District was below 25 Mbps/3 Mbps, therefore unserved and underserved, validating the vital need for improved broadband in this region.

| County | Unserved and Underserved Download Tests Results (count or percentage) | Unserved and Underserved Upload Tests Results (count or percentage) |
|------------------|---|---|
| Blaine County | 15 or 83.4% | 13.66 or 72.3% |
| Boyd County | 7 or 29.1% | 3 or 12.5% |
| Brown County | 67 or 78% | 62 or 72.1% |
| Cherry County | 106 or 79% | 61 or 45.5% |
| *Custer County | 316 or 76.7% | 222 or 54% (53.9%) |
| Garfield County | 37 or 65% (64.9%) | 23 or 40.4% |
| Greeley County | 49 or 73.1% | 35 or 52.2% |
| *Holt County | 222 or 77.3% | 140 or 48.7% |
| Keya Paha County | 4 or 25% | 0 |
| Loup County | 9 or 82% (81.8%) | 10 or 36.4% |
| Rock County | 35 or 94.6% | 16 or 43.2% |
| Sherman County | 18 or 46.2% | 12 or 30.8% |
| Valley | 144 or 71.7% | 104 or 51.8% |
| Wheeler County | 26 or 68.4% | 18 or 47.3% |

Above is a table of the percentages of the Underserved and Unserved populations within the Counties located in the CNEDD Region. These results were taken towards the end of our speed testing in March 2022. In 2022, the FCC recommended that 25 Mbps Download and 3 Mbps Upload was the standard speeds that you needed to be over to be counted as served. *These counties met their testing goal and had enough data according to the software company to be statistically measured.

Table 2. Speed Test Results by County

CENTRAL NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

Digital Equity – Where We Have Been

In 2022, the Nebraska Regional Officials Council assisted Anne Byers from the Nebraska Information Technology Commission in drafting and submitting a Digital Equity Planning Grant application for the State of Nebraska. The Digital Equity Planning Grant was awarded to the State of Nebraska at the end of the year. The State Digital Equity Plan will highlight the current digital divide that Nebraska has and then will set a business – like model to address the identified barriers over the next five years, and eventually help open the door for additional broadband funding opportunities. As part of the State’s Plan, each Economic Development District will create their own Digital Equity Plan, addressing their region’s specific needs.

One of the conditions of the grant was to establish a Regional Broadband Committee (RBC) that would help identify the assets, barriers and needs of the region. CNEDD Staff reached out to all 61 communities in the region, asking for recommendations of individuals who could potentially serve on this committee. It was a priority to attempt to have a representative from each of the 14 counties. This committee was formed in January 2023 and made up of 15 individuals who are community leaders and who represent different sectors of our communities to include government, business, agriculture, education, librarians, and veterans.

Timeline of Broadband/Digital Equity Activities across the CNEDD region:



December 13, 2022 | CNEDD Social Media: #TuesdayTechTip was created. Weekly social media posts raising awareness about all things Broadband and Digital Equity. Posts have included defining broadband, Federal Communication Commission (FCC) speed test challenges, phishing, Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) enrollment, public listening sessions, #ConnectNebraska webinars, digital skills classes at regional community colleges, and classes focused toward older adults.

February 27, 2023 | Bassett City Hall: The first Central Nebraska Digital Equity RBC meeting was held in Bassett, Nebraska, at the City Office. Members were welcomed with a Digital Equity Overview and an explanation of their role in the Digital Equity Plan process. Each member got the chance to introduce themselves and explain why they were involved.

March 23, 2023 | Ord Township Library: The second Central Nebraska Digital Equity RBC meeting took place at the Ord Township Library and the first pillar to CNEDD’s Digital Equity journey was discussed - Internet. The Committee broke out into separate groups and discussed Affordability, Availability, and Access to Internet. The committee shared their thoughts on challenges regarding internet broadband by writing down three barriers which were grouped, ranked, and discussed. The meeting concluded with a tour of the library’s newly renovated makerspace, a place where the community has access to a 3D printer, sewing machine, Cricut mug press, Cricut Heat Press, button-maker, S.T.E.A.M. Art & Legos, a wide variety of paint and craft supplies, and much more.

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April 26, 2023 | Garfield County Library, Burwell: The Devices Pillar was the topic of this meeting and the committee split into two separate groups to discuss Device Access and Device Repair. Public Devices and Internet Access to Libraries, Senior Centers, Community Centers in the CNEDD Region were also discussed during this meeting.

May 2023: CNEDD Staff attended and marketed the Public Service Commission's Broadband and Digital Opportunities Listening Sessions in Valentine, Ainsworth, Stuart and Ord.

May 3, 2023 | Evergreen Assisted Living Center, O'Neill: The Digital Skills & Tech Support Pillar was discussed during this meeting and a few ideas that came to mind were some entrepreneurial ideas for a Student Tech Support Business, Internship Tech Support, and a Walk-In Tech Support all these ideas would provide business experience for students to use some of the technological skills that they already have and teach others about it. Following the meeting was the Public Service Commission's Broadband and Digital Opportunities Listening Session and A Visit with Congressman Adrian Smith.

May 30, 2023: The Baseline Assessment – Broadband Assets of the Central Nebraska Region (Appendix (a)) and the *Asset Inventory* (Appendix (a.i.)) were completed and submitted to the State.

June 21, 2023 | Broken Bow Public Library: The last Pillar that the committee discussed was Applications and Services, including privacy and cybersecurity, precision agriculture, and telehealth. Following the meeting, RBC members and CNEDD Staff attended the Nebraska Department of Transportation Broadband Office's Broadband Access and Digital Opportunities Listening Session.

June 2023 | Goal Setting: Staff met three times in Callaway and Broken Bow to draft goals for the Regional Broadband Committee's approval.

July 19, 2023 | Niobrara Valley Vineyards, Nenzel: The last Central Nebraska Regional Broadband Meeting was held in Nenzel and the committee added comments and helped finalize the Central Nebraska Regional Plan goals, strategies and activities items.

August 8, 2023 | Nebraska State Digital Equity Planning Workshop, Kearney: Staff and four members of the Regional Broadband Committee Office participated in a day-long workshop hosted by the NITC and included participants from the other seven Economic Development Districts, the State Broadband Office, the Public Service Commission, representatives from Tribal Development organizations, and many other state leaders, both public and private, to voice the barriers, needs and goals of our region to be included in the State of Nebraska's Digital Equity plan.

September 15, 2023: Central Nebraska Economic Development District Digital Equity Plan is finalized.

CENTRAL NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

The Regional Broadband Committee chose to include all covered populations for our region's Digital Equity Plan. The covered populations are defined as:

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- **Individuals with a language barrier** – including individuals who are English learners and have low levels of literacy.
- Individuals who are members of **racial or ethnic minority group**.
- Individuals who primarily **reside in a rural area**. Rural area means any area other than city or town with a population greater than 50,000 inhabitants, urbanized area adjacent to a city or town with greater than 50,000 inhabitants.

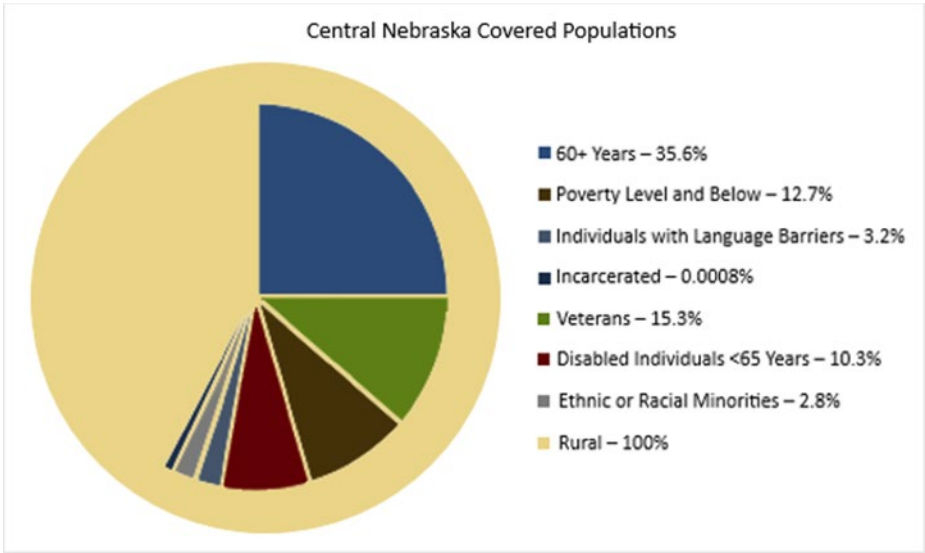


Figure 5. Central Nebraska Covered Populations by Percentage

CENTRAL NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

The Asset Inventory and needs and barriers determined that the **Central Nebraska Region has the greatest deficient percentage in the State of Nebraska** of households without internet access, without cellular data plans, and without home or mobile broadband service (See Figure 6). One-third of our 61 communities do not have a library, community center nor a senior center therefore, no space for public access.

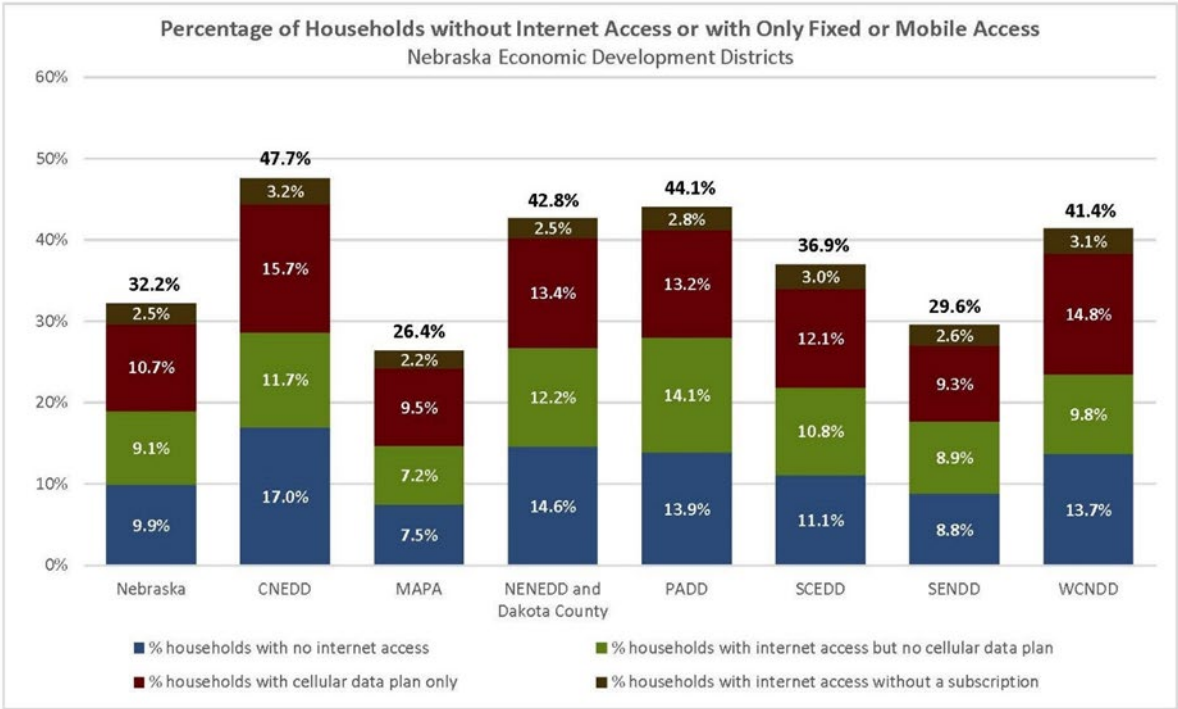
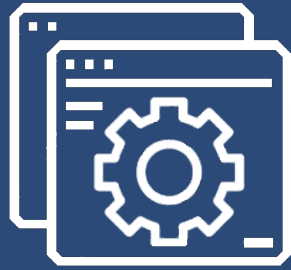
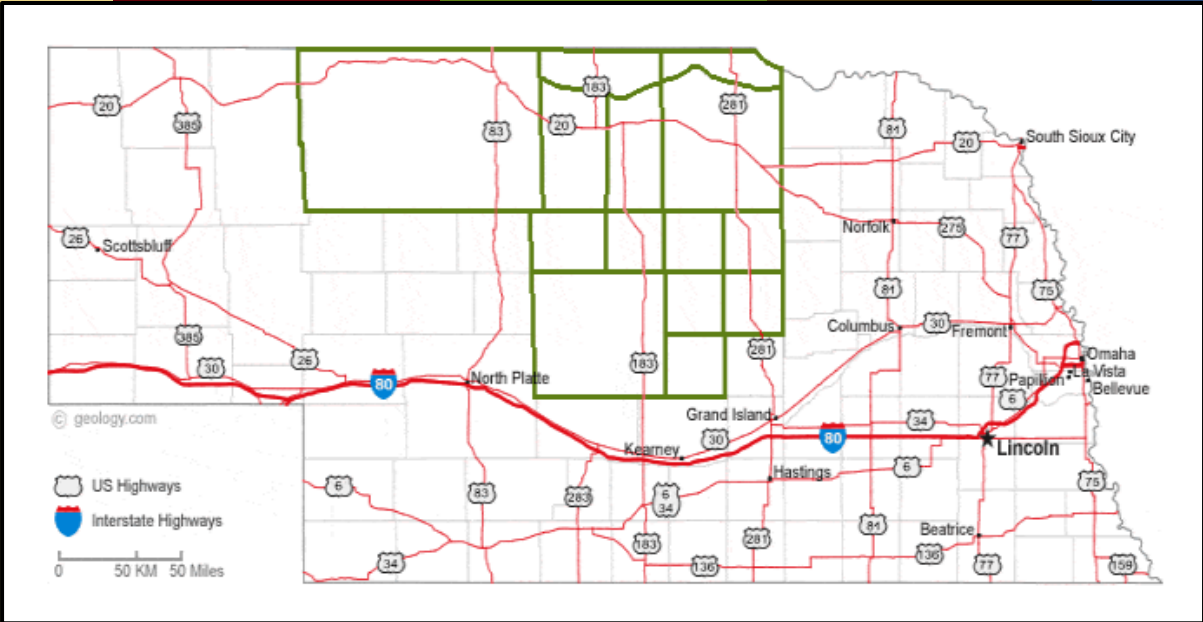


Figure 6. Percentage of Households without Internet Access or Only Fixed or Mobile Access by Economic Development Districts



Digital Equity Roadmap – Where We Are Going



Cross-Cutting Challenges

Cross-cutting challenges are those that impact multiple pillars. Identify the challenges, strategies, and potential solutions that require collaboration across the multiple pillars, agencies, and stakeholders to bridge the digital gap and attain Digital Equity for all in the region.

Goal

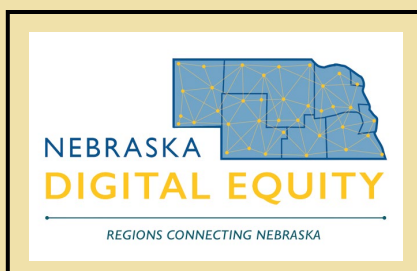
Identify the challenges, strategies, and potential solutions that require collaboration across multiple pillars, agencies, and stakeholders to bridge the digital gap and attain Digital Equity (DE) for all in the region.

1. **STRATEGY:** Establish and enhance public access to the internet, devices, and space to offer services and education in each community.
 - a) **ACTIVITY:** Investigate innovative accessibility options with individual communities.
 - b) **ACTIVITY:** Lobby the Nebraska Library Commission to support, fund and address the DE needs of all certified and non-certified rural public libraries.



Milestones of Success

- By 2028, all 61 communities have established at least one public access point for broadband internet, devices, services, and education.
- By 2028, 30 communities will have enhanced public access points to robust, reliable, high speed broadband internet, adequate devices, sufficient services and educational opportunities for digital skills and literacy training.
- Work with area Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and individual unserved/underserved communities to submit at least one funding application for the 2025 funding cycle.



2. **STRATEGY:** Promote affordability programs to address the high costs of broadband internet, devices, and technical support.
 - a) **ACTIVITY:** Market various affordability programs to communities via social media, Every-Door-Direct mailings by the United States Postal Service and other paths.
 - b) **ACTIVITY:** Share program information with partners.
 - c) **ACTIVITY:** Host community – wide enrollment campaigns.

3. **STRATEGY:** Encourage and investigate innovative funding opportunities on a local and state–wide level for Digital Equity, broadband internet, and mobile cellular connections.
 - a) **ACTIVITY:** Call on our partners to encourage innovative funding routes to address gaps in Digital Equity.
 - b) **ACTIVITY:** Encourage partnerships between local and state–wide shareholders to fund broadband internet for the unserved and underserved areas.
 - c) **ACTIVITY:** Encourage public and private state–wide partnerships to address the gap in mobile cellular coverage.
 - d) **ACTIVITY:** Identify areas with high service costs due to low internet service provider competition and encourage state–wide investment to ensure affordability.



Milestones of Success

- Increase subscriptions to affordability programs within the region by five percent (5%) by June 2025 and twenty percent (20%) by 2028 by:
 - o Marketing various affordability programs through monthly social media, radio and newspaper marketing, Every Door Direct Mailings, and community outreach to all of our communities.
 - o Traveling to all 61 communities to host onsite registration to increase participation in affordability programs.



4. **STRATEGY:** Address the challenges surrounding Precision Agriculture to increase yields and productivity of regional production agriculture businesses.

- a) **ACTIVITY:** Call for reliable and robust mobile cellular and broadband internet connectivity.
- b) **ACTIVITY:** Expand access to technical support and Precision Agriculture training.
- c) **ACTIVITY:** Promote the availability of Precision Agriculture devices and device repair.
- d) **ACTIVITY:** Lobby to change the 9 – 1 – 1 location requirements to expand broadband internet access and improve the delivery of emergency services.

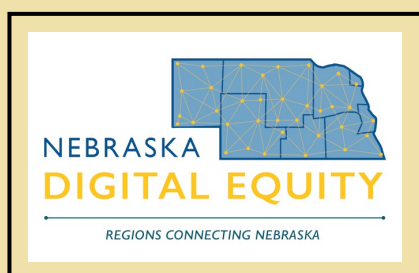
5. **STRATEGY:** Enhance the delivery of healthcare services through expanded telehealth and telecare opportunities

- a) **ACTIVITY:** Educate the public on the importance and availability of telehealth and telecare in the region.
- b) **ACTIVITY:** Promote the use of telehealth and telecare throughout the region.
- c) **ACTIVITY:** Expand the public availability of private and secure locations to participate in telehealth and telecare opportunities.



Milestones of Success

- By no later than 2024, inform all regional communities, emergency managers, and precision agricultural vendors of the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Act.
- Increase and expand the availability of precision agriculture devices, training, and technical support within the region by 2028.
- By 2025, contact all regional senior centers about telehealth/telecare opportunities.
- Promote telehealth/telecare opportunities through quarterly social media posts, radio and newspaper marketing, and community outreach.



Internet

Having access to internet that is affordable, sufficient, and reliable to obtain necessary resources and both download and contribute content online.

Goal

Support and increase the availability of mobile cellular and broadband internet services, internet service providers and the expansion of reliable connectivity infrastructure.

1. **STRATEGY:** Increase the availability of broadband internet via wired and wireless and mobile cellular connectivity in the region.
 - a) **ACTIVITY:** Promote Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program to enhance existing or create new infrastructure.
 - b) **ACTIVITY:** Call for robust, reliable, and high-speed broadband internet connectivity.
 - c) **ACTIVITY:** Identify unserved and underserved mobile cellular connectivity.
 - d) **ACTIVITY:** Call for robust, reliable, and high-speed mobile cellular connectivity.
2. **STRATEGY:** Encourage partnerships with and transparency from internet service providers that serve the region.
 - a) **ACTIVITY:** Advocate for transparency in connectivity speeds from internet service providers.
 - b) **ACTIVITY:** Encourage collaboration between internet service providers and partners.



Milestones of Success

- By no later than December 2024, contact our relevant Identified Digital Equity Delivery Partners.
- Work with area ISPs and individual unserved/underserved communities to submit at least one BEAD application for the 2025 funding cycle.



Devices

The computers and accessories necessary to be productive, create content, and participate (homework, job application, reading, etc.).

Goal

Support device retail and repair businesses to increase device ownership in the region.

STRATEGY: Promote and increase the number of device retail and repair businesses in our region.

- a) **ACTIVITY:** Promote current businesses, organizations, and programs providing affordable devices and repair services to all.
- b) **ACTIVITY:** Encourage the start of new device providers and repair services including entrepreneurial efforts.



Milestones of Success

- Host 2 (north and south) entrepreneurial work sessions by December 2027.
- Market on a quarterly basis current programs providing affordable devices and repair services to all.
- By December of 2028, conduct a survey of businesses, organizations, and programs providing affordable devices and repair services to understand growth and changes within the industry.



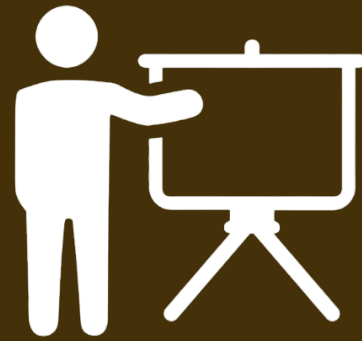
Digital Skills and Technical Support

The knowledge and skills required to use the equipment, applications, and internet effectively with training and support provided in a culturally appropriate manner.

Goal

Expand access to and the availability of digital skills/literacy training and promote technical support organizations.

1. **STRATEGY:** Deliver digital skills/literacy training.
 - a) **ACTIVITY:** Identify locations and host of digital skills/literacy trainings.
 - b) **ACTIVITY:** Encourage the expansion of digital skills/literacy training to all.
 - c) **ACTIVITY:** Promote public awareness on cybersecurity risks and the importance of internet safety.
2. **STRATEGY:** Promote and increase the number of technical support organizations in our region.
 - a) **ACTIVITY:** Promote current businesses, organizations, and programs providing affordable technical support to all.
 - b) **ACTIVITY:** Encourage the start of new technical support services including entrepreneurial efforts.
 - c) **ACTIVITY:** Investigate and encourage innovative technical support services.



Milestones of Success

- Increase and expand the availability of digital skills and literacy training within all our regional communities by 2026.
- By no later than 2024, contact relevant Identified Digital Equity Delivery Partners and regional technical support organizations.
- Work with relevant Identified Digital Equity Delivery Partners to provide mobile technical support to all 61 communities by December 2028.



Applications and Services

Including diverse users in the design and rollout of services while considering placement, outreach, training, user controls, privacy, universal design, and language.

Goal

Support applications and services to enhance the digital experience of diverse users.

1. **STRATEGY:** Engage local and state-wide shareholders to address the identified barriers and needs for all.
 - a) **ACTIVITY:** Develop comprehensive partnerships to bridge the applications and services gap in our vast and diverse region.
 - b) **ACTIVITY:** Call on our partners to encourage inclusive access to applications and services in the region.
2. **STRATEGY:** Promote applications and services to all users.
 - a) **ACTIVITY:** Market the existence and basic functions of different programs to users.
 - b) **ACTIVITY:** Work with partners to market existing programs and services.
 - c) **ACTIVITY:** Encourage diverse and innovative services throughout the region.



Milestones of Success

- By July 2025, make CNEDD's website accessible for all users.
- Monthly "how-to" social media posts assisting in the creation of more accessible websites.
- Promote accessibility programs to all users through quarterly social media posts, radio and newspaper marketing and community outreach.
- By no later than December 2024, contact our relevant Identified Digital Equity Delivery Partners.



CENTRAL NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

Identified Digital Equity Delivery Partners

- Area Agency on Aging
 - Northeast Nebraska Area Agency
 - South Central Nebraska Area Agency
- Community Colleges
 - Central Community College
 - Mid-Plains Community College
 - Northeast Community College
 - Western Nebraska Community College
- County Sheriff Departments
- Education Service Units
- Internet Service Providers (ISPs)
 - Allo
 - Century Link
 - Charter Communications (Spectrum)
 - Consolidated Telephone company
 - Cox
 - Earthlink
 - Fastwyre Broadband
 - Frontier
 - Great Plains communications
 - Hamilton Telecommunications (f/k/a Nebraska Central Telephone Company (NCTC))
 - HughesNet
 - K&M Telephone company
 - KDSI Services
 - Mediacom
 - Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company (NNTC)
 - Next Link
 - OPTK (Commercial)
 - Prairie Hills Wireless, LLC
 - Rise Broadband (JAB)
 - Sandhills Wireless
 - Starlink (Space Exploration Holdings, Inc.)
 - Three River Communications
 - Viasat
- KAAPA Ethanol
- League of Human Dignity Offices
- League of Nebraska Municipalities
- Local Government

CENTRAL NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

- Local Shareholders:
 - Chambers of Commerce
 - Community Foundations
 - Community Schools
 - Economic Development Offices
 - Libraries
 - Senior Centers
 - Tourism and Visitor Bureaus
- Loup Basin Public Health Department Health Districts
- Natural Resource District
- Nebraska Association of County Officials
- Nebraska Broadband Office
- Nebraska Aging and Disability Resource Center
- Nebraska Cattlemen
- Nebraska Corn Board
- Nebraska Corn Growers Association
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- Nebraska Department of Labor
- Nebraska Department of Transportation
- Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Nebraska Ethanol Board
- Nebraska Extension
- Nebraska Farm Bureau
- Nebraska Library Commission
- Nebraska Innovation Campus
- Nebraska Pork Producers
- Nebraska Poultry Industries
- Nebraska Public Service Commission
- Nebraska Regional Officials Council
- Nebraska Soybean Board
- Nebraska Wheat Board
- North Central District Health Department
- Regional Hospitals and Clinics
- Regional Veteran Services Offices
- United States Department of Agriculture
- United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Offices
- United States Department of Commerce

CENTRAL NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

Acknowledgements

The Central Nebraska Economic Development District would like to thank each of the counties and communities for their recommendations for potential Regional Broadband Committee members; libraries and businesses for allowing the use of their facilities for our committee meetings; agencies and individuals who provided information for the regional asset inventory and especially our Regional Broadband Committee members whose commitment and dedication to this process cannot be thanked enough.



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CENTRAL NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

APPENDIX

Baseline Assessment: Broadband Assets of the Central Nebraska Region

Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory Workbook

Nebraska Broadband Speed Test Results (2021) for the Central Nebraska Region, Nebraska
Regional Officials Council

Nebraska Public Service Commission Broadband Regional 25 Mbps/3 Mbps Speed Tier
Maps

Nebraska Public Service Commission Broadband Regional 100 Mbps/20 Mbps Speed Tier
Maps

Resources

Social Media Post Schedule

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Baseline Assessment

**Broadband Assets of the
Central Nebraska Region**

May 2023



BASELINE ASSESSMENT

BROADBAND ASSETS OF THE CENTRAL NEBRASKA REGION

May 2023

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IV. Executive Summary

The Central Nebraska Economic Development District (“CNEDD”) is participating in the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program (Program) offered through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce’s Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), Funding Opportunity Number NTIA-DE-PLAN-2022, issued for the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program, authorized by Section 60304(c) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, Public Law 117-58, 135 Stat. 429 (November 15, 2021) (Infrastructure Act), also commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This Program is one of three new broadband programs established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to promote digital inclusion and equity.

The intent of the Program is to ensure that all individuals and communities have the skills, technology, and capacity needed to reap the full benefits of our digital economy. The Program provides federal funding for states to develop their own State Digital Equity Plan to, among other things, identify barriers to digital equity and outline specific measures aimed at addressing those barriers. The vision for the Nebraska Digital Equity Plan is to ensure that Nebraskans have access to affordable, quality broadband and the skills to utilize digital technologies.

There are eight economic districts within the State of Nebraska. Each district will address and identify that individual region’s digital technology needs and goals for the development of their regional digital equity plan. Each regional plan will then be incorporated into the Nebraska State Digital Equity Plan. CNEDD is developing the regional plan for the Central Nebraska Region (Region). Thereafter, CNEDD will be able to participate in the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program to implement the State Digital Equity Plan as it pertains to the Region.

In order to prepare its regional digital equity plan, to ascertain what barriers and needs there may be in achieving digital equity, CNEDD conducted a regional asset inventory to address the following aspects:

1. Internet. Having access to internet that is affordable, sufficient, and reliable enough to obtain necessary resources and both download and contribute content online.
2. Digital Skills & Tech Support. The knowledge and skills required to use the equipment, applications, and internet effectively with training and support provided in a culturally appropriate manner.
3. Devices. The computers and accessories necessary to be productive, create content, and participate (homework, job application, reading, etc.).
4. Applications & Services. Including diverse users in the design and rollout of services while considering placement, outreach, training, user controls, privacy, universal design, and language.

CNEDD conducted a further asset inventory specific to the “Covered Populations” within its Region. Pursuant to the NOFO, Covered Populations are defined as:

1. Individuals who live in covered households. The term “covered household” means a household, the income of which for the most recently completed year is not more than 150 percent of an amount equal to the poverty level, as determine by using criteria of poverty establish by the Bureau of the Census;

2. Aging individuals;
3. Incarcerated individuals, other than individuals who are incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility;
4. Veterans;
5. Individuals with disabilities;
6. Individuals with a language barrier, including individuals who :
 - a. Are English learners; and
 - b. Have low levels of literacy;
7. Individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group; and
8. Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area.

The purpose of this Baseline Assessment is to quantify, qualify, analyze, and interpret the data gathered from the asset inventory to assess and make apparent, truly what the technological barriers and needs are specific to the Region. This assessment will assist in setting a road map to identify and set strategic objective measurable goals for the regional digital equity plan to ensure that all individuals and communities within the Region, including the most disadvantaged, have the capacity and opportunity for achieving digital equity.

The Baseline Assessment herein clearly indicates not only are there numerous digital gaps for Covered Populations within the Region, rather, there are significant foundational digital divides.

1. Internet.

Actual, locational broadband speed tests were conducted throughout the Region which Identified the average broadband speeds were 22.9 Mbps/10.0 Mbps

The Central Nebraska Region has the greatest deficient percentage in the State of Nebraska of households without internet access, without cellular data plans, and without home or mobile broadband service.

Broadband speeds, especially mobile cellular data, are not adequate enough to efficiently support Precision Agriculture within the Region.

There are 25 libraries within the Region's 61 communities that offer internet access to the public.

There are 6 senior centers within the Region's 61 communities that offer internet access to the senior citizens.

There are 20 community centers within the Region's 61 communities that offer internet access to meeting and event patrons.

An average of four percent (4%) of the Region's households are enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program

2. Digital Skills & Tech Support.

There are four campuses within the Region that offer digital skills and tech tutoring. Three of which offer those classes occasionally.

General Tech support is found within seven (7) of the Region's sixty-one (61) communities.

Significant lack of opportunities for acquiring digital skills and tech support with the Region.

3. Devices.

There are only 5 vendors within the Region that sell new digital devices and only one that offers a variety digital devices to include laptops, desktops, monitors.

There are 26 libraries within the Region's 61 communities that offer public access to a device, 12 of which have notably old, outdated and some nonfunctioning devices. One of the 12 libraries offers use of a computer though there is no broadband service.

There are 2 senior centers within the Region's 61 communities that offer seniors access to a desktop computer, which are notably old.

There are 2 community centers within the Region's 61 communities that offer use of Smart TV/Flatscreens to meeting and event patrons. There is no community center within the Region that offers public access to computers.

There is there no affordability program available that could be identified for digital devices specifically for the disabled adults within the Region. The developmentally disabled adults may receive as little as \$914 per month from Social Security which does not sustain the necessities let along a subscription to digital technology.

4. Applications & Services.

Representative organizations for ethnic and racial minorities, as well as adults with language barriers, could not be found within this Region.

Services for other Covered Populations are logistically inefficient.

There is no public transportation within the entirety of the Region in which to access significant support services.

This Baseline Assessment identifying the technological assets, barriers and needs of the Central Nebraska Region is based upon the best information available from the resources identified in the Appendices referenced herein.

V. Regional Demographics

A. Introduction of Overall Regional Demographics

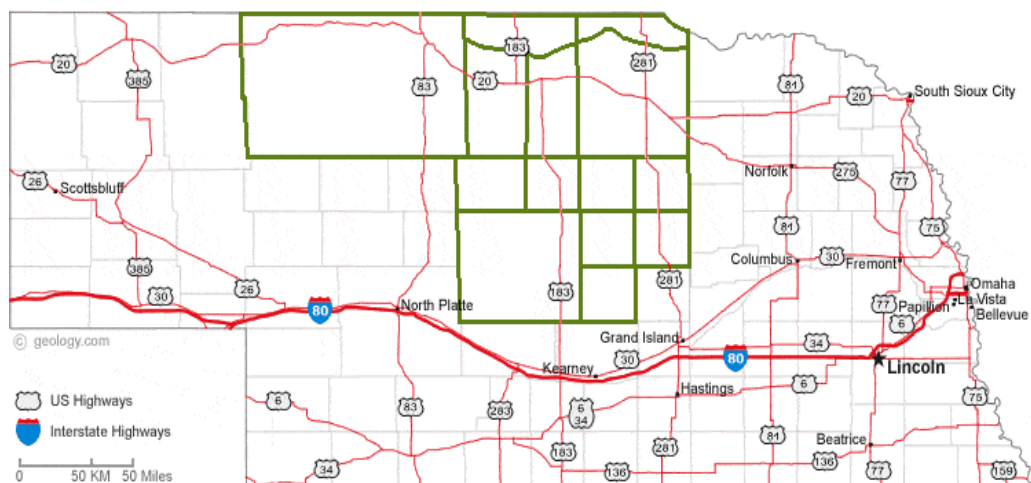
The Central Nebraska Region (Region) encompasses fourteen (14) counties, to include the counties of Blaine, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Holt, Keya Paha, Loup, Rock, Sherman, Valley, and Wheeler. This Region of Nebraska covers twenty-two per cent (22%) of the state, 18,613 square miles, and is a unique Region in its topography, rural character, and simplicity.

The greatest portion of the Region supports an ecosystem called the Sandhills, often written Sand Hills, a Region of mixed-grass prairie on grass-stabilized sand dunes which was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1984. You'll find that the topography of the area is anything but flat. With dunes that are as high as four hundred (400) feet, as long as twenty (20) miles, and slopes as steep as twenty-five percent (25%), the Sandhills are the largest sand dune formations in the Western Hemisphere and one of the largest grass-stabilized dune regions in the world.

The economic sustainability of this Region is dependent upon its agricultural landscape. Farms and ranches cover this Region's territory and produce 23% of the state's cattle and 13% of its corn. Seasons can often be turbulent with snowstorms, significant ice, floods, tornadoes, hailstorms, wild winds, and droughts. Agricultural operators here are well aware of the challenges and effects of mother nature.

The Region has a population of 45,546 individuals within 19,093 households. There are sixty-one (61) communities, to include fifty (50) villages and eleven (11) cities. Residents of the villages range from one (1) resident in Monowi to six hundred (600) residents in the largest village. The smallest city has three hundred and five (305) residents. There are two (2) cities with over three thousand (3,000) residents, with the largest city having 3,537 residents. The entirety of the Region supports a rural populous.

You will find two-lane highways and no public transportation opportunities here. No big box stores even in the cities and limited eateries and social venues in the communities, if any. What you will find are hardy, industrious, family-oriented people, who wear many hats, proud of their independence and self-sustainability.



Map 1: Central Nebraska Region

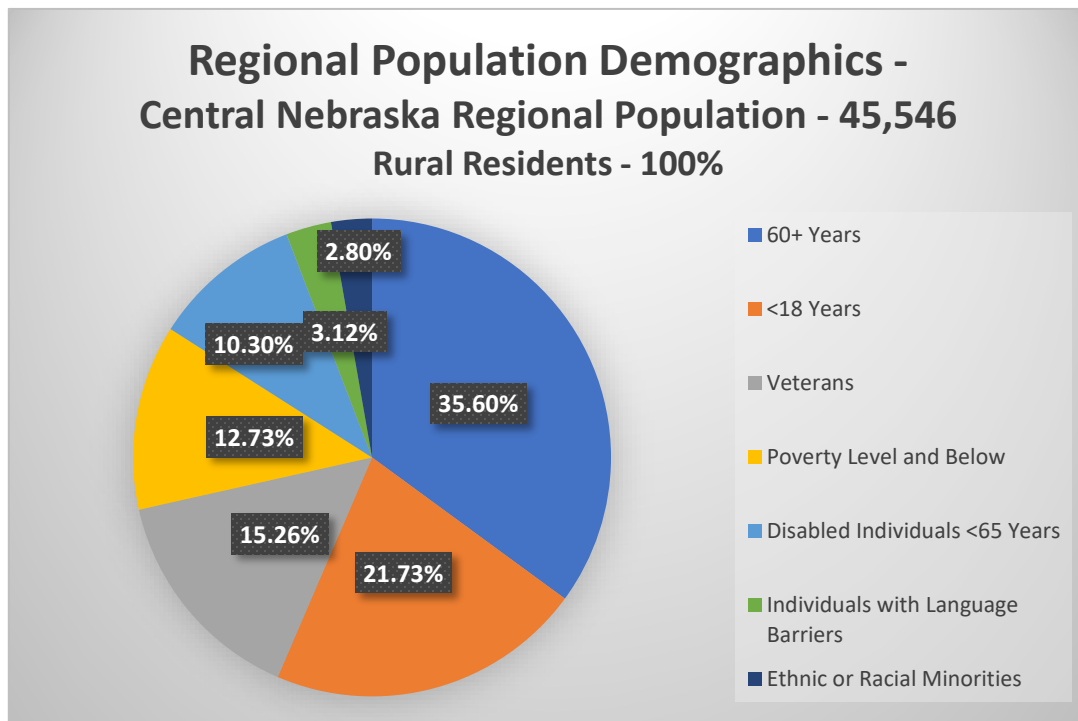
B. Regional Demographics of the Covered Populations

The Region has a population of 45,546 individuals within 19,093 households. The Regional demographics of the Covered Populations are:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Rural Residents | 100% |
| Individuals 60 years old (+) | 35.60% |
| Individuals at Poverty Level or below | 12.72% |
| Individuals with a Disability under the Age of 65 | 10.3% |
| Veterans | 15.26% |
| Members of Ethnic and Racial Minorities | 2.8% |
| Individuals with Language Barriers | 3.2% |

Figure 1: Regional Demographics of the Covered Populations

The median household income is \$53,864 (2021 Dollars) and the per capita income is \$30,950 (2021 Dollars).



U.S. Census Bureau <https://data.census.gov>

Figure 2. Central Nebraska Regional Demographics

VI. Asset Inventory

A. Internet

1. Availability & Affordability of Fixed and Wireless Broadband

There are twenty-six (26) Internet Service Providers (ISPs) within the Region. A few ISPs provide more than one broadband service type in different areas. We have twelve (12) ISPs that provide fiber optic broadband; Four (4) ISPs that provide broadband through fixed wireless devices; Nine (9) ISPs that provide broadband service through the copper phone lines, Digital Service Line (DSL); Five (5) ISPs provide service through cable lines; and Two (2) ISPs offer broadband through satellites.

Broadband Services Offered

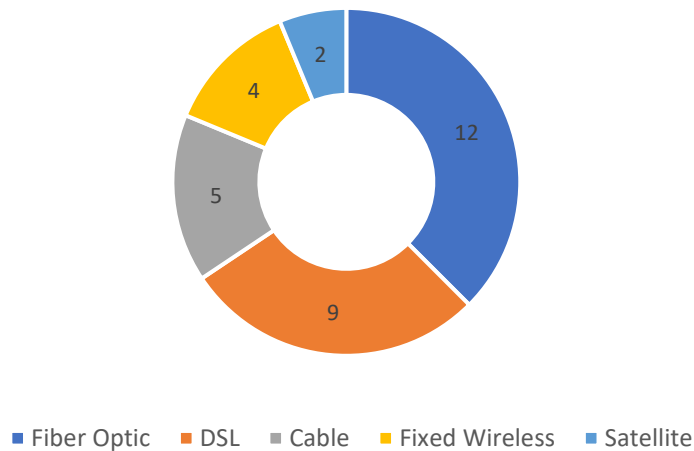


Figure 3: Regional Broadband Services Offered

The ISPs advertise broadband speeds that range from 6Mbps/1Mbps to 2.3G with Fiber in Valentine. There are six (6) ISPs within the Region more specifically offering mobile cellular service with advertised broadband speeds ranging from 15Mbps to 5G. Please see *Appendix: A Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory Workbook, Tab A.2*

Nebraska Regional Official's Council conducted actual, locational broadband speed tests throughout the Region which identified overall average broadband speeds were 22.9Mbps/10.0 Mbps. Please see *Appendix B: Nebraska Broadband Speed Test Results (2021) for the Central Nebraska Region, Nebraska Regional Official's Council.*

The Nebraska Power Service Commission (PSC) developed a broadband map database identifying speed tiers for projects that have been funded. A significant amount of this Region is within the speed tier of 25Mbps/3Mbps and the speed tier of 100Mbps/20Mbps is limited. The locations of speed tiers of 25Mbps/3Mbps and 100Mbps/20Mbps for the entire Region are identified in *Appendix C: Nebraska PSC Broadband Regional 25Mbps/3Mbps Speed Tier Maps* and *Appendix D: Nebraska PSC Broadband Regional 100/Mbps/20Mbps Speed Tier Maps.*

The price of residential broadband service ranges from \$19.95 per month for a base subscription plus usage to \$199.00 per month. Some of the ISPs offer bundle packages of services, to include mobile cellular service. Mobile cellular service averages \$45 per month.

There are approximately 19,093 households within the Region, 17% percent of those households have No internet subscription; 31.9% of those households have No cellular data plan; 47.7 % of all households within the Region are without home or mobile broadband service.

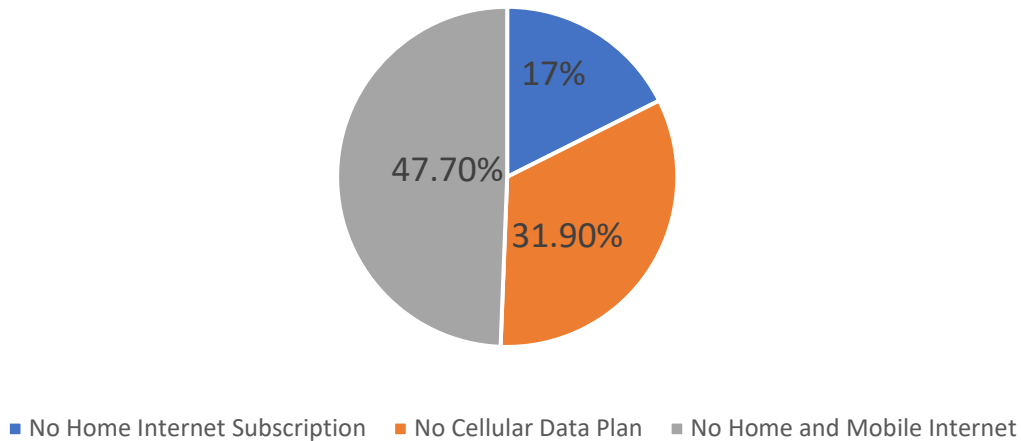


Figure 4: Regional Households without Home and Mobile Broadband Service

The Central Nebraska Region has the greatest deficient percentage in the State of Nebraska of households without internet access, without cellular data plans, and without home or mobile broadband service.

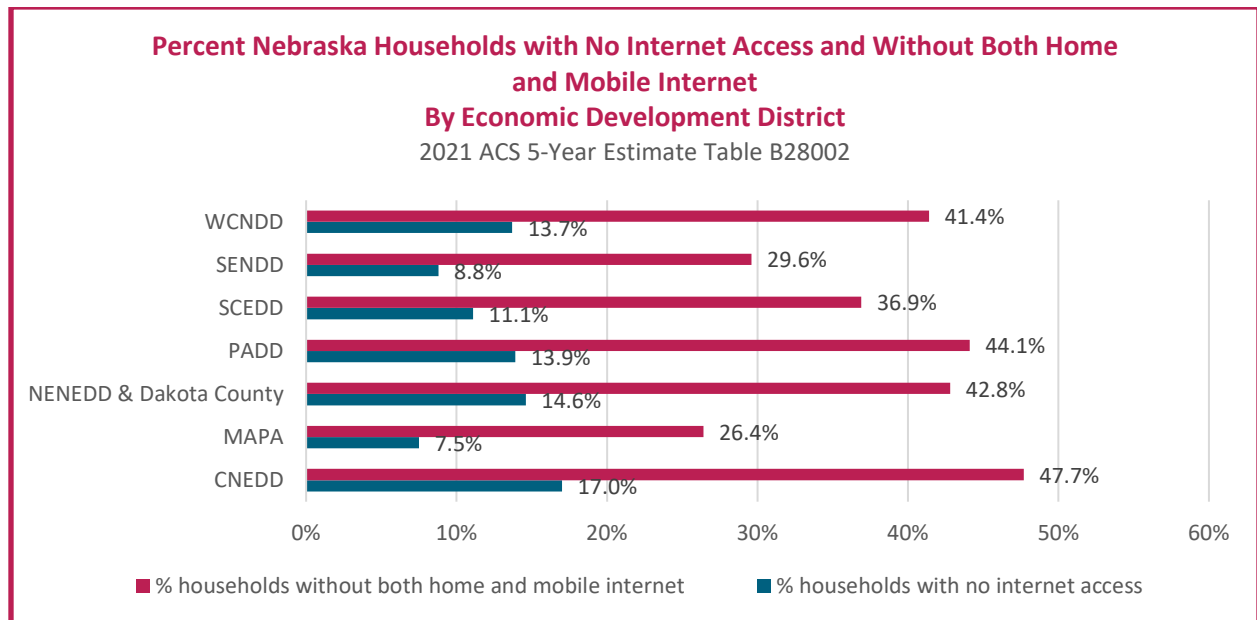


Figure 5: Nebraska Digital Equity Benchmark Data, January 17, 2023 Percent of Households by Modes of Internet Access, 2021 ACS 5-Year (Table B28002)

2. Affordability Programs & Opportunities

There are two affordability programs for subscriptions to broadband service, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and Lifeline, both of which are sponsored by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

ACP offers, to eligible applicants, a \$30 discount for internet service. The criteria for an individual's eligibility is if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit, Supplement Security Income (SSI), WIC, or Lifeline, any Tribal TANF, or Head Start program, participates in Free and reduced price School Lunch or Breakfast Programs, Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year or meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband providers' existing low-income internet program.

Lifeline offers, to eligible applicants, \$9.25 off mobile broadband or residential broadband service. The criteria for an individual's eligibility are if one participates in any one of the following: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit, Supplement Security Income (SSI) or if an individual's income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Eligible individuals may participate in both programs.

Within the Region, there are fourteen (14) ISPs who offer ACP, nine (9) of which offer Lifeline. A little over one-half (1/2) of the ISPs offer these affordability programs. Please see *Appendix A: Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory Workbook, Tab A.1*.

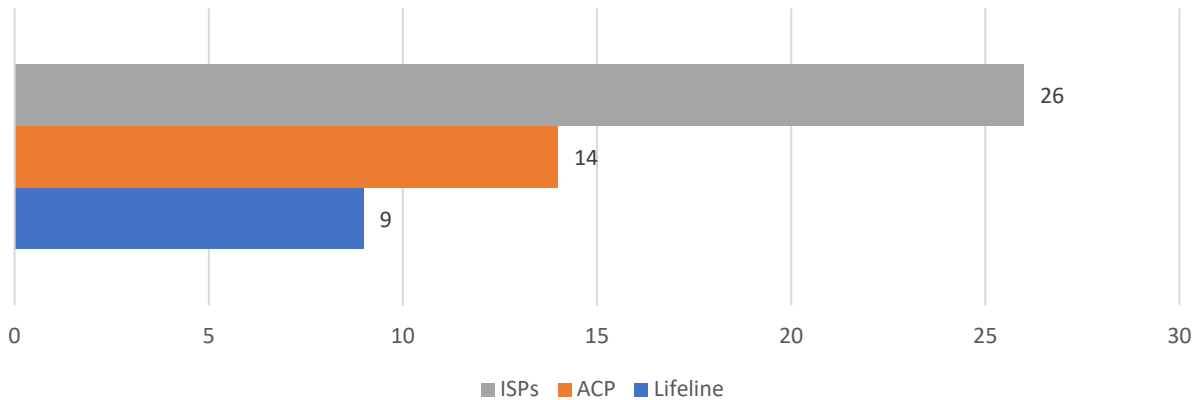


Figure 6: Affordability Programs Offered by ISPs

An average of four percent (4%) of the Region's households are enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program.

Affordable Connectivity Program Enrollment
Percent of Eligible Households
Jan. 2023

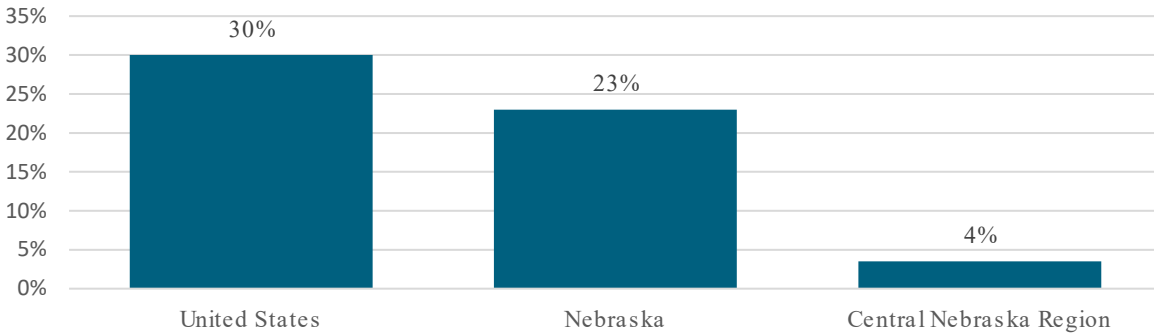


Figure 7: Education SuperHighway ACP Enrollment Dashboard, County ACP Enrollment Estimates – Oliver Borchers-Williams, SENDD, American Community Survey 2021 5-Year Estimate Tables B28002, B28001, S 2802 and B 28004.

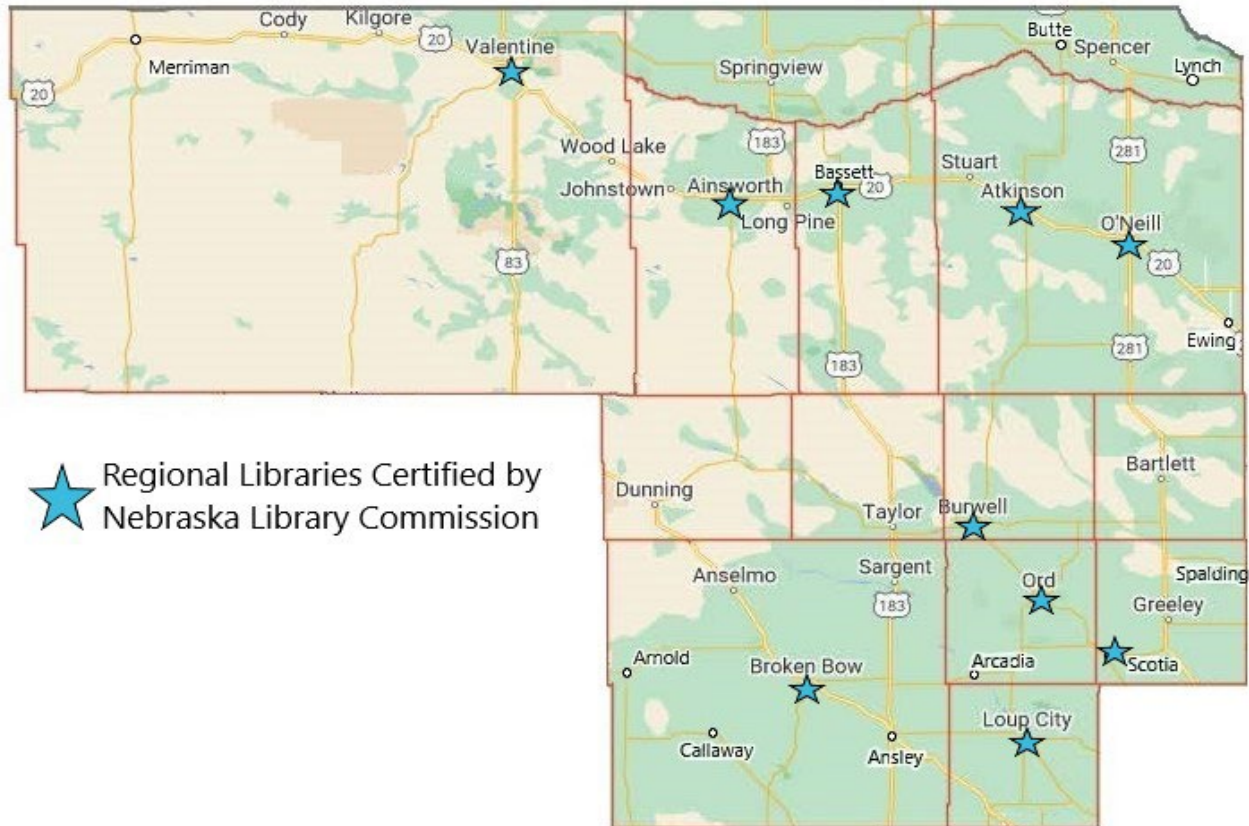
3. Public Access to Internet

Within the region, there are a few, very few, cafes, gas stations or courthouse parking lots where the public can access internet. The main public venues within this Region where an individual may have the opportunity of accessing the internet would be community libraries, senior centers and perhaps community centers.

a. Libraries

Out of the sixty (61) communities within the Region, a little over one-half (1/2) of the communities have a library. There are thirty-one (31) libraries. The services of the Region’s libraries range from offering a couple of shelves of books received from donations that may be shared with community residents to libraries who are embracing Makerspaces provided through grant funds. There is at least one (1) library offering an ADA desktop computer station. Two (2) counties, Blaine County and Wheeler County have no libraries. Six counties, Brown, Cherry, Garfield, Keya Paha, Loup, Rock, have only one library within the entire county. Cherry County offers a book mobile for outreach for community residents.

Twenty-five (25) of the Region’s libraries offer internet access to the public for free, except for one which charges five (5) cents per minute. Ten (10) of the libraries are certified by the Nebraska Library Commission, Ainsworth, Atkinson, Bassett, Broken Bow, Burwell, Loup City, O’Neill, Ord, Scotia and Valentine. The majority of the libraries are operated through the generosity of volunteers and open on variable days at variables times.



Map 2: Regional Libraries Certified by Nebraska Library Commission

One (1) library, Litchfield Public Library, accesses broadband from a hotspot on a water tower; nine (9) of the libraries have broadband service through cable, Arnold, Ansley, Sargent, Burwell, Greeley, Scotia, Ewing, Arcadia and Ord; two (2) of the libraries, access broadband through DSL, Taylor and North Loup; and thirteen (13) libraries access broadband service through fiber optic lines, Butte, Lynch, Spencer, Ainsworth, Valentine, Broken Bow, Callaway, Merna, Atkinson, O'Neill, Stuart, Springview, Loup City. Broadband speeds range from 5mg/1Mbps, several having 25mbps/5-10mbps to one library having 1GB, Spencer.

Eleven (11) of the twenty-five (25) libraries are receiving discounts for their broadband service through the E-Rate Universal Service Program sponsored by the FCC. The cost of broadband service to those libraries ranges from \$5 per month with an E-Rate discount to \$150 per month with an E-Rate discount. The libraries who are not participating in the E-Rate Program incur monthly costs that range between \$28 per month up to \$150 per month. There are six (6) libraries within the Region that do not pay for internet service. Five (5) of them are supported by the community funds and/or part of a collaborative agreement with an ISP. One library serves as both a school and public library facility and is funded through the Public School District's budget. Please see *Appendix A: Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory Workbook, Tab A.6.a.*

Libraries

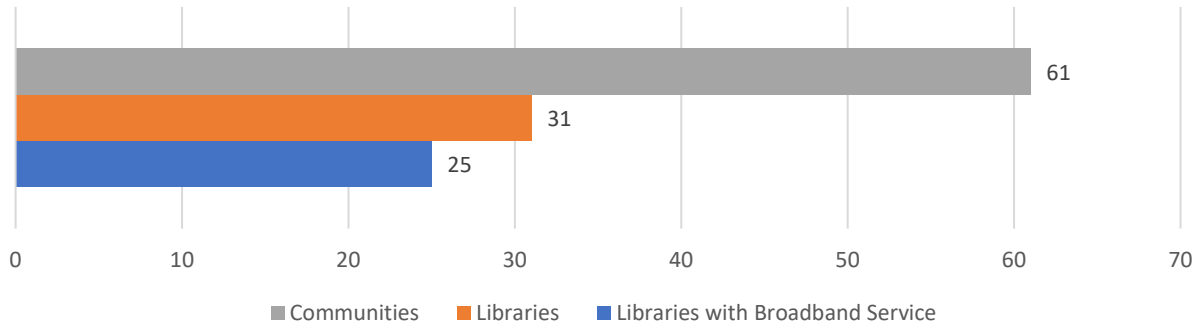
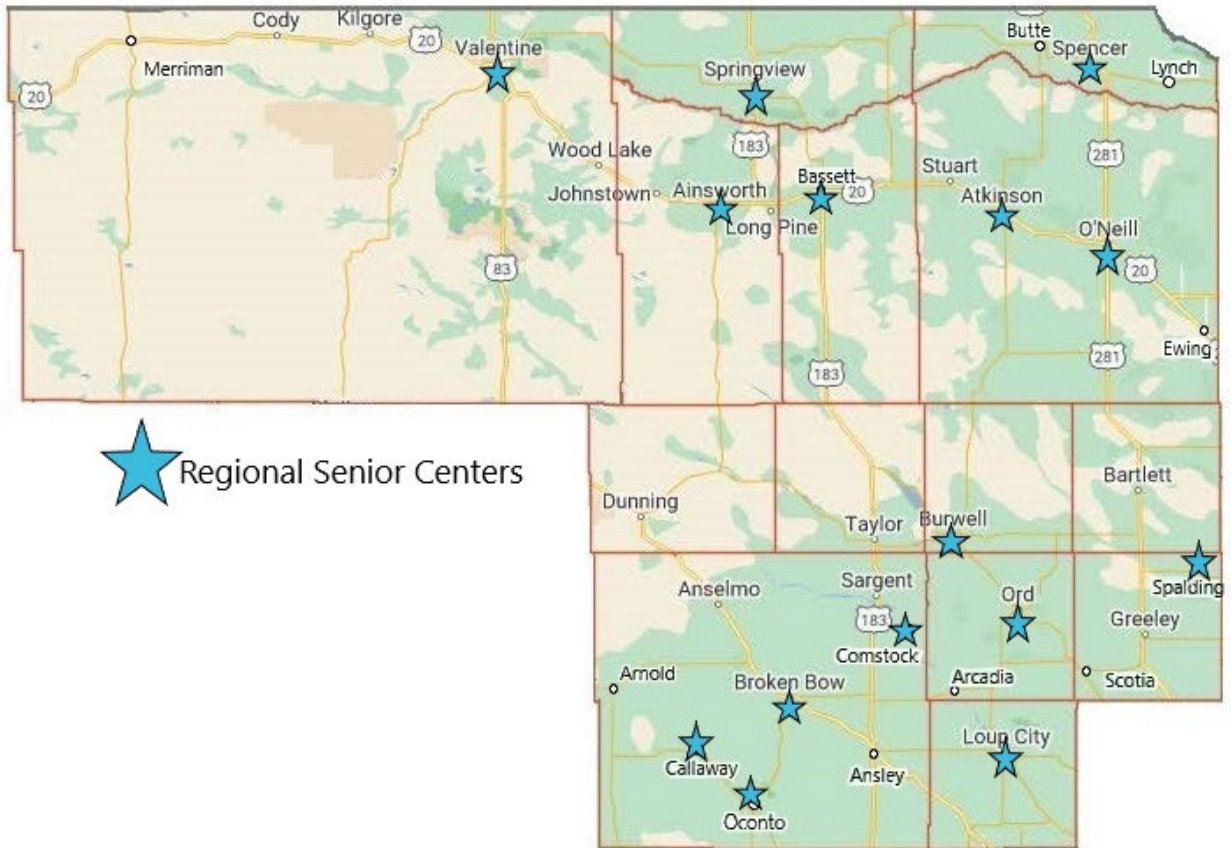


Figure 8: Regional Libraries with Broadband Service

b. Senior Centers

Out of the sixty (61) communities within the Region, one-quarter (1/4) of the communities have a senior center. There are fifteen (15) senior centers. Out of the fifteen (15), ten (10) of the senior centers have subscribed to broadband service and six (6) out of those ten senior centers offer internet access to the seniors. Two (2) of the Region's counties have no senior center, Blaine and Wheeler.



Map 3: Regional Senior Centers

Five (5) of the ten (10) senior centers receive broadband service through fiber optic lines, Comstock, Loup City, Spencer, Springview, and Valentine; one (1) senior center has fixed wireless broadband service, Atkinson; and the other four (4) senior centers have cable service, Ainsworth, Broken Bow, O’Neill, and Bassett. Broadband speeds range from 10Mbps/1Mbps to almost 100 Mbps/100Mbps.

The cost of broadband service to the senior centers ranges from \$41.55 per month to \$128.00 per month, both are bundled price packages. Please see *Appendix A: Central Nebraska Region’s Asset Inventory Workbook, Tab A.6.b.*

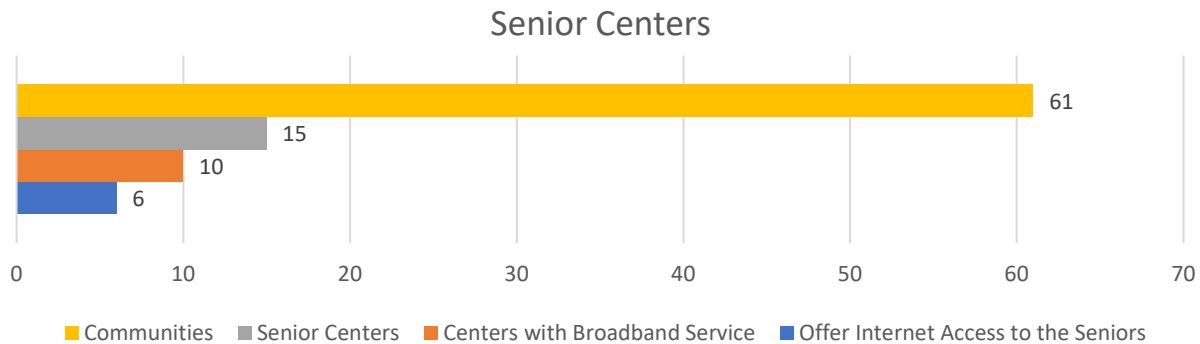


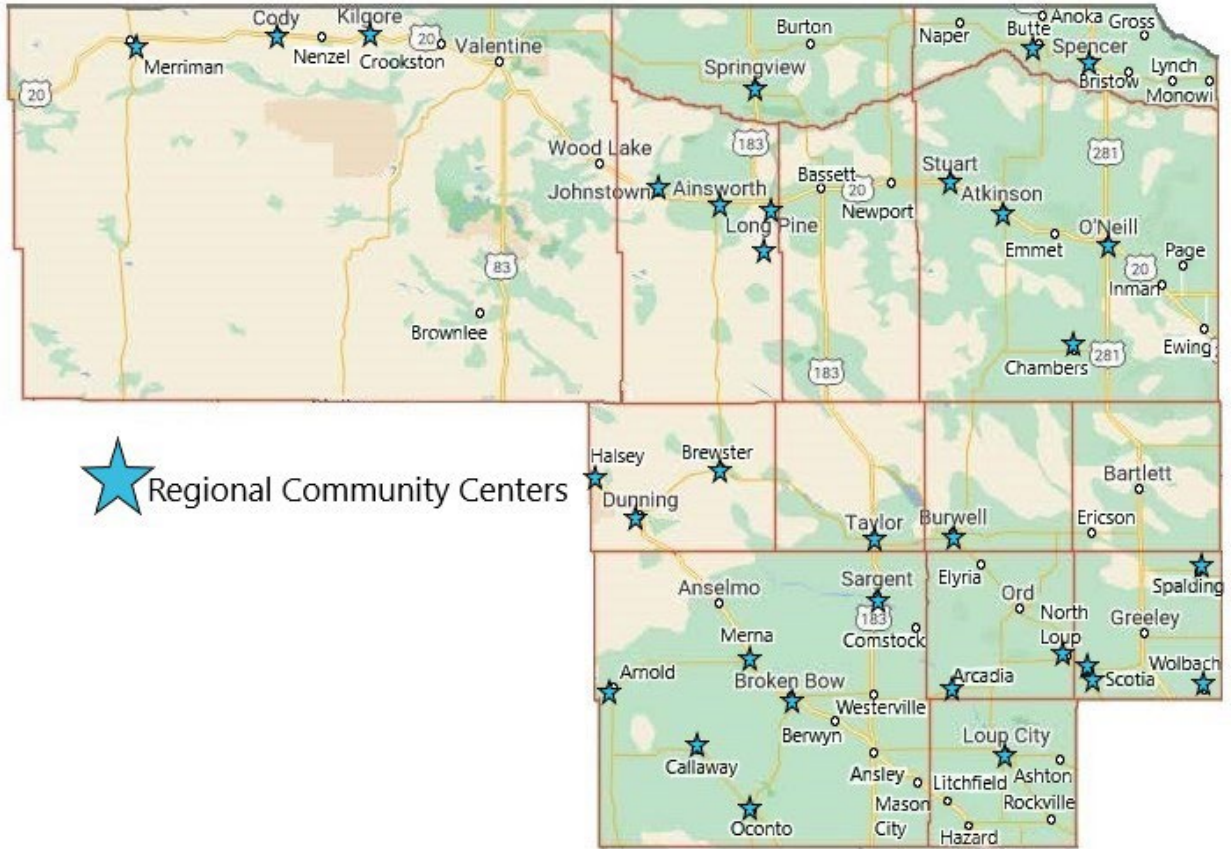
Figure 9: Regional Senior Centers with Broadband Service

c. Community Centers

The community centers within the Region all serve mainly as event venues for rental rather than activity centers. Though some of the community centers are located in old, shut down schools and have an auditorium that may be used for recreational activities, namely for school children.

Out of the sixty (61) communities within the Region, just less than one-half (1/2) of the communities have a community center. There are thirty-two (32) community centers. Two (2) of the communities have two (2) community centers, Long Pine and Scotia. Out of the thirty-two (32) community centers, twenty (20) offer internet access to event patrons. We have one (1) community center that offers internet access to the public, if need be. The community center in Cody has a hotspot on the village water tower and would like to offer internet access to meeting and event patrons and the public, though the reception is so unreliable and spotty, you can’t open a web page.

Nine (9) of the community centers receive broadband service through fiber optic lines, Butte, Spencer, Ainsworth, Broken Bow, Callaway, Oconto, Atkinson, Springview, Loup City; two (2) community centers have fixed wireless broadband, O’Neill and Stuart; six (6) community centers have DSL service, Dunning, Halsey, Merriman, Merna, Scotia and North Loup; three (3) community centers have cable service, Sargent, Johnstown and Arnold. Broadband speeds range from 10Mbps/1Mbps to almost 100 Mbps/100Mbps.



 Regional Community Centers

Map 4: Regional Community Centers

The cost of broadband service to the community centers ranges from \$40 per month to \$273.00 per month reported in Loup City. There are five (5) community centers that have no cost for broadband service, as those centers are either financially supported through the community's budget and/or part of a collaborative agreement between the community and an ISP. *Appendix A: Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory Workbook, Tab A.6.c.*

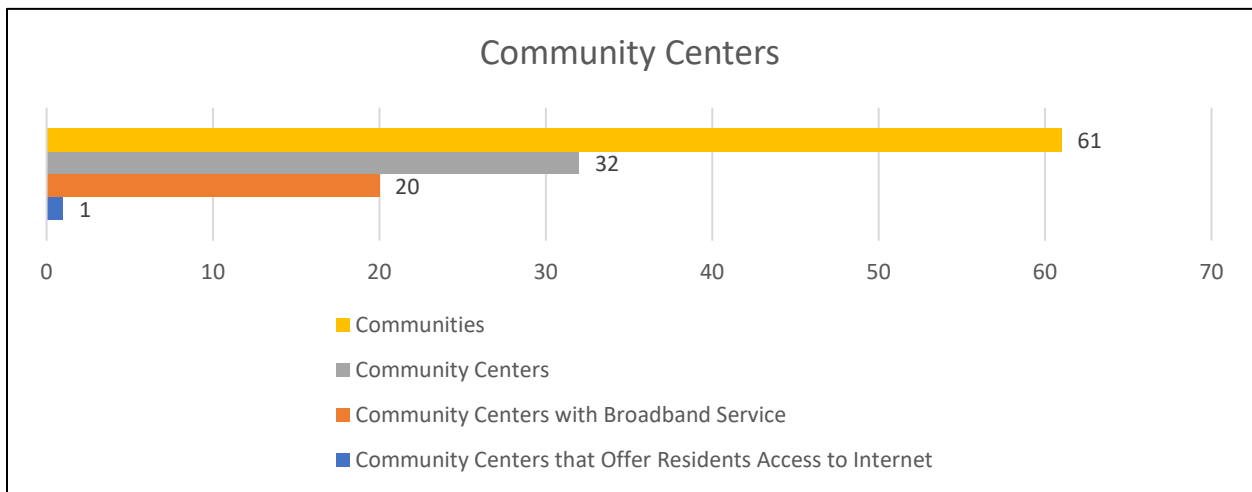
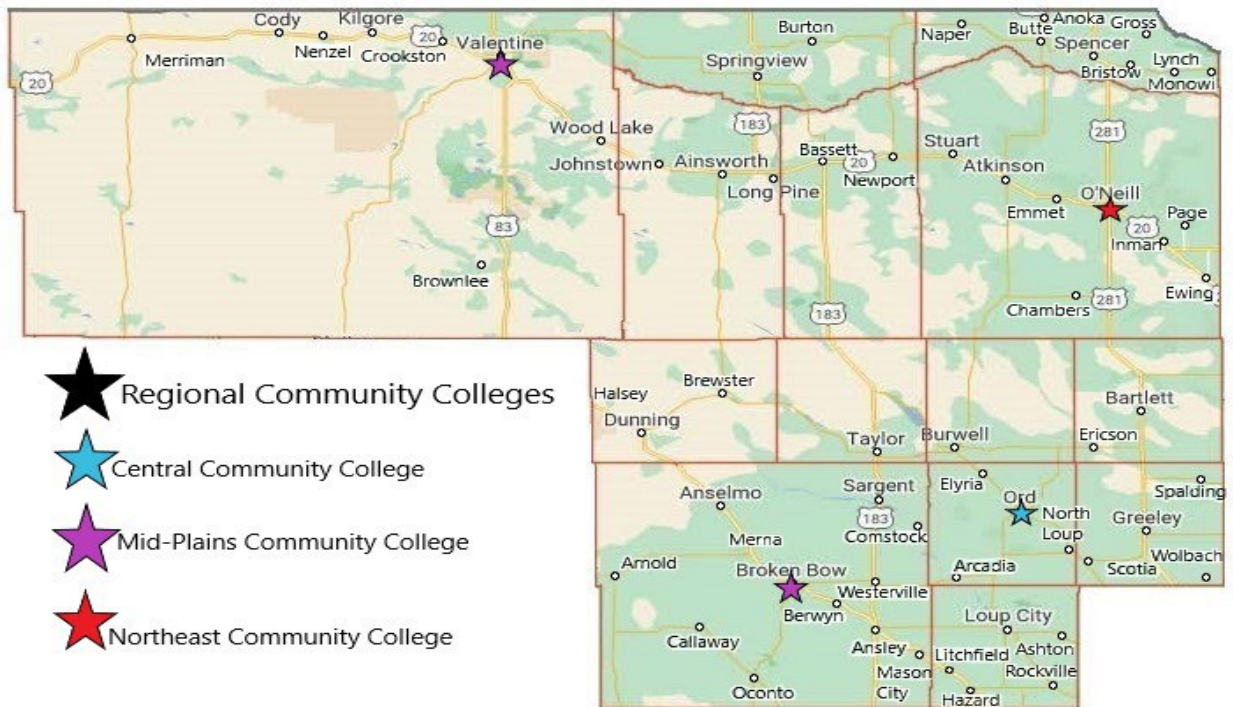


Figure 10: Regional Community Centers with Broadband

B. Digital Skills & Technological Support

1. Availability & Access to Digital Skills and Literacy Training

There are three (3) community colleges within the Region that offer digital skills and literacy training classes located at four (4) campuses to include, Central Community College in Ord, Mid Plains Community College with two campuses, one located in Broken Bow and the other in Valentine, and Northeast Community College located in O’Neill. Northeast Community College offers classes each semester and accommodates students speaking Spanish who are learning English. Classes are available both in person and online. Extended learning classes range in cost from \$30 to \$70. The cost of credited classes can be \$120 per credit hour.



Map 5: Regional Community Colleges

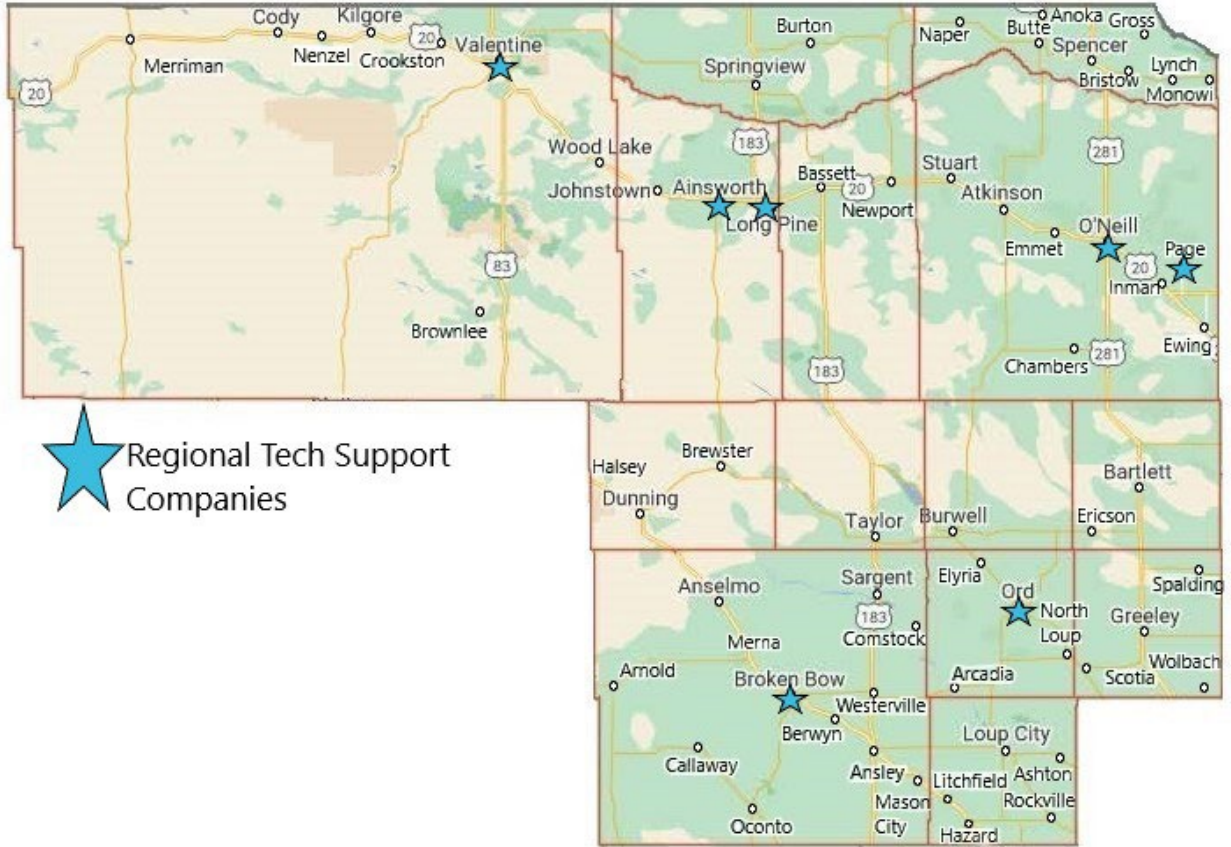
Regional residents often use YouTube tutorials or Google for assistance and guidance for digital skills and technological support. Some residents seek assistance from staff members at community libraries, senior centers, and public schools.

A few of the community libraries within the Region, ever so often, offer a digital skills class which is moreover geared towards seniors.

To date, senior centers within the Region have not offered any digital skills classes, though there appears to be a desire. Seniors may also take online courses through AARP’s Senior Planet program which offers online digital skills classes at no cost. One of the Region’s communities started a Seniors Helping Seniors program. In a collaborative effort between the Rock County senior center and local high school, the program provides the opportunity for high school seniors to assist and socially interact with senior citizens by teaching digital skills while also providing social interaction and an educational opportunity for the senior citizens. *Appendix A: Central Nebraska Region’s Asset Inventory Workbook, Tab A.4.*

2. Availability & Affordability of Technological Support

There are nine (9) companies who offer technological support and device repair at a physical location within the Region. General Tech support is found within seven (7) of the Region's sixty-one (61) communities.



Map6: Regional Tech Support Companies

One (1) of the companies has four (4) franchises within the Region that specifically support mobile phone devices. There is one (1) company that specifically provides businesses with IT support and one (1) company that specifically supports precision agricultural.

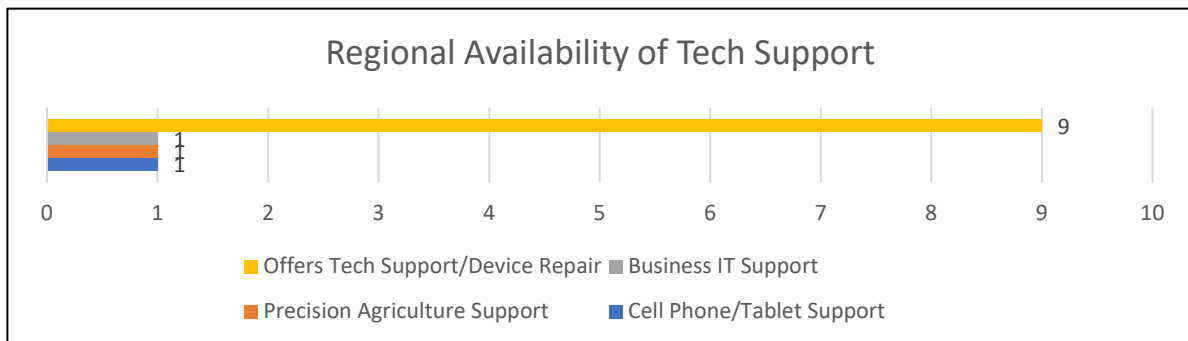


Figure 11: Regional Tech Support Companies

Five (5) of the technological support companies offer support online and four (4) of which also offer support by phone.

The cost for technological support averages around \$70 per hour. Tech support for businesses can be up to \$130 per hour or more. Individuals within the Region may travel an average of 60 to 100 miles or more to access support services and device repair.

As with acquiring digital skills, regional residents often use YouTube tutorials or Google for assistance and guidance on Tech challenges and support. Also, some individuals within the Region seek assistance from members of the staff at community libraries, senior centers, and public schools. *Appendix A: Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory Workbook, Tab A.4.*

C. Devices

1. Availability & Affordability of Devices

Within the Central Nebraska Region, there are five (5) vendors who sell new digital devices. Three (3) of those vendors specifically sell mobile phone devices offered at franchises within eight (8) of the Region's communities. One (1) vendor sells mobile phone devices and tablets at four (4) of the eight (8) locations. Subject to availability, two (2) of the above vendors offer refurbished mobile phone devices for sale. When upgrading and purchasing new equipment, at least one (1) of the school districts within the region offer their used and older digital devices that are being replaced for sale to the public.

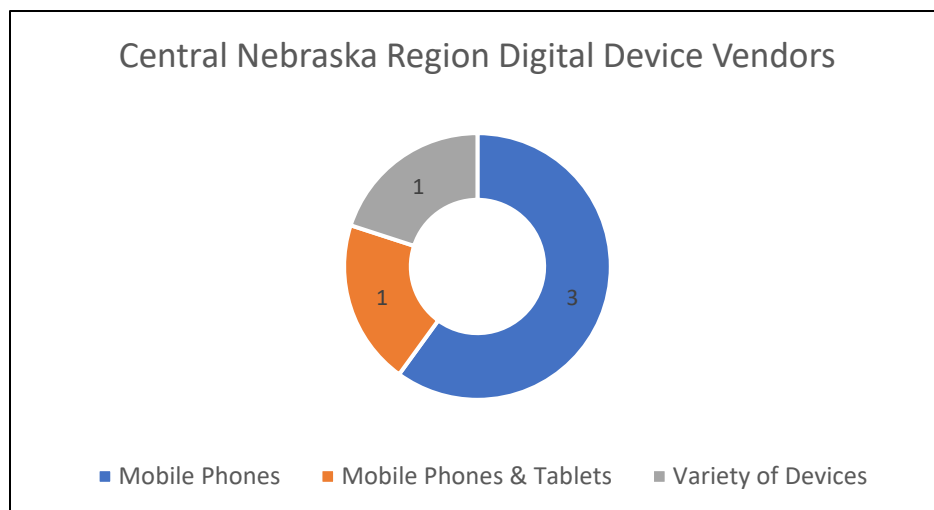


Figure 12: Regional Digital Device Vendors

There is only one retail vendor within the Region, located in O'Neill, where an individual can purchase a variety of digital devices to include cell phones, desktop computers, monitors, laptops, tablets, flat screen televisions, etc.

Digital Device Purchase Storefront Locations

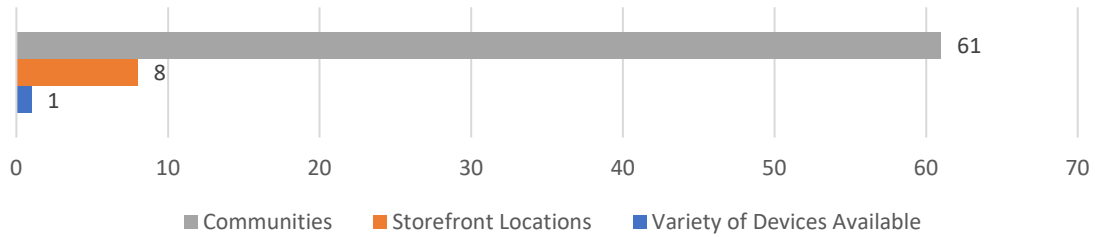
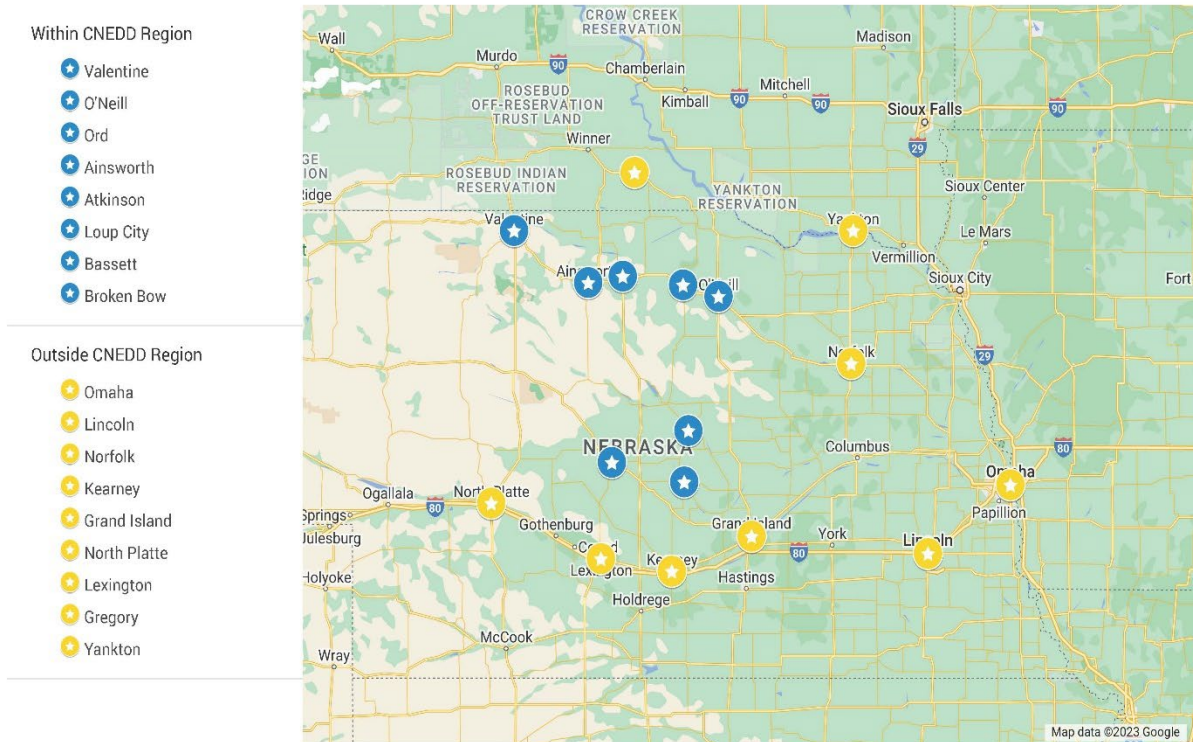


Figure 13: Regional Digital Device Stores

Digital Device Store Locations



Map 7: Digital Device Store Locations

A few of the technological support companies within the Region assist residents with purchasing devices and will order those devices for them. Other options residents have for purchasing digital devices are online purchasing or traveling outside the Region averaging 60 to 100 miles, though some residents travel as far as Omaha or out of state to South Dakota.

The cost to purchase mobile phone devices ranges from \$4.99 for a TracFone to \$1,800 for a Smartphone. The cost and affordability of purchasing digital devices varies greatly as there are so many different devices, especially given the consideration of new versus refurbished devices, limited storefront purchasing options, logistic constraints and expenses, online purchasing options, and bundling options with ISPs.

Eligible applicants may apply for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) which offers a \$100 discount for the purchase of either a laptop, desktop computer or tablet. There’s an affordability program for Veteran’s called Heroes with Hearing Loss sponsored by Hamilton CapTel which offers captioned telephones for Veterans at no cost. *Appendix A: Central Nebraska Region’s Asset Inventory Workbook, Tab A.3.*

Within the Region’s 19,093 households, 12.7% of those households have no digital device whatsoever and 29.1% percent of the Region’s households have only one device or no device. The Central Nebraska Region has the greatest deficient percentage of households in the State of Nebraska having either no digital device or having only one digital device.

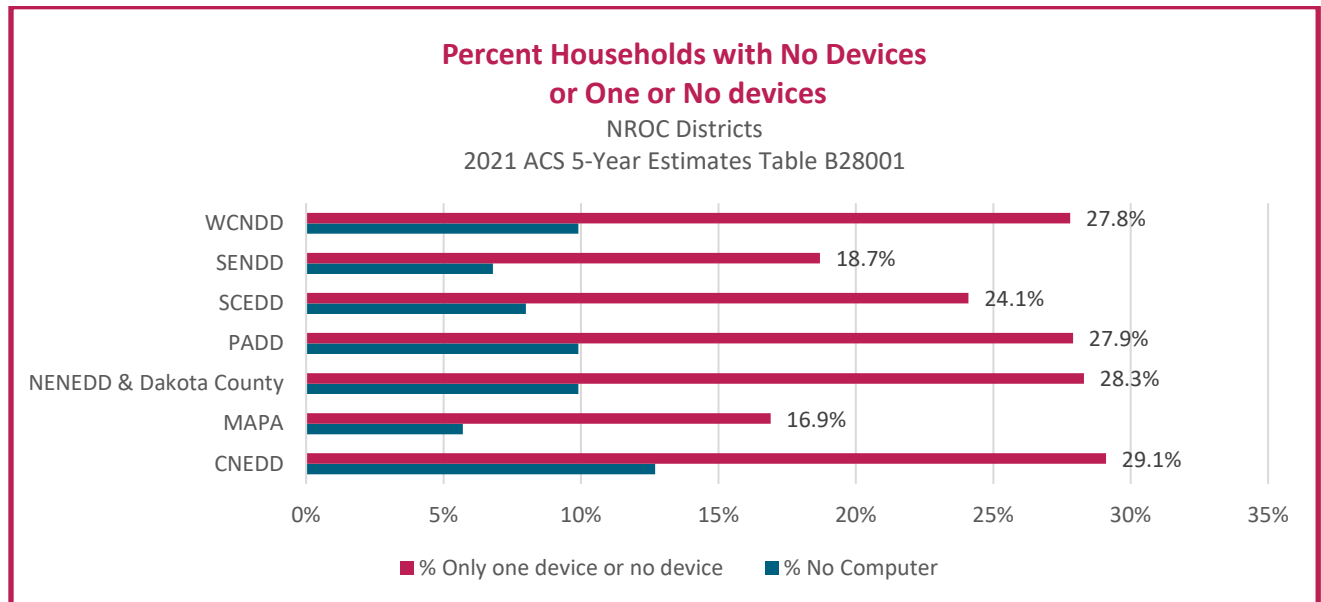


Figure 14: *Nebraska Digital Equity Benchmark Data, January 17,2023 Percent of Households by With One or No Devices, 2021 ACS 5-Year (Table B28002).*

2. Public Access to Devices

The public venues within this Region where an individual may have the opportunity of accessing a digital device would be community libraries, senior centers and perhaps community centers.

a. Libraries.

There are thirty (31) libraries within the Region. A little over half (1/2) of the sixty-one (61) communities have a library. Out of the thirty-one (31) libraries, twenty-six (26) of those

libraries offer public access to devices. Twelve (12) of those libraries have notably old, outdated and some nonfunctioning devices. One (1) of the twelve (12) libraries offers use of a computer with a word processing application and a printer though has no broadband service. *Appendix A: Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory Workbook, Tab A.6.a.*

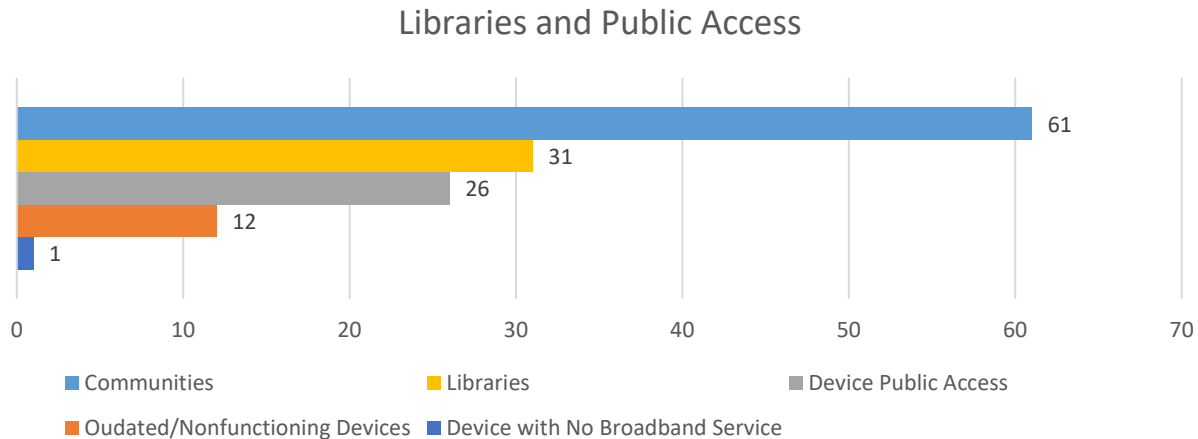


Figure 15: Regional Libraries offering Public Access to Devices

b. Senior Centers.

There are fifteen (15) senior centers within the Region. One quarter (1/4) of the sixty-one (61) communities have a senior center. Out of the fifteen (15) senior centers two (2) of them offer use of notably old desktops, one (1) senior center offers the seniors use of a printer/scanner/copier, and two (2) senior centers occasionally, if need be, offer use of the senior center's office devices. *Appendix A: Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory Workbook, Tab A.6.b.*

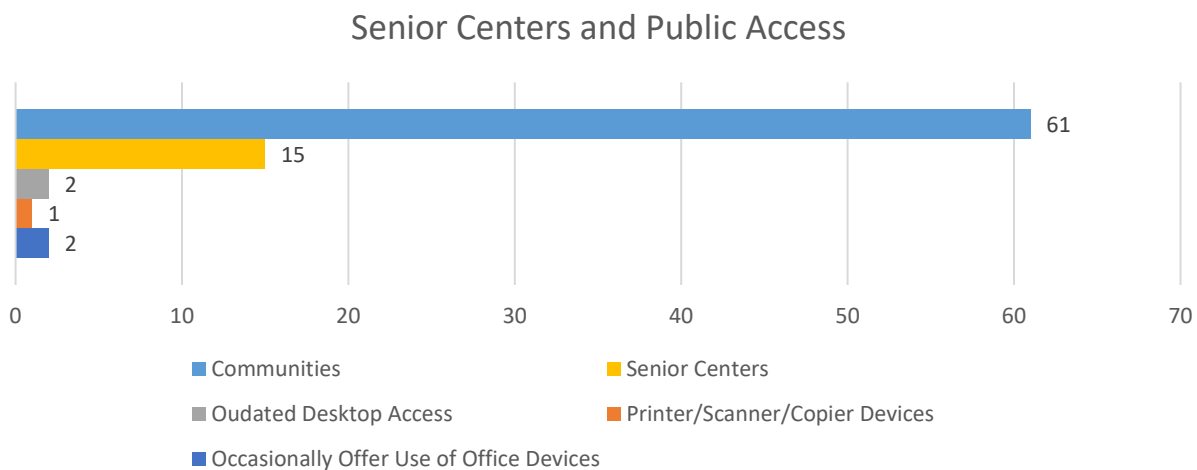


Figure 16: Regional Senior Centers Offering Public Access to Devices

c. Community Centers

There are thirty-two (32) community centers within the Region. Just less than one-half (1/2) of the sixty-one (61) communities have a community center. Two (2) of the communities have two (2) community centers, Long Pine and Scotia. Out of the thirty-two (32) community centers, (2) of the community centers have Smart TV/Flatscreens available for use by meeting and event patrons, Atkinson and O'Neill. There is no community center within the Region that offers public access to computers or other such digital devices. *Appendix A: Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory Workbook, TabA.6.c.*

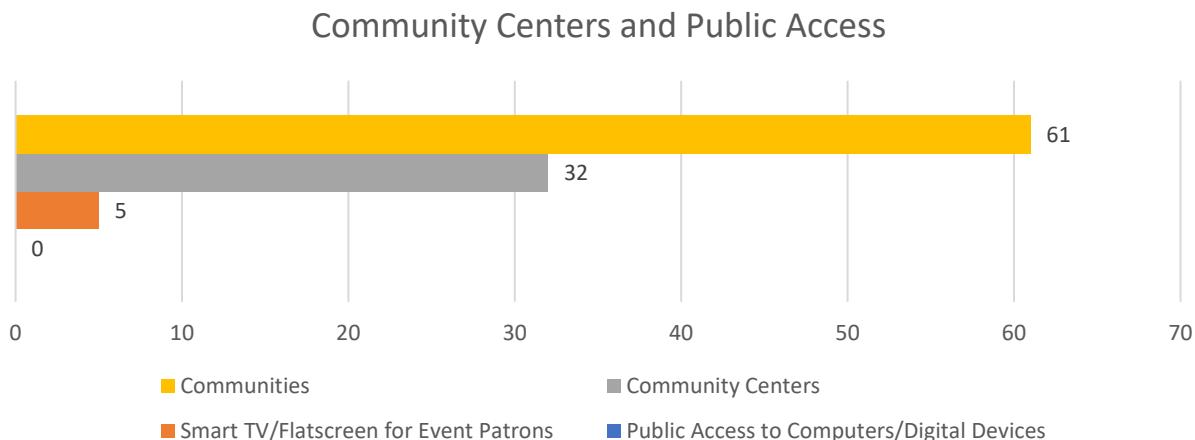


Figure 17: Community Centers Offering Public Access to Devices

D. Applications & Services

1. Precision Agriculture for Farmers and Ranchers

There is a need and desire for the capability and expansion of Precision Agriculture in the Region. Farmers are given insights they have never seen before by collecting and analyzing data. The advantage of Precision Agriculture has increased yields 10 to 15% within the Region. Equating to an increase of 23 bushels per acre. Twenty percent (20%) of the farmers embracing Precision Agriculture tools and methods are utilizing it to full capacity.

There are many digital devices that support precision agriculture. For Farmers there are combines which may have 25 to 30 computers built in, planters with GPS equipment, guidance systems for center pivot irrigation, moisture monitors, cameras, and measurement devices in grain bins. For Ranchers, there are cameras to monitor the herds, virtual fencing, feedlots with auto feeders and Fitbits for cattle.

There are two key elements requisite for the success of Precision Agriculture which are quality broadband service and training.

Unfortunately, the cellular quality of broadband services within this Region is not enough for Precision Agriculture to be fully functional. The ability for farmers and ranchers to upload their data on limited broadband can take hours. To upload one file of data with 10Mbps takes a good hour or more to upload. Even with 100Mbps it can take one file of data ten minutes to upload. The GPS units farmers use aren't accurate enough because mobile cellular service is so poor

within the Region. If the broadband was better there would be an opportunity for remote access capability for technological support. Many of the devices offer remote capability for access to technological assistance and support.

Training on how to use the equipment, upload the data, and analyze the same, is limited. The dealerships that sell the equipment provide some training opportunities. There is one tech support company within the Region specializing in Precision Agriculture support.

Applications and portals for data uploads present security challenges and the need for cyber-security.

2. Technological Assistance for Individuals 60 years old (+)

The Nebraska Area Agencies on Aging(AAA) and the Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) are organizations available through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. There are two (2) regional offices that oversee the Region, which are in Kearney and Norfolk, outside of the Region. The AAA and the ADRC serve Nebraskans aged 60 years or older, people with disabilities of all ages, family members, caregivers, and advocates. The AAA refers individuals in need of further assistance to the ADRC. Local ADRCs provide information, referral, and assistance for accessing community services and long-term care options. ADRC conducts assessments of needs on an individual basis, to include access to devices, broadband, and visual/hearing needs. Some of the applications and devices that are recommended for safe and independent living of the elderly are:

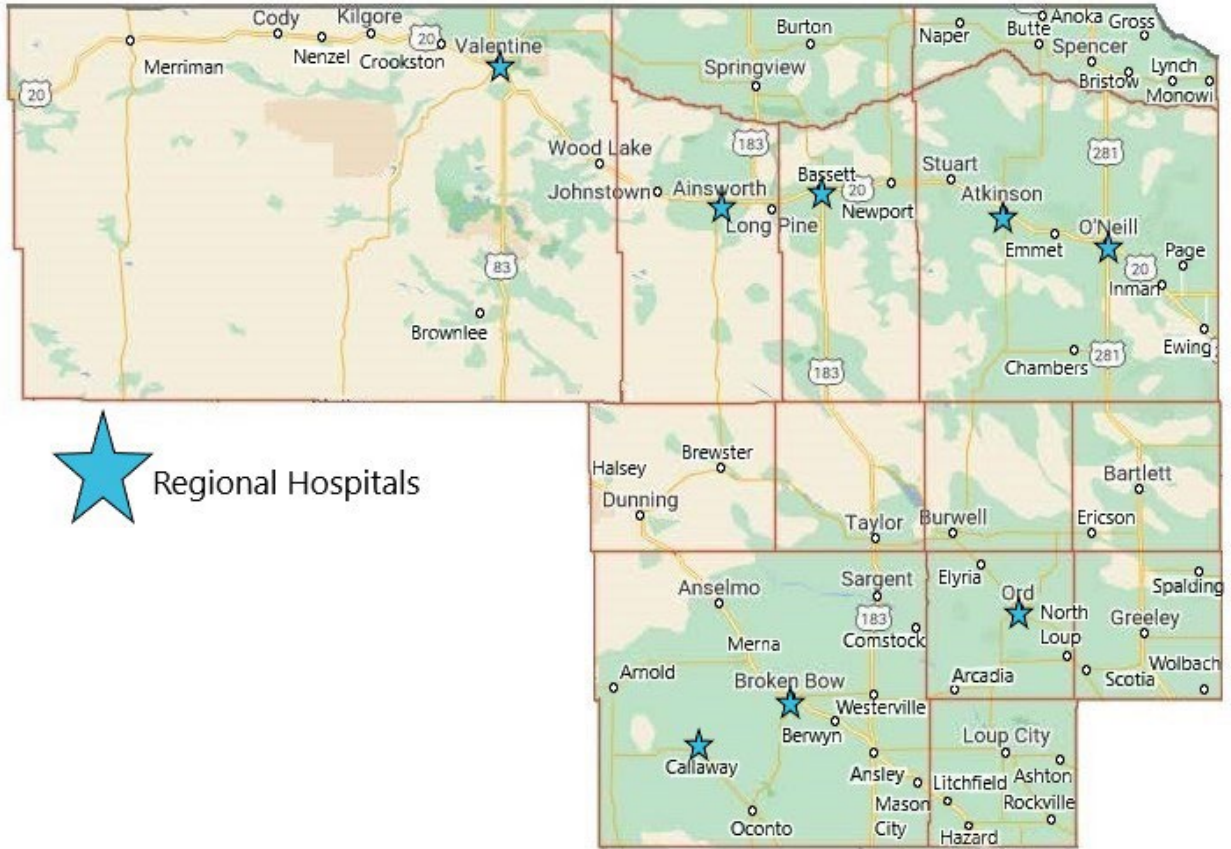
Fall Devices such as MedScope, which provides fall technology and emergency alerts/responses, offered as a watch or necklace, and works through a cell phone application. There is Medicaid eligibility for elderly fall devices; and

Text to Talk, a/k/a/ Read Aloud, Read & Write applications and devices; and

Smart Home/Echo Devices for assistance in the home.

There is no affordability program available that could be identified for digital devices specifically for individuals 60 years old (+).

There are eight (8) hospitals in the Region that assist with Telehealth appointments for individuals, though most especially for the elderly. The Hospitals offer to schedule appointments and assist patients who may not have access to internet, or a device or lack digital skills. Hospitals also assist those who do have access to technology and just need assistance navigating the application portal for the telehealth appointment. *Appendix A: Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory Workbook, Tab B.1.*

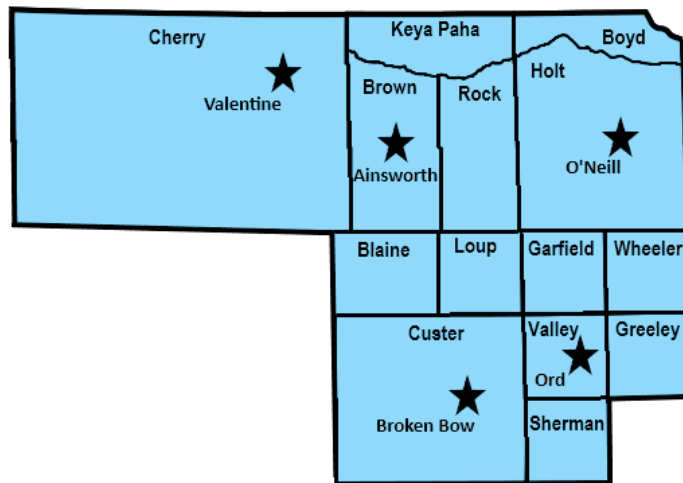


★ Regional Hospitals

Map 8: Regional Hospitals

3. Device Access for Individuals in Low-Income Households for Financial Assistance

The Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services has five (5) offices within the Region located in Ainsworth, Broken Bow, O'Neill, Ord and Valentine.



Map 9: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Service Offices within the Region

Each regional office offers use of a computer to low-income individuals who are seeking financial assistance and who need to apply for public assistance programs. Use of the computer is restricted and only available for applying for those specific public assistance programs. The staff offers assistance in navigating through the online application process. *Appendix A: Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory Workbook, Tab B.2.*

4. Specialized Technological Programs for Individuals with a Disability

The Nebraska Education Service Units in collaboration with the Public School Systems provide and support a Special Education Program for children with disabilities attending public schools. A special needs assessment of a child's skill level and needs is conducted. Education, to include digital skills and literacy training, is tailored to the child's special needs. Children and youth with disabilities are provided educational services and specialized technological devices through the age of 21.

The Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), through the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services provides additional oversight for children and adults with disabilities. The ADRC provides information, referral, and assistance for accessing community services and also conducts assessments of needs on an individual basis, to include access to devices, broadband, and visual/hearing needs. There are two (2) regional offices that oversee the Region, which are in Kearney and Norfolk, outside of the Region.

The League of Human Dignity Waiver Office (League) also provides support for disabled adults. There are four regional offices that provide oversight to the Region which are located outside the Region in Norfolk, Kearney, North Platte, and Scottsbluff. The League provides independent living advocacy, education, awareness, living design, barrier assessments to include digital device needs assessments. Disabilities, being individual, have different needs for different specialized devices. Some of the digital devices that assist the disabled are:

Voice/text applications for an iPad; and

Text to Talk, a/k/a/ Read Aloud, Read & Write applications and devices; and

Wands, for those with limited mobility to hit keys on device keyboards.

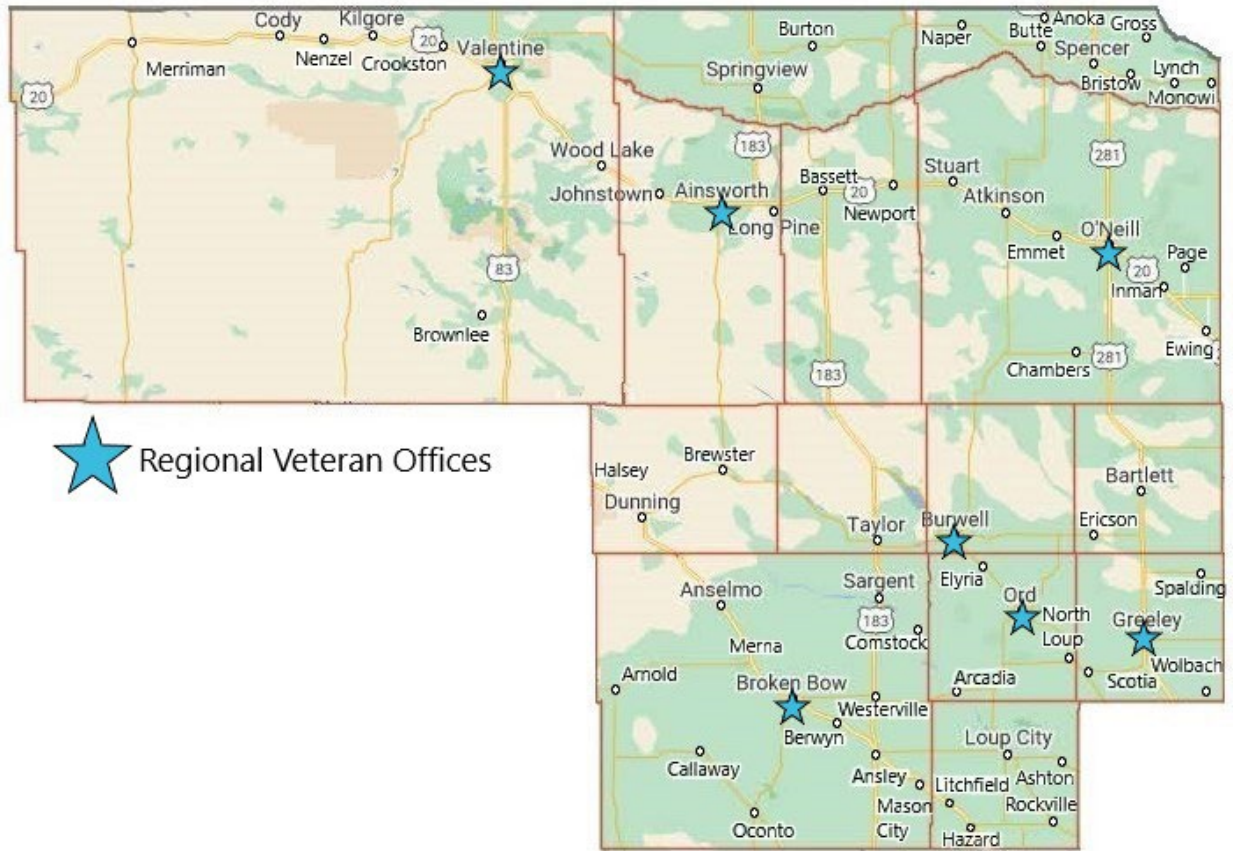
Fall Devices such as MedScope, which provides fall technology and emergency alerts/responses, offered as a watch or necklace, and works through a cell phone application. There is Medicaid eligibility for elderly fall devices; and

Smart Home/Echo Devices for assistance in the home.

There is no affordability program available that could be identified for digital devices for disabled adults. Though, occasionally there's a grant opportunity to fund an iPad that the League pursues. *Please see Appendix A: Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory Workbook, Tab B.3.*

5. Technological Assistance for Veterans

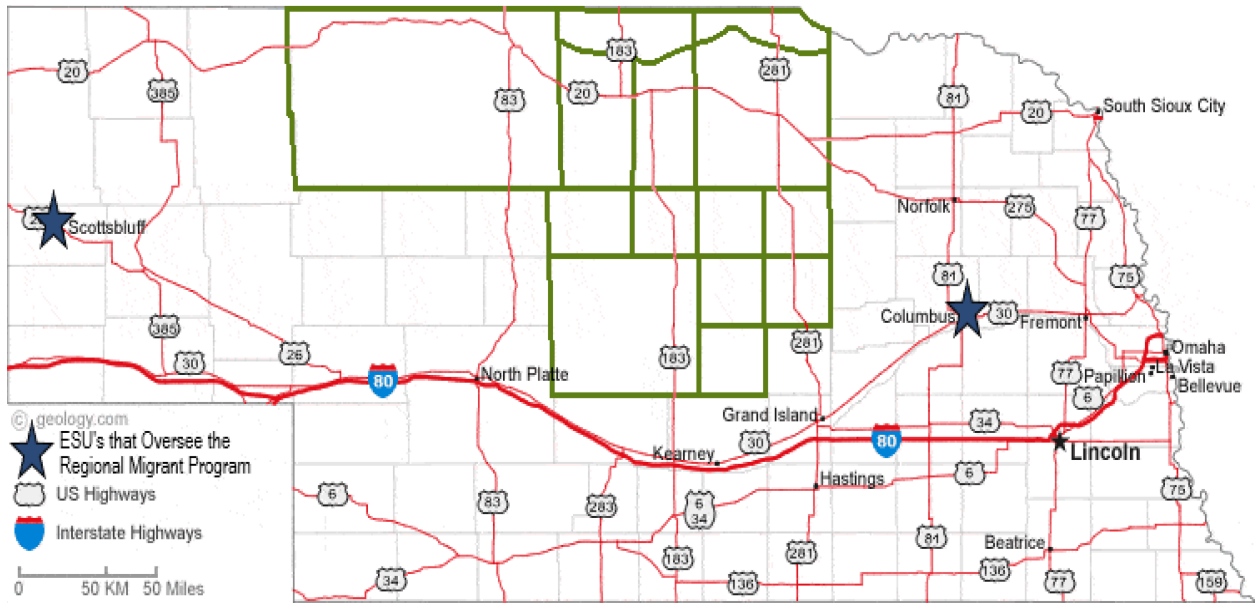
There are eight (8) Veteran Service Offices that serve the Region's Veterans which are located in Ainsworth, Broken Bow, Burwell, Greeley, O'Neill, Ord and Valentine. The Veteran Service Office that serves Sherman County is located outside the Region in Grand Island. The Veteran Services Officers provide support and advocacy services for veterans. That support includes providing assistance with applying for online Veterans Administration benefits and other programs, to include the Heroes with Hearing Loss and the Affordability Connectivity Program. *Please see Appendix A: Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory Workbook, Tab B.4.*



Map 10: Veteran Service Offices Serving the Region

6. Regional Migrant Program for School Aged Children with a Language Barrier

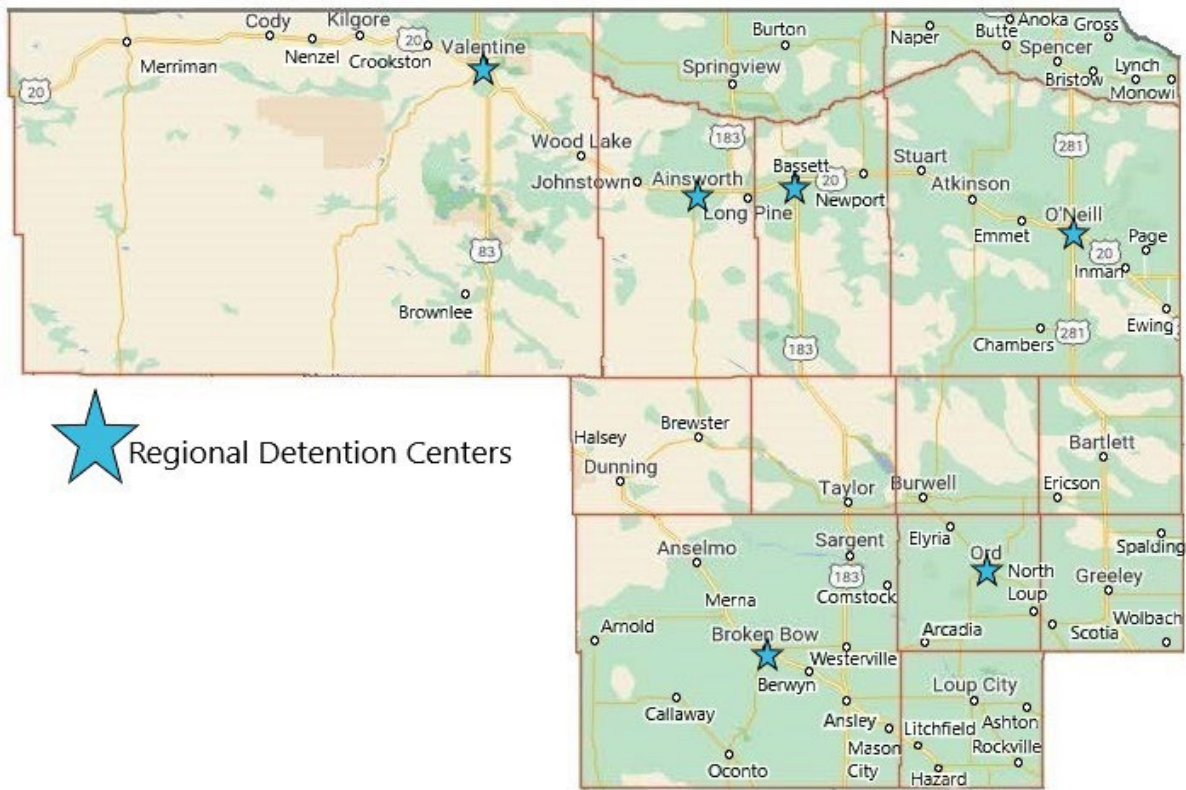
There is a Regional Migrant Program that provides a special education program, to include digital skills and literacy training for the Region's children and youth with a language barrier. This program is run through two (2) Education Service Units (ESU) located in Columbus, ESU 7 and in Scottsbluff, ESU 13, located outside the Region. *Please see Appendix A : Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory Workbook, Tab B.6.*



Map 11: ESU Overseeing Regional Migrant Program for Children

7. Communication Systems for the Incarcerated

Within the Region there are no Federal or State penitentiaries though there are six (6) county detention centers located in Brown, Cherry, Custer, Holt, Rock, and Valley Counties.



Map 12: Regional Detention Centers

Four (4) of the detention centers offer their inmates use of a Cidnet Communication System, Brown, Cherry, Holt and Valley. The basic system gives the inmates the ability to communicate not only with the detention department but also attorneys and family members, as well as video chats. Family members fund usage for communication with the inmate. Three (3) of the four detention centers provide a shared access wall mounted Cidnet tablet in the common area/pod, Brown, Holt and Valley. The other detention centers offer individual Cidnet tablets for inmates, Cherry County.

The Cidnet system and any additional attributes, such as online access to the Nebraska Law Library, You Tube, and movies are funded through the County Sheriff Department’s budget.

One (1) of the detention centers provides iPhones to the inmates, Custer County. The iPhones provide an opportunity for inmates to communicate with their families and attorneys through texts and video chats. There is one (1) iPhone in each common area/pod for shared access. Inmates schedule usage time. Again, the family provides funds for communication with the inmate through an online portal. Costs for usage varies though some are .33 cents per minute. iPhones are funded through the County Sheriff’s Department’ budget.

There is only one (1) detention center that does not provide access to a digital device, Rock County, who housed twenty (20) inmates last year.

All seven (7) of the detention centers offer Cable TV access funded through the County Sheriff Department’s budget. *Please see Appendix A: Central Nebraska Region’s Asset Inventory Workbook, Tab B.7.*

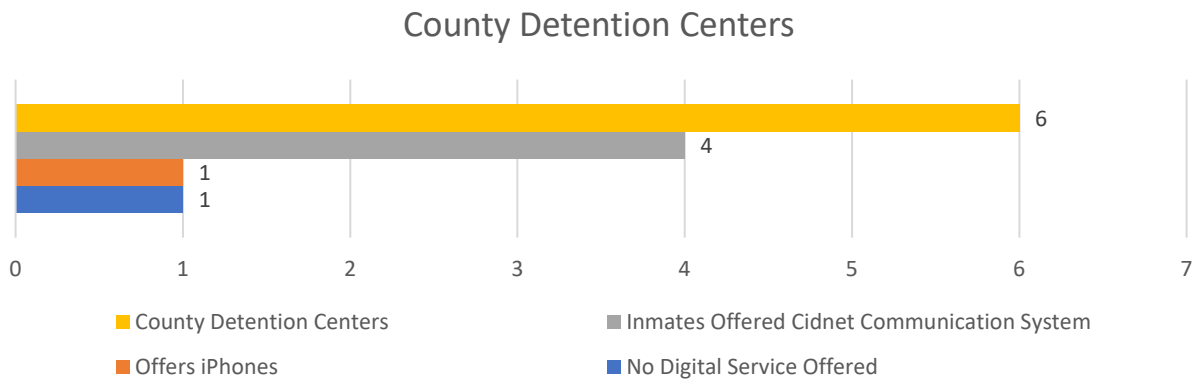


Figure 18: Regional County Detention Centers – Digital Devices

VII. Regional Barriers & Gaps

A. Internet

1. Availability & Affordability of Broadband

The Region has unique topographic characteristics and there are challenges accessing and/or having reliable, robust broadband service.

Being a rural region with such vast territory, fiber optic broadband infrastructure and mobile cellular coverage is limited in the Region.

Broadband speeds are not adequate enough to ensure emergency services.

Broadband speeds are not adequate enough to efficiently support Precision Agriculture in this Region, let alone the capability of remote access for technological support.

Affordability is a major issue for rural residents on restricted incomes. The Region has a poverty level of 12.72%. The majority of individuals 60 years old (+) have restricted incomes. The developmentally disabled individuals receive as little as \$914 per month from social security which does not sustain the necessities let alone a subscription to broadband service.

The tax base is limited for small rural communities. The senior center in Callaway has a cable to the building but can't afford to subscribe to broadband service. The community center in Brewster is hoping to rent the facility enough times this summer to cover the winter heating bill. The community center in Cody has a hotspot on the village water tower and would like to offer internet access to meeting and event patrons and the public, though the reception is so unreliable and spotty, you can't open a web page. Some community libraries have no budget to work with at all and are operating on donations and the kindness of volunteers.

The emergency pandemic funds that assisted families during the pandemic for children's remote educational needs are no longer available. Currently, the majority of children's homework is accomplished online. Low-income families are struggling with affording broadband service and devices to accommodate their children's educational needs.

Broadband speeds that are advertised are not always consistent with actual, on the ground, locational speeds.

There appears to be no overall oversight, accountability, or enforcement mechanism of ISP information standards

2. Affordability Programs & Opportunities

Affordability programs are limited, not well marketed, lack simplicity of enrollment, application portals are not easy to navigate and especially complicated when having to bundle services for further affordability. Also, marketing is not always advertised in Spanish.

Affordability Programs don't provide enough of a discount and broadband service may still be cost prohibitive to those on a fixed incomes.

3. Public Access to Internet

There are not enough venues in the Region that offer public access to the internet.

The venues that do offer public access to the internet are not logistically convenient or sufficient enough to overall serve the Region's residents. Not everyone has a mode of transportation and there is no public transportation system within the Region.

B. Digital Skills & Technological Support

1. Availability & Access to Digital Skills and Literacy Training

There are not enough venues offered for learning digital skills and literacy training within the Region.

The locations are not logistically convenient or sufficient enough to overall serve the Region's residents. Not everyone has a mode of transportation and there is no public transportation within the Region.

For individuals with a language barrier, there are limited translators and class advertisements are not always in Spanish.

Affordability of classes, devices and broadband service limits the ability of individuals to acquire digital skills and literacy training.

Individuals who can afford broadband service may not have reliable and robust enough service to acquire digital skills and literacy training online.

Other community venues that offer public access to the internet and a device for online learning are incredibly limited within the Region.

The desire for technology and level of digital skills and literacy is generational with individuals 60 years old (+). There are different generations of seniors. There are seniors in their 60's, 70's, and 80's and older. Seniors in their 60's and 70's have had to acclimate to digital technology to some degree. Some are still working and having to negotiate the digital world. Those that aren't working any longer may have an interest in social media, shopping and need to interface digitally, and then there are those who absolutely don't want to be bothered with it all. There are seniors who wish to have access to the internet and devices at their senior centers, though the director has no interest.

Frustration and fear of technology in general.

There's a lack of comprehension of the importance of acquiring digital skills and literacy training in order to function in today's world.

2. Availability & Affordability of Technical Support

There are not enough companies in the Region that offer technical support.

The companies that do offer technical support are not logistically convenient or sufficient enough to overall serve the Region's residents. Not everyone has a mode of transportation and there is no public transportation system within the Region

Affordability of technological support can be prohibitive to Regional residents.

C. Devices

1. Availability & Affordability of Devices

There are not enough retail vendors in the Region where residents may purchase new and used devices. There may not be enough residents in the Region to make it financially feasible to sustain additional retail vendors.

The locations of vendors are not logistically convenient or sufficient enough to overall serve the Region's residents. Not everyone has a mode of transportation and there is no public transportation within the Region.

Affordability is a major issue for rural residents on restricted incomes. The Region has a poverty level of 12.72%. The majority of individuals 60 years old (+) have restricted incomes.

Absolute limitation of affordability programs for purchasing a device. The ACP offers only offers a discount of \$100 towards purchasing a device. It is not enough of a discount for many. Further, the program is not well marketed, lacks simplicity of enrollment, application portals are not easy to navigate and especially complicated when having to bundle services for further affordability. Also, marketing is not always advertised in Spanish.

Not only is there no affordability program available that could be identified for digital devices specifically for disabled adults within the Region, there is also no affordability programs that could be found for the digital devices of necessity to assist the challenges of their individual disabilities so that they may thrive not just survive. Developmentally disabled adults may receive as little as \$914 per month from Social Security which does not sustain the necessities let along a subscription to digital technology.

General technological designs do not address or accommodate those with special needs and limitations.

Some individuals don't have access to a device to order a device.

2. Public Access to Devices

There are not enough venues in the Region that offer public access to a device.

The locations are not logistically convenient or sufficient enough to overall serve the Region's residents. Not everyone has a mode of transportation and there is no public transportation within the Region.

There's a lack of comprehension of the importance of having accessibility to digital devices in order to function in today's world.

Most of the digital devices available for public access do not address or accommodate those with special needs and limitations.

There are only 5 regional offices of the Department of Health and Human Services which offer low-income individuals the opportunity to access a device to apply for online economic assistance.

VIII. Regional Needs Assessment

A. Assessment of Regional Covered Populations Relative to Digital Equity

| Scale: - Satisfactory - Needs Improvement - Unsatisfactory - Not Present | Availability & Affordability of Fixed and Wireless Broadband | Availability & Affordability of Consumer Devices & Technical Support | Digital Literacy | Awareness and Use of Online Privacy & Security | Accessibility and Inclusivity of Public Resources |
|--|--|--|------------------------|--|---|
| Central Nebraska Region | Unsatisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Needs Improvement | Needs Improvement | Unsatisfactory |
| Rural Residents | Unsatisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Needs Improvement | Needs Improvement | Unsatisfactory |
| Older Adults 60 (+) Years Old | Unsatisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Unsatisfactory |
| Low-Income Individuals | Unsatisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Unsatisfactory |
| Veterans | Unsatisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Needs Improvement | Needs Improvement | Needs Improvement |
| Individuals with a Disability | Not Present | Not Present | Not Present for Adults | Not Present | Unsatisfactory |
| Members of Ethnic and Racial Minorities | Unsatisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Needs Improvement | Needs Improvement | Unsatisfactory |
| Individuals with Language Barriers | Unsatisfactory | Not Present | Not Present | Not Present | Not Present |
| Incarcerated | Satisfactory | Satisfactory | Satisfactory | Satisfactory | Satisfactory |

B. Regional Needs to Achieve Digital Equity

1. Availability & Affordability of Fixed and Wireless broadband

Increase the availability and affordability of accessing robust, high-speed, reliable broadband service throughout the Region through fixed and wireless broadband service.

Expand Fiber-optic broadband infrastructure in the Region.

Find innovative solutions for overcoming topographical challenges of accessibility to broadband service.

Increase the availability and quality of mobile cellular data to support the success of the Precision Agriculture in this Region, given that agriculture is its economic base.

Expand affordability programs for residential and mobile broadband service that are efficient and sufficient enough to bridge the digital gap of all covered populations within the Region, most especially those with the greatest digital divide and provide further marketing and streamline and simplify the enrollment process.

2. Availability & Affordability of Consumer Devices & Technical Support

Expand the opportunities and number of venues in which the public can purchase digital devices.

Increase affordability opportunities for devices that are efficient and sufficient enough to bridge the digital gap of all covered populations within the Region, most especially those with the greatest digital divide

Provide appropriate, human-centric, technological designs that will accommodate special needs, especially those with the greatest digital divide so that they may have the ability to access and utilize digital devices and affordability programs for the same.

Expand opportunities and provide affordable options for accessing technological support.

3. Digital Literacy - Having the Skills to Use Internet Technologies

Increase affordable opportunities and expand educational venues to enable all covered populations within the Region, most especially those with the greatest digital divide, to acquire digital skills and literacy training.

Outreach and education to provide awareness of the importance of digital technology and the need for digital skills and literacy to function effectively in today's world and understanding the needs of future generations.

4. Accessibility and Inclusivity of Public Resources

Increase community venues, find affordable funding opportunities, and expand the availability for public access of the internet and of digital devices.

Provide affordability opportunities for broadband service and devices that are efficient and sufficient enough to bridge the digital gap of all covered populations within the Region, most especially those with the greatest digital divide. Those who are most vulnerable and need additional assistance through digital devices cannot afford connectivity to broadband or specialized devices.

Provide representation for those with the greatest digital divide to assist them with bridging their digital gaps. Representatives for ethnic and racial minorities as well as adults with language barriers could not be found within this Region.

5. Knowledge of Privacy and Security Practices

Outreach and education for further awareness, understanding and importance of applications and digital tools necessary to best maintain privacy and cyber security and provide accessibility for this outreach and education for all covered populations within the Region, most especially those with the greatest digital divide.

Provide affordable applications that are accessible for all covered populations within the Region, most especially those with the greatest digital divide.

IX. Conclusion

Upon assessment of the assets, barriers and needs relative to achieving digital equity for the Region's Covered Populations, it clearly indicates that not only are there multiple digital gaps, rather, there are significant foundational digital divides as identified in the Regional Needs Assessment set forth above and the entirety of this Baseline Assessment herein.

| SECTION DESCRIPTIONS | |
|---|--|
| Section Name | Description |
| Basic Organization/Program Information | Key descriptive information about the organization or program, such as physical location and contact information, along with populations and issue areas of focus. Most of these fields should be populated for every entry in the asset mapping template. |
| Broadband Access & Affordability | Information about organizations or programs that connect households to home broadband service. This could include various types of internet service providers that offer market-rate and discount internet service, as well as organizations or programs that provide resources to help make broadband service more affordable. |
| Device Access | Information about organizations or programs that help people access affordable digital devices. This could include organizations and programs along the entire device supply chain, including device donation sources, refurbishers, retailers, and distribution locations. |
| Digital Skills & Technical Support | Information about organizations or programs that offer digital skills training resources or technical support services. These may include in-person services as well as tools and resources available digitally. |
| Public Device & Internet Access | Information about organizations and programs that provide publicly-available digital devices and broadband access. In contrast to the prior 'Broadband Access & Affordability' and 'Device Access' sections, which focus on personal service or devices, this section focuses on shared resources. This could include computers and internet access available at central locations (e.g., library or senior center) or devices like laptops and hotspots that are loaned for home use. |
| Digital Inclusion Funding | Information about organizations or programs that fund digital inclusion work in any or all of the other categories. |

| FIELD DEFINITIONS | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---------------------|
| Section Name | Field Name | Field Definition | Guidance for Data Collection | Field Format |
| Basic Organization/Program Information | Organization Name | Name of the organization offering digital inclusion services. | It is generally best to treat each location or branch of an organization as a separate entry - this helps in understanding geographic availability of services and underserved areas. Some users may choose to map assets at strictly the organization level, especially if the inventory covers a large area (e.g., statewide); while others may map individual programs. If individual programs are being mapped, an organization may be included in the asset inventory several times, once for each program they offer. | Free Text |
| | Program Name | Name of the program offering digital inclusion services. | | Free Text |
| | Organization Type | Categories describing the broad sector or purpose that best describes the organization. | | Single-Value Select |
| | NAICS Code | North American Industry Classification System code. | A searchable list of NAICS codes can be found here: https://www.census.gov/naics/?yearbck=2022 | Free Text |
| | SIC Code | Standard Industrial Classification system code. | A searchable list of SIC codes can be found here: https://www.osha.gov/data/sic-manual | Free Text |
| | Website | Website address for the organization/program. | | Free Text |
| | Street Address | Address number and street name of the organization/program. | | Free Text |
| | Address 2 | Additional address information such as apartment, suite, or unit number. | | Free Text |
| | City | City in which the organization/program is located. | | Free Text |
| | State/Territory | U.S. state or territory in which the organization/program is located. | | Single-Value Select |
| | Zip Code | USPS zip code for the organization/program. | | Free Text |
| | Geographic Service Area | Name of the area served by the organization/program. | Service areas may range significantly in size, from individual neighborhoods to multiple states or even nationwide. Whenever possible, service area descriptions should use established geographic boundaries (e.g., one or more neighborhoods, municipalities, counties, etc.) for consistency and to allow for mapping of service area boundaries. | Free Text |
| | Contact Name | Name of the primary contact person for the digital inclusion services provided by the organization/program. | This should be the primary contact for the digital inclusion services provided by the organization/program. | Free Text |
| | Contact Email | Email address for the primary contact person. | | Free Text |
| | Contact Phone | Telephone number for the primary contact person. | | Free Text |
| | Days of Operation | Days of the week that the organization/program is open to the public. | Days of operation should reflect when the relevant digital inclusion services are available to the public. This may differ from the days that an organization is open more broadly. | Multi-Value Select |
| | Hours of Operation | Hours of the day that the organization/program is open to the public. | Hours of operation should reflect when the relevant digital inclusion services are available to the public. This may differ from the operating hours of an organization more broadly. | Free Text |
| | Languages Supported (Other Than English) | Languages in which digital inclusion services are offered by the organization/program. | This could include a range of language supports, such as previously translated content, multi-lingual staff, on-demand translation services, or others. | Free Text |
| | Target Population(s) | Historically underserved groups toward whom the organization/program focuses its digital inclusion services. | These groups include the covered populations listed in the Digital Equity Act, along with a few additional key groups for whom digital inclusion services are most often focused. There are many other population groups in need of digital inclusion supports and for whom services are available. These other groups may be included in the "Other" category, or entered manually if necessary. | Multi-Value Select |
| | Issue Focus | Primary issue focus, if any, of the organization's work. | Many providers of digital inclusion services address a range of community issues. This field is intended to identify issue-specific organizations that are also providing digital inclusion services to those they serve, such as a homeless shelter, workforce development board, or healthcare provider. | Multi-Value Select |
| Digital Inclusion Needs Category | Categories of digital inclusion services for which the organization/program delivers services. | The needs categories align with the different sections of the asset inventory template. The values selected in this field will indicate which sections of the asset inventory should be completed and which can be skipped. | Multi-Value Select | |
| Broadband Access & Affordability | Org Sub-Type | More specific description of the organization providing broadband access & affordability services. | In many cases, the organization type in the "Basic Information" section will be sufficient. The organization sub-type field is available when more specific information about an organization is helpful, such as type of internet service provider in this case. | Single-Value Select |
| | Service Type | Type(s) of broadband service (i.e., technology) offered by the organization/program. | | Multi-Value Select |
| | Coverage Area | Geographic area served by the broadband service or subsidy. | Some internet service providers or affordability programs cover specific geographic areas, which can be helpful to document. If a provider covers the entire community or has a very complex coverage area, this field can be left blank. Alternatively, a link to a provider's coverage map, if available, could be included here. | Free Text |
| | Min Speed (Down/Up) | Minimum bandwidth (download and upload) available through the broadband service or subsidy. | This should be reported in megabits per second (Mbps) or gigabits per second (Gbps) - for example 25Mbps/3Mbps. | Free Text |
| | Max Speed (Down/Up) | Maximum bandwidth (download and upload) available through the broadband service or subsidy. | This should be reported in megabits per second (Mbps) or gigabits per second (Gbps) - for example 25Mbps/3Mbps. | Free Text |
| | Cost | Cost, if any, for the broadband services offered by the organization/program. | This could be a single cost if only one plan is offered, multiple costs for different tiers of service, or a range from the lowest to the highest cost offerings. | Free Text |
| | Discount Service Offer (Y/N) | Indicates whether or not discounted or subsidized broadband service is offered by the organization/program. | Only stand-alone discount offers or subsidies from the organization/program should be included here. Services that are subsidized by programs that span multiple providers, such as ACP or Lifeline, should not be counted here. | Single-Value Select |
| | Discount Offer Cost/Subsidy Amount | Cost, if any, of the discount broadband service or amount of the subsidy available through the organization/program. | | Free Text |
| | Discount Offer Speed (Down/Up) | Bandwidth (download and upload) available through the broadband service or subsidy. | This should be reported in megabits per second (Mbps) or gigabits per second (Gbps) - for example 25Mbps/3Mbps. | Free Text |
| | Eligibility Criteria for Discount Offer or Subsidy | Criteria used to determine who qualifies to participate in the discount offer or subsidy program. | Qualification may be based on numerous criteria, including income, age, and participation in other assistance programs, among others. | Free Text |
| Device Access | Eligible Providers (For Subsidy Programs) | Some subsidy programs are limited to specific providers. If a subsidy is open to specific providers, they should be listed here. | If the organization offering the discount or subsidy is the service provider, or if a subsidy program is open to any provider, this field should be left blank. | Free Text |
| | Number of Customers/Recipients Last Year | General measure of the scale of the organization/program based on the number of customers or recipients served with broadband access & affordability services in the last year. | As this is intended to be a general measure of scale rather than a specific metric, customers/recipients may be defined however the organization/program already tracks them (e.g., individuals, households, etc.). Similarly, the "last year" may be interpreted to align with existing reporting cycles (e.g., calendar year, fiscal year, etc.) | Single-Value Select |
| | Org Sub-Type | More specific description of the organization providing device access services. | In many cases, the organization type in the "Basic Information" section will be sufficient. The organization sub-type field is available when more specific information about an organization is helpful, such as type of device provider in this case. | Multi-Value Select |
| | Device Types | Types of digital devices available to users through the organization/program. | | Multi-Value Select |
| | Condition | Indicates whether the organization/program provides new digital devices, refurbished devices, or both. | | Multi-Value Select |
| | Cost | Cost, if any, of the digital devices offered by the organization/program. | This could be a single cost if only one device type is offered, multiple costs for different device offerings, or a range from the lowest to the highest cost offerings. | Free Text |
| | Interaction Method | Ways in which customers can connect with the organization/program offering devices. | | Multi-Value Select |
| Eligibility Criteria | Criteria used to determine who qualifies to purchase or receive a device through the organization/program. | Qualification may be based on numerous criteria, including income, age, and participation in other assistance programs, among others. | Free Text | |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---------------------|
| | Existing Device Donation Partners | Established partners with which the organization/program works to source or provide devices. | Information about existing device sourcing and distribution relationships can be key to understanding the scale, supply chain, and sustainability of device access programs. | Free Text |
| | Number of Devices Provided Last Year | General measure of the scale of the organization/program based on the number of devices provided in the last year. | As this is intended to be a general measure of scale rather than a specific metric, devices provided may be defined however the organization/program already tracks them. Similarly, the "last year" may be interpreted to align with existing reporting cycles (e.g., calendar year, fiscal year, etc.). | Single-Value Select |
| Digital Skills & Technical Support | Org Sub-Type | More specific description of the organization providing digital skills and technical support services. | In many cases, the organization type in the "Basic Information" section will be sufficient. The organization sub-type field is available when more specific information about an organization is helpful. | Single-Value Select |
| | Training/Support Format | Delivery format for the digital skills training or technical support that is offered by the organization/program. | | Multi-Value Select |
| | Interaction Method | Ways in which customers can connect with the organization/program offering digital skills or technical support services. | | Multi-Value Select |
| | Availability | Indicator of how readily available the digital skill or technical support services are. | | Multi-Value Select |
| | Instruction Type | Person responsible for leading or delivering the digital skills or technical support services. | | Multi-Value Select |
| | Cost | Cost, if any, for the digital skills or technical support services offered by the organization/program. | This could be a single cost if only one training is offered, multiple costs for different training or support offerings, or a range to cover different offerings or if cost is contingent on factors such as participant income. | Free Text |
| | Eligibility Criteria | Criteria used to determine who qualifies to participate in the digital skills or technical support services through the organization/program. | Qualification may be based on numerous criteria, including income, age, and participation in other assistance programs, among others. | Free Text |
| | Target Skill Level | General skill level of user who would most benefit from the digital skills or technical support services offered, or for whom the services are intended. | | Multi-Value Select |
| | Digital Skill Offerings | Categories of digital skills covered in the trainings offered by the organization/program. | Some digital skill training programs will span multiple categories from the dropdown list. In this case, it is recommended to select multiple categories to best represent the skills that are covered. | Multi-Value Select |
| | Curriculum | Established curriculum, if any, that is used for the digital skills trainings offered by the organization/program. | Several of the most frequently used curricula are listed in the dropdown list. However, this inclusion on the list is not an endorsement of any curriculum, and many other quality options are available. These may be included in the "Other" category, or entered manually if desired. | Multi-Value Select |
| | Tech Support Services Offered | Categories of technical support offered by the organization/program. | | Multi-Value Select |
| | Devices Supported | Types of devices for which technical support services are offered by the organization/program. | | Multi-Value Select |
| | Number of Training/Support Recipients Last Year | General measure of the scale of the organization/program based on the number of customers or recipients served with digital skills training or technical support services in the last year. | As this is intended to be a general measure of scale rather than a specific metric, training/support recipients may be defined however the organization/program already tracks them (e.g., training or support sessions, unique individuals, etc.). Similarly, the "last year" may be interpreted to align with existing reporting cycles (e.g., calendar year, fiscal year, etc.). | Single-Value Select |
| Public Device & Internet Access | Org Sub-Type | More specific description of the organization providing public device & internet access services. | In many cases, the organization type in the "Basic Information" section will be sufficient. The organization sub-type field is available when more specific information about an organization is helpful, such as type of public computing location in this case. | Single-Value Select |
| | Technology Available | Types of public computing resources provided by the organization/program. | | Multi-Value Select |
| | Type of Access | Indicator of whether the public devices or internet access are available at a shared public location (e.g., on-site public WIFI, computer lab) or if they can be taken home by users. | | Multi-Value Select |
| | Cost | Cost, if any, for use of the public devices or internet access offered by the organization/program. | This could be a single cost if only one type of access is offered, multiple costs for different device & internet access offerings, or a range to cover different offerings or if cost is contingent on factors such as participant income. | Free Text |
| | Terms of Use | Terms of use, if any, to which users must agree in order to use the public devices or internet access provided by the organization/program. | Providing a link to online Terms of Use is generally easier than pasting full terms of use into the asset inventory. | Free Text |
| | Eligibility Criteria | Criteria used to determine who qualifies to use the public devices or internet access through the organization/program. | Qualification may be based on numerous criteria, including income, age, and participation in other assistance programs, among others. | Free Text |
| | Tech Support Available (Y/N) | Indicator of whether or not technical support is available to users of the public devices or internet access offered by the organization/program. | | Single-Value Select |
| | Number of Users Served | General measure of the scale of the organization/program based on the number of users served with public device or internet services in the last year. | As this is intended to be a general measure of scale rather than a specific metric, users served may be defined however the organization/program already tracks them (e.g., individual computing sessions, device loans, unique individuals, etc.). Similarly, the "last year" may be interpreted to align with existing reporting cycles (e.g., calendar year, fiscal year, etc.). | Single-Value Select |
| Digital Inclusion Funding | Org Sub-Type | More specific description of the organization providing digital inclusion funding. | In many cases, the organization type in the "Basic Information" section will be sufficient. The organization sub-type field is available when more specific information about an organization is helpful, such as type of philanthropic organization in this case. | Single-Value Select |
| | Funding Type | Type of financial support offered by the organization/program. | | Multi-Value Select |
| | Application Style | Method of applying for and determining recipients of funding offered by the organization/program. | | Multi-Value Select |
| | Eligible Uses | Categories of digital inclusion services for which the funding can be used. | | Multi-Value Select |
| | Funding Schedule | Frequency of availability for the funding offered by the organization/program. | | Multi-Value Select |
| | Next Application/Funding Window | Important dates or timeframes, if known, for upcoming funding opportunities offered by the organization/program. | | Free Text |
| | Eligible Applicants | Organization types that are eligible to apply for the funding offered by the organization/program. | | Multi-Value Select |
| | Total Funding Available | Total amount of the funding pool offered by the organization/program. | | Free Text |
| Maximum Award | Maximum amount an application or recipient may be awarded from the funding offered by the organization/program. | | Free Text | |

Basic Organization/Program Information

| Organization Name | Program Name | Organization Type | NAICS Code | SIC Code | Website | Street Address | City | State/Territory | Zip Code | Geographic Service Area | Contact Name | Contact Email | Contact Phone | Days of Operation | Hours of Operation | Languages Supported (Other Than English) | Target Population(s) | Issue Focus | Digital Inclusion Needs Category |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------|----------|---|--|-----------|-----------------|----------|---|--------------|--|---|-----------------------|--------------------|--|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company (NNTC) (Co-op) | ACP Support & Lifeline Support | ISP | | | NNTC-Link to Application located on their website. | 110 East Elk St | Jackson | NE | 68743 | Bartlett, Bristow, Butte, Long Pine, Spencer, and Stuart. | | nntc@nntc.net | 888-397-4321 ext. 1 | Monday-Saturday | 8AM-4:30 PM | Espanol | All | | |
| Three River Telco | ACP Support & Lifeline Support | ISP | | | | 225 N 4th St | Lynch | NE | 68746 | Lynch, Ainsworth, O'Neill, & Springview | | info@threeriver.net | 402-569-2666 | | | Espanol | All | | |
| HughesNet | ACP Support & Lifeline Support | ISP | | | Application | | | | | CNEDD Region | | | 1-877-663-5911 | 24 hrs/ 7 days a week | | | All | | |
| StraightTalk | ACP Support/Lifeline | Mobile ISP | | | https://www.straighttalk.com/acp | Straight Talk, INC 9700 NW 112 Avenue | Miami | FL | 33178 | | | Text 611611 | 1-877-430-2355 | | | Espanol | All | | |
| Verizon Wireless | ACP Support/Lifeline | Mobile ISP | | | https://www.verizon.com/home/promo/affordable-connectivity-program/ | | | | | CNEDD Region | | | | | | Espanol | All | | |
| Allo Fiber | ACP Support | ISP | | | https://www.allcommunications.com/community-connect- | 272 S Main St | Valentine | NE | 69201 | Valentine | | Website Chat | 531-257-5050 | Mon-Fri | 8AM-5PM | Espanol | All | | |
| K&M Telephone Company | ACP Support | ISP | | | | 101 S Victoria St. | Chambers | NE | 68725 | Chambers, Inman, Amelia | | kmacctts@kmtel.net | 402-482-5220 | Mon-FRI | 8AM-5PM | | All | | |

| Broadband Access & Affordability | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------------|---|--|--|--|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Organization Name | Org Sub-Type | Service Type | Coverage Area (Town, Village, City) | Min Speed (Down/Up) | Max Speed (Down/Up) | Cost | Discount Service Offer (Y/N) | Discount Offer Cost/ Subsidy Amount | Discount Offer Speed (Down/Up) | Eligibility Criteria for Discount Offer/Subsidy | Eligible Providers (For Subsidy Programs) |
| Allo | ISP | Fiber | Valentine/Cherry County | 500/500 | 2.3 Gig & 1 Gig | 63-175 | Y | Discount offered when bundling Fiber Internet, Fiber TV, and Fiber Phone. Free Student Speed Upgrade and 1 Gig and 2.3 gig plans for a lower cost. | | | |
| Century Link | ISP | DSL, Fiber | Ainsworth, Ansley, Atkinson, Broken Bow, Emmett, Loup City, Mason City, O'Neill, Oconto, Valentine, Wolbach | 60Mbps/5Mbps | 80Mbps & up to 200 Mbps | \$50.00 | Y | When you bundle Internet and TV. | | | |
| Spectrum (Charter Communications) | ISP | Cable & Fiber | Arcadia, Burwell, Litchfield, Loup City, Mason City, Oconto, Ord | 100Mbps/25Mbps | 500 Gbps & 1GBPS | \$49.99 | Y | When you bundle TV, Phone, and Internet. | | | |
| Consolidated Telephone Company | ISP | Fiber | Anselmo, Arnold, Brewster, Brownlee, Dunning, Merna | 25Mbpsdown/ 5Mbps Up | 500/500 | 25/3= \$59.95/month, 500/500= \$149.95/month | N | | | | |
| Cox | ISP | Fiber | Mason City, Oconto | 100 Mbps | | \$49.99 | Y | Only when bundling TV & Internet | | | |
| Earthlink | ISP | DSL, Fiber, Satellite | Arcadia, Mason City, Oconto | 75Mbps | | 39.95+ | N | | | | |
| Fastwyre Broadband | ISP | DSL | Bassett, Newport, Springview | 50Mbps | | \$79.00 | Y | Only when bundling services. | | | |
| Frontier | ISP | DSL | Arcadia, Burwell, Elyria, Greeley, Mason City, Oconto, Ord | 10Mbps/1Mbps | | \$49.00 | N | | | | |
| Great Plains Communication | ISP | Fiber | Callaway | 100Mbps/100mbps | 1 Gig/ 500 | 100 x 100= \$67.95, 200 x 200= \$87.95, 500 x 500= \$107.95, 1Gig x 500= \$137.95 *All prices listed are prices per month | Y | Only when bundling services. | | | |
| Great Plains Communication | ISP | DSL, Fiber, Cable | Arnold, Atkinson, Broken Bow, Callaway, Cody, Ewing, Oconto, Nenzel, Spalding, Valentine, Wolbach, Wood Lake | DSL is 10Mbps/1Mbps & Fiber is 1Gig/50Mbps | | | Y | Only when bundling services. | | | |
| Hamilton Telecommunications (f/k/a Nebraska Central Telephone Company (NCTC)) | ISP | DSL | Ansley, Arcadia, Ashton, Berwyn, Burwell, Comstock, Ericson, Hazard, Litchfield, Mason City, North Loup, Rockville, Sargent, Scotia, Taylor | 25Mbps/3Mbps | | 39.95-89.90 | N | | | | |
| Hamilton Telecommunications (f/k/a Nebraska Central Telephone Company (NCTC)) | ISP | Fiber | Arcadia, Burwell, Comstock, Mason City, Rockville, Sargent, Scotia | 100Mbps | | | N | | | | |
| HughesNet | ISP | Satellite | CNEDD Region | 25Mbps/3Mbps | 25 | \$64.99 | Y | \$100 instant saving applies to new residential subscribers who purchase a new Hughes Network System. New subscribers can save \$25 per month for <u>6 months</u> (100 GB & 200 GB plans) | 25 Mbps down (Applies to 6 month offer) | | |
| K&M Telephone Company | ISP | DSL | Atkinson, Chambers, Ewing | 10Mbps (Most affordable plan) | 100 Mbps/100 Mbps | 10 Mbps= \$49.95, 100Mbps/ 100 Mbps= \$119.85 | N | | | | |
| KDSI Services | ISP | DSL | Callaway, Loup City, Sargent | 6Mbps | | | N | | | | |
| Mediacom | ISP | Cable | Mason City, Oconto | 1000Mbps | | \$49.00 | | | | | |
| Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company (NNTC) | ISP | Fiber | Bassett, Bartlett, Bristow, Butte, Ewing, Litchfield, Long Pine, Ord, Spencer, and Stuart. | 50Mbps | 1G/1G | 19.95 month+usage | Y | When bundling services and they offer Capital credits as part of their Cooperative. | | | |
| Next Link | ISP | Fixed Wireless | Ewing, Page | | 100Mbps | | N | | | | |
| OPTK (Commercial) | ISP | Fiber | Valentine, O'Neill | | | | | | | | |
| Prairie Hills Wireless, LLC | ISP | Fixed Wireless | Hazard, Litchfield, Loup City, Rockville | 16Mbps/5Mbps | | \$39.95 | N | | | | |
| Rise Broadband (JAB) | ISP | Fixed Wireless | Arcadia, Atkinson, Ewing, O'Neill, Ord | 25Mbps/5Mbps | 50Mbps | \$35.00 + | N | | | | |
| Sandhills Wireless | ISP | | Valentine | 6Mbps/1Mbps | 25m/5m | 6M/1m= \$40/month, 25M/5M= \$70/month | N | | | | |
| Starlink (Space Exploration Holdings, Inc.) | ISP | Satellite | CNEDD Region | | 25M Up/ 120M Down, FCC Map 350Mbps/40 Mbps | one unlimited plan (no contract, no data caps): \$90/month | N | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----------|--|--|------------------------------------|--|---|---------------|--|--|--|
| Three River Communications | ISP | Fiber | Ainsworth & O'Neill | 250/250 | 1Gbps/1Gps | 250Mbps: \$39.95, 1Gbps: \$79.95. *Prices don't include taxes and fees. | Y | No data caps | | | |
| Three River Communications | ISP | Cable | Johnstown, Litchfield, Long Pine, Lynch, Naper, , Springview, Valentine, Wood Lake | 25/2 or 100/100 *Requires Phone Service | 500/500 *Requires Phone Service | 25/2: \$62.35 per month, 100Mbps: \$44.95, 500Mbps \$84.95. Phone service \$20. * Prices don't include taxes and fees. | Y | No data caps. | | | |
| Viasat | ISP | Satellite | CNEDD Region | Varies on location: 12Mbps down, 35GB - 50Mbps/5Mbps | 65GB (up to 12 Mbps down) | 149.99/mo (\$199.99/mo after 3 months) | | | | | |

| Device Access: Where do you purchase internet devices in your area? | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Organization Name | Org Sub-Type | Device Types | Condition: New, Refurbished, or Both | Cost (List New & Refurbished Prices) | Interaction Method: In person or Online | Eligibility Criteria | Existing Device Donation Partners | Number of Devices Provided Last Year | Location(s) (City/Villages in our Region that have a store) |
| Verizon Retailers (Wireless World, Victra) | Mobile ISP/Retail Store | Cell Phone, Tablets, Laptop/Computers | New/Refurbished | Varies. See Website for more. | Store, Online, or by phone. | NA | NA | NA | Valentine, O'Neill, Ord, & Broken Bow. Outside of CNEDD Region: Grand Island, Kearney, Lexington, Lincoln, Norfolk, and North Platte. Gregory, South Dakota or Yankton, South Dakota. Or Online. |
| Viaero Wireless | Mobile ISP | Cell Phone | New/Refurbished | Flip Phone Retail's for \$79, Smartphone Retails anywhere from \$157- \$1,100. (NEW) | Store, Online, or by phone. | NA | NA | NA | Ainsworth, Atkinson, Loup City, O'Neill, Ord, & Valentine. Outside of CNEDD Region: Grand Island, Kearney, Lexington, Norfolk, and North Platte. Or Online |
| Straight Talk | Mobile ISP | Cell Phone | New/Refurbished | Flip Phone Retail's for \$29.00, Smartphone Retails anywhere from \$249.99- \$1399.99 (NEW) | Store and Online | NA | NA | NA | Walmart or online. |
| TracFone | Mobile ISP | Cell Phone | New | Basic Phones Retail \$4.99- \$19.99, Smartphones Retail \$99.99- \$499 (NEW) | | NA | NA | NA | Found in Dollar General Store's: Ainsworth, Atkinson, Bassett, Broken Bow, Burwell, Loup City, O'Neill, Ord, and Valentine. <u>Or Online.</u> |
| J&S TV & Electronics | Device Retail Store | Laptops, Computers, Tablets, Cell Phones, TV's, and much more. | New | Contact store for pricing. | In Person | NA | NA | NA | O'Neill |
| US Cellular (Huskerland Communications) | Mobile ISP | Phone systems, Cell Phone's, Hotspots, Tablets, & Wireless Modems | New | Basic Phones Retail \$79.99, \$99.99, & \$299.99. Smartphones Retail from \$109.99 - \$1,799.99 (depending on the brand/type of smartphone.) | Store , Online, or by phone. | NA | NA | NA | Valentine & O'Neill. Outside CNEDD Region: Grand Island, Kearney, Norfolk, and North Platte. Or Online. |
| Apple Store | Device Retailer | Computers, Laptops, & Cell Phones | New/Refurbished | | Online or in person | NA | NA | NA | <u>Online</u> or Omaha (No Stores located in our region) |
| Best Buy | Device Retailer | Laptops, Computers, Tablets, Cell Phones, and much more. | New/Refurbished | | Online or In person | | | | <u>Online</u> or Omaha, Lincoln (No stores located in our region) |
| Cathy's Computers (Central Computer Service) | Device Store | | New/Refurbished | Contact store for pricing. | In Person | NA | NA | NA | Ord |
| newegg.com | Online Device Retailer | Laptops, Computers, Tablets, Cell Phones, and much more. | New | Visit website for current pricing. | Online | NA | NA | NA | Online |
| Home Health Medical Equipment- O'Neill | Home Health Retail Store | Medical Devices | New | NA | In person | NA | NA | NA | Ainsworth and O'Neill. Outside of CNEDD region- Norfolk |
| Sandhills Medical Supply Valentine, NE | Home Health Retail Store | Medical Devices | New | NA | In Person | NA | NA | NA | Valentine and Cherry County. |
| Lincare- Winner, SD | Home Health Retail Store | Medical Devices | New | NA | In Person | NA | NA | NA | Keya Paha County and Boyd County Residents |
| Lincare- Grand Island, NE | Home Health Retail Store | Medical Devices | New | NA | In Person | NA | NA | NA | Custer County, Valley County, Greeley County, and Sherman County Residents. |
| Walmart | Retail Store | Laptops, Computers, Tablets, Cell Phones, and much more. | New | Vist website for current prices. | Online or in person | NA | NA | NA | No store is located in our region. Closest locations are: Norfolk, Kearney, Grand Island, North Platte, Lincoln, or Omaha. |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|--|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|----|----|----|---|
| Simple Solutions- Long Pine, NE 402-273-4395 | Tech Support | On occasion will assist with ordering device equipment. | New | NA | In person and Remote | NA | NA | NA | Stuart, Newport, Bassett, Long Pine, Ainsworth, & Springview |
| O'Neill Public Schools-used laptop/computer sale. | School | Laptops/Computers. Sold Periodically when school upgrades devices. | Used | NA | In Person | NA | NA | NA | Holt County & surrounding counties |
| OfficeMax | Retail Store | Laptops, Computers, Tablets, & more. | New | Visit website for current pricing. | In Person | NA | NA | NA | Located <u>outside</u> of CNEDD Region or <u>Online</u> . Nearest Store locations: Norfolk, Grand Island, Kearney |
| Amazon | Online Retail | Laptops, Computers, Tablets, & more | New/Refurbished | Visit website for current pricing. | Online | | | | Only Available online. Available to CNEDD Region & More |

| Digital Skills & Technical Support | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--|---|---|---|--------------------|----------------------|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| Organization name | Org Sub-Type | Training/ Support Format (Examples: Computer Repair, Classes, or one on one) | Interaction Method: In Person, Online, or By Phone. | Availability | Instruction Type | Cost | Eligibility Criteria | Target Skill Level | Digital Skill Offerings | Curriculum | Tech Support Services Offered | Devices Supported | Number of Training/Support Recipients Last Year |
| Computer Repair & IT | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brush Creek Tech LLC, Atkinson, NE. 402-925-2307 | Private | Computer Tech Support & Repair | Online or by phone, in person | Available | They will assist you with tech repairs, improvements remotely, by phone, or in person. | NA | NA | Anyone who needs assistance with their computer. | NA | NA | Server Support, Hardware/Software Upgrades, Networking, New Computer Set Up, Smart TV Set up, Back Up Data Consultation/Set up, Remote Support, IT Support for Small business, On site Computer Repair, monthly checkup, free advice for Purchase/Upgrade, and Mobile Device Support | Computers, Printers, Tablets, Phones, and More. | NA |
| Cathy's Computer (Central Computer Service)- Ord, NE | Private | Computer Repair and System set up | In Person | Available | They will assist you with Tech repairs, improvements by phone and in person | NA | NA | Anyone who needs assistance with their computer. | Set up | NA | Set up, Back up Data, Computer repair | Computers, Printers, Tablets, Phones and More | NA |
| Central IT Inc-Broken Bow, NE 308-872-6600 | Private | Computer Repair | In person | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| EZ IT Solutions- Broken Bow, NE | Private | Computer Repair & Tech Support | In person/Online | Available | They will assist you with tech repairs, improvements remotely, by phone, or in person. | NA | NA | Anyone who needs assistance with their computer. | NA | NA | Firewall /Network Management, Backup Disaster Recovery, and a wide variety of other IT services. | Computers, Printers, Tablets, Phones, and More. | NA |
| JCT Computers LLC, O'Neill, Nebraska 402-340-5499 | Private | Computer Repair & Tech Support | Online, On phone, and in person | Available | They will assist you with tech repairs, improvements remotely, by phone, or in person. | NA | NA | Anyone who needs assistance with their computer. | NA | NA | Virus/Malware Removal, PC Crashes, Hard Drive Replacement | Computers, Printers, Tablets, Phones, and More. | NA |
| Linquist Technologies- Page, NE | Private | Precision Agriculture Technical Service | In Person and Phone | Available | Assistance by phone and in person. | NA | NA | Anyone who is needing assistance with Precision Agriculture Devices. | NA | NA | All your Precision Agriculture equipment and Devices. | NA | NA |
| Simple Solutions- Long Pine, NE | Private | Computer Repair and Tech Support | Online, On phone, and in person | Available | They will assist you with tech repairs, improvements, by phone, or in person. | NA | NA | Anyone who needs assistance with their computer. | NA | NA | Virus/Malware Removal, PC Crashes, Hard Drive Replacement. Will Assist with ordering tech devices on occasion. | Computers, Printers, Tablets, Phones, and More. | NA |
| Wireless World (Verizon Store) | Private | Tech Repair | In Person | Available | They will assist you with tech repairs. | NA | NA | Anyone who needs assistance with their Phone or Tablet | NA | NA | | Phones and Tablets | NA |
| YouTube How-to Videos or Google for questions on how to do something. | | Tech Repair & Support | Online | | Self driven. Some videos or web pages that explain the steps on how to repair or tech tips. | | | | | | | | NA |
| Tech Support can sometimes be found at Schools in our Region (Volunteer- not official) | | Tech Support | Online | Volunteer basis- not a service in every community within the region. | | | | | | | | | NA |
| Applied Connective Technologies- Albion, Norfolk, & Columbus | | Business IT Services | In Person/Online | Available | They will assist your business with all technology needs. | NA | NA | Businesses | NA | NA | Cyber Security, IT Consulting, Disaster Recovery (BDR), Managed Backups, Security Awareness Training, DNS Protection, Advanced Malware Protection, Endpoint Device Security, Helpdesk Support, Security Operations Center, Patch Management, Website Hosting, Phone System Support, Security Camera Support, and much more. | Computers and much more. | NA |
| Best Buy- Geek Squad (Outside of CNEDD Region. Closest Storefront is Grand Island.) | | Tech Repair/Tech Support | In Person, by phone, or Online. **Traveling required outside of CNEDD Region. | Available | They will assist you with Tech Support and repair your Smart Devices. | NA | NA | Anyone who needs assistance with their Smart Devices. | NA | NA | Repair various devices and tech assistance. | Computers and much more. | NA |
| Technogent, 224 N Main St- Ainsworth | Private | Business IT Services | In person/Online | Available | By phone, online, or in person. | NA | NA | Business technology management | NA | NA | | NA | NA |
| Xbox Repair- Mail In service | | Gaming Device Repair | Online/Mail | Available | By phone, online, or in person. | NA | NA | Gaming Software Assistance | NA | NA | Xbox gaming device repairs. | Gaming Devices | NA |
| Technical Skill Assistance and Classes | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast Community College- O'Neill, Nebraska | College | Computer/Tech Skills | Online or at O'Neill Campus | https://northeast.edu/classes/category/computers-and-technology | Class | TBD | NA | Beginner-Intermediate | Based on the classes that participants enroll in or what is offered at that time. | Tech classes for students and then some occasional tech skill classes for non traditional students. | Participants can get tech skills by enrolling in class. | Computers, tablets, phones, and more | NA |
| Northeast Community College-O'Neill, Nebraska | College | Computer/Tech Skills | O'Neill Campus | Available to register | Class (4/18/2023, 6PM-9PM) | \$30.00 per person | NA | Beginner-Intermediate | Smart Devices | How to use a Smartphone, tablet or other mobile device for emailing, browsing the web, managing time, getting directions, and more. Explore free applications that can be downloaded to your device. | Participants can get tech skills by enrolling in class. | Cell Phone or Tablet | NA |
| Central Community College-Ord | College | Computer/Tech Skills | Ord Campus or Online | See College's Schedule for when classes are available | Class | TBD | NA | Beginner-Intermediate | Based on the classes that participants enroll in or what is offered at that time. | Tech classes for students and then some occasional tech skill classes for non traditional students. | Participants can get tech skills by enrolling in class. | Computers, tablets, phones, and more | NA |
| Mid Plains Community College- Valentine | College | Computer/Tech Skills | Valentine Campus or Online | See College's Schedule for when classes are available | Class | TBD | NA | Beginner-Intermediate | based on the classes that participants enroll in or what is offered at that time. | Tech classes for students and then some occasional tech skill classes for non traditional students. | Participants can get tech skills by enrolling in class. | Computers, tablets, phones, and more | NA |
| Mid Plains Community College- Broken Bow | College | Computer/Tech Skills | Broken Bow or Online | See College's Schedule for when classes are available | Class | TBD | NA | Beginner-Intermediate | Based on the classes that participants enroll in or what is offered at that time. | Tech classes for students and then some occasional tech skill classes for non traditional students. | Participants can get tech skills by enrolling in class. | Computers, tablets, phones, and more | NA |

| Digital Inclusion Funding | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Organization Name | Org Sub-Type | Funding Type | Application Style | Eligible Uses | Funding Schedule | Next Application/ Funding Window | Eligible Applicants | Total Funding Available | Maximum Award |
| E-Rate | | Reduction for Broadband Service | | | | | Libraries and Schools | | |
| ACP | | Reduction for Broadband Service | | | | | Low-Income | | |
| Lifeline | | Reduction for Broadband Service | | | | | Low-Income | | |
| BEAD | | Deployment | | | | | | | |
| USDA ReConnect | | Deployment | | | | | | | |
| Community Foundations | | Devices | | | | | | | |
| ISPs (Internet Service Providers) | | Internet for Public Access | | | | | | | |

Public Device & Internet Access - Libraries in the CNEEDD Region

| Library | Location | Population | Days and Hours Open | Technology Available | How Many Connections Available | Type of Access | ISP | Cost to Facility | Tech Support Available (Y/N) | Speeds (Mbps) | Reliability | Number of Users Served | Needs | Makerspace | Conference Room | Other |
|--------------------------------|------------|--|--|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| Blaine County: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No Libraries | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boyd County: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Davies Memorial Library | Butte | 400 | MWF 9:30 - 4:00, Tu 9:30-3:00 | WiFi, 1 desktop (old) & 1 b/w printer | some strips | Fiber? | NNTC | Don't know, may get back to us | No | Don't know | Good | 4 to 5 per day | Librarian expressed everything's fine. A helper mentioned the desktop is very old. | Librarian not interested, and no room. Helper conveyed much interest. | No | Perhaps something to consider is generational perspectives |
| Lynch Public Library | Lynch | 212 | M&Th afternoons | WiFi, hot spot, 1 dinosaur 30 year old computer (DOS) that doesn't work & 1 small 5 year old printer b/w & color though can't use because computer is too old | ? | Fiber? | Three River Teleco | Village owns building & pays utilities; Library has no income though received grant funds to revive the library | No | 100/100 mbps | Good | 24 per month during the school year & 48 per month in summertime | Just over a year and a half ago the community applied for grants to revive, reorganize and remodel the library. The intent is to make it into a community center and they're looking at a makerspace. Just got the WiFi up and running 6 months ago. Haven't yet addressed or know whether there are any technological needs. | | No | |
| Naper Public Library | Naper | 80 | 24/7 access by phone call | 1 computer & printer for word processing | None | None | None | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 10 people a month other than book club members | Not known at this time. Cafe offers free WiFi | | | |
| Spencer Township Library | Spencer | 455 | M,W,F 11:00 - 5:00 pm | WiFi, 3 old computers | 2 outlets | Fiber | NNTC | \$28.06 per month | No | 1 gig | Good | 10 per month | Could use remodeling & new computers - Lack of money | No, though community would benefit from one if there was more space and money | No | |
| Brown County: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ainsworth Public Library | Ainsworth | City 1,630 - Only Library in the County 2,831 | M,W,Th,F 11:00 to 5:00 pm; Tu 11:00 - 7:00 pm, Sat. 1:00 - 5:00 pm | WiFi (extends to park and parking spaces), 7 laptops (3 newer, 4 old) 5 desktops (3 newer, 2 old) 3 printers 1 color, 1 b/w and 1 printer, scanner, copier | Outlets everywhere, tables and study carioles - no chargers | Fiber | Three River | No cost as exchange with Three River for fiber into the City | Staff helps | 947.97 mbps down/814.57 mbps up | Good | 32,896 annually | Hoping the new fiber line will have capacity for several users at a time | Yes, though not a separate room, they set up STEM activities for the children in the conference room | Yes, small, 25 people | |
| Cherry County: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Valentine Public Library | Valentine | Valentine: 2633 - Only library in Cherry County: 5455? | Monday through Friday 9:00 - 6:00 pm | WiFi access, 5 computer stations, 6 laptops, 2 printers (1 color & 1 B/W) | Lots and Lots | Fiber | Opik | \$30.00 per month (Through Erate - Universal Services 70% discount available to Libraries and Schools) | Staff helps | 200 mbps - Down | Good | 33,000 annually | Nothing at this time | No, no room though they may consider one | Yes, Holds 50 people, Smart TV for Zoom meetings, little kitchenette \$30.00 for 1/2 day and \$60.00 (discounts may be given at their discretion) | They have a book mobile that serves the entire county and visits rural schools once a week |
| Custer County: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ansley Township Library | Ansley | 461 | Tuesday & Saturday 2:00 - 5:00 pm | WiFi, 2 donated old laptops and 1 desktop top that needs to be cleared before use, 1 printer (color,b/w) | ? | Not sure | Telephone Company n/a Hamilton | Not certain, Treasurer would know | No | Don't know but it's very slow. The whole town needs equipment update | Good | 10 people per week | Some updated laptops would be helpful and better broadband speed | They have Legos in the children's section | | |
| Finch Memorial Library | Arnold | 600 | M&F 8:30-1:00pm, T&Th 1:00-5:30 pm, W 3:30-8:00 | WiFi, 1 desktop (a little old) and 1 backup desktop, 1 printer b/w though there is color but too expensive to use very often | Not many | Cable (though fiber is coming to town) | Great Plains (Cable Company) | \$140.00 per month for phone/Wi-Fi | No | 3.1 mbps - 6.0 mbps | Good | 2,606 | Technological Knowledge, newer computers and building needs improvements | Very interested in creating a makerspace | | |
| Broken Bow Library | Broken Bow | 3,466 | M-Thr 9:30am - 7:30pm, Fri 9:30am-5:30pm, Sat. 9:30am-1:30pm | WiFi, 4 hardwired computers, 5 laptops, 3 iPads, wireless printer, scanner/copyfax and boosters throughout library | Lots | Fiber | Great Plains (Cable Company) | \$100 per month | Yes, Staff tries to provide | 50/100 mbps | Good | 22,5100 with 125 per month for computer use annually | More technology classes for the Public | Yes, just six months ago, a wonderful one all from funded through grants | Yes, 274 people TV for Zoom meetings, \$35.00 flat fee (Discretionary discount may be given) | |
| Nigel Sprouse Memorial Library | Callaway | 600 | MWF 1-6:00 pm & Sat. 9:00 to 1:00 pm | WiFi, 4 newer desktops, 3 old, old desktops, 1 color printer, scanner, copier and 1 b/w printer | ? | Fiber | Great Plains Communications Company | \$95 per month (don't believe eligible for erate discount - too small perhaps) | Librarian tries to assist with iPads and cell phones - Pre-Covid offered classes to seniors. Senior Center and Library are connecting to figure out tech educational needs and will get back to us | The invoice only says 50/10 | Good - now that fiber was put in recently | 125 per month | More technology classes for seniors. Senior Center and Library are connecting to coordinate tech educational needs and will get back to us for assistance. | There's no room for a designated makerspace. Though, things that are pulled out from time to time to share. Magnetic poetry - word games, Legos and always a puzzle | | |
| Comstock Township Library | Comstock | 100 | Key is available at The Den | None | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | ? | ? | ? | | |
| Sunshine Township Library | Mason City | 200 | Wednesday 5:30 - 8:00 pm | None | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 6 people per week | Nothing until attendance improves | Thinking about a makerspace but library is very small | | No internet service on the street. |

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|--------------------------------|----------|---------------------|--|--|---|------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| Brenizer Public Library | Merna | 390 | Tues. & Thurs. 12:00-5:00 pm Sat. 12:30 - 5:00 pm | WiFi, 4 new laptops purchased through grant. 2 printers(1 color & 1 b/w - 20 years old) | Some | Fiber | Consolidated Telephone Company | \$100 per month | Yes, librarian tries to help | 25/5 mbps | Usually | 75 per month with 30 for computer use | Nothing at this time | No, getting computers has been a big step for them for now | | |
| Oconto Public Library | Oconto | 148 | Closed | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | Library has been closed for a while. Currently, no public access to internet in the village | |
| Sargent Township Library | Sargent | 500 | Mon 9-3:00 pm, Wed 1-7:00 pm, Sat 9-noon | WiFi, 4 laptops, 2 desktops (1-2 years old), 2 printers(1 color & 1 b/w) | There's a desk with outlets for personal computer use | Cable | Hamilton Communications (Iub Nebraska Telephone Company) | \$68.74 bundle telephone/WiFi (Wi-Fi is reduced 80% by Erate program) \$68.74 per month | Yes, librarian tries to help | 50/50 mbps | Good | 1,137 annually | Nothing at this time | No, no room, though they have a laminator | No, no room, just a little schoolhouse Previously, applied for a grant and received funding for a few tech classes for seniors that a community college student offered. It seemed helpful. Not everyone has a printer. Citizens sometimes just come in to use the printers. | |
| Garfield County | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Garfield County Library | Burwell | 1,000 - County wide | M-F 2-6:00 pm & Sat. 9:00-1:00 pm | WiFi, 10 Desktops for adults, 5 desktops for children, 4 kindles for anyone, 2 printers (try to upgrade a few every 2 years) | There's a desk with outlets for personal computer use | Cable | Hamilton Communications (Iub Nebraska Telephone Company) | \$5.00 per month (Through Erate - Universal Services 70% discount available to Libraries and Schools) | Yes, librarian tries to help | 25/10 mbps | Usually, unless there are too many people accessing | 15 - 25 per day, lots of children after school | Upgraded high-speed internet access, a series of tech tutoring power hours, funds for additional staff time to cover the expansion of meeting technological needs | Currently working on making a makerspace for crafty - homemakers, there's an active quilt group and there's 3 sewing machines and other supplies. School already has a techy space | Yes | |
| Greeley County | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Greeley Village Public Library | Greeley | 420 | M-Th 8:00 - noon & 1:00-5:00 library rooms attached are part of Village Office | WiFi for 1 ancient desktop computer (no WiFi for private devices) | ? | Cable | Center Cable | Free, the local company. Center Cable provides | No | Don't know | Good | 20 annually | No need at this time | No, no enough people | There's no budget or board. People donate books and people check them out | |
| Scotia Public Library | Scotia | 300 | Mon - Sat 10:30 - 12:30, Tues 6:30 - 8:30 pm | WiFi, 1 desktop computer and 1 printer b/w, fax, scanner, brand new through a grant. WiFi extends to the parking spaces adjacent to the library, across the street and next door to the post office | Lots of outlets and recliners and such next to them | Fiber? Cable? | Hamilton Communications (Iub Nebraska Telephone Company) | Not sure, they have Erate discount and Village pays | Yes, librarian tries to help | DSL 24.1 - 50 mbps | Good | 20 - 25 per week | They could use some on-one tech tutoring for an individual or two, not quite senior. Affordable internet and device for a citizen or two. | Not enough space though they have a Circuit. | Not a separate room. The library is one big open space and the community uses it for meetings (no sales or politics) | |
| Spalding Public Library | Spalding | 409 | ? | None | None | None | N/A | N/A | No | N/A | N/A | ? | There's no phone or computer at library | ? | Tried to contact director on her cell phone, left phone messages and sent email - No response | |
| Holt County | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Atkinson Public Library | Atkinson | 1,264 | M,T,Th 9-5:00 pm, Wed 12:00 - 5:00 pm, Fri & Sat 9-3:00 pm | WiFi, which extends outside to vehicles, 12 desktops, 10 laptops (funded through grants and up to date), 1 color printer/copier/scanner/fax & 1 b/w printer | Yes, computer stations, and separate private room | Fiber | Great Plains Communications Company | \$150 per month with Erate (70% off, \$300.00 less) | Yes, they offer classes from time to time and the staff also tries to help | 500mbps/100 mbps | Good | 29,272 annually | No need at this time. The librarian, Judy Hagan, has written and continues to write grants to fund the libraries needs. Also, the City has a portion of their sales tax allocated to fund the library. | They're not quite there yet and there's not enough room. Though if they determine to go forward with one, Judy can write a grant for additional space and supplies. | Yes, it can seat up to 69 people. They can also divide the room into two spaces if need be. It's Free unless it's a for profit meeting. | Just to reiterate, the librarian, Judy Hagan, has written and continues to write grants to fund the libraries needs. Also, the City has a portion of their sales tax allocated to fund the library. |
| Ewing Township Library | Ewing | 360 | Tues 9- Noon & 3-5:00 pm, Thur. 2-5:00 pm, Sat. 9- Noon | WiFi, which extends outside to vehicles, 1 used, older desktop (No printer) | Yes, several | Not sure | Great Plains Communications Company | \$53.11 per month (\$637.32 per year) | No | 5mg/1 mbps | Good | 528 annually | No need at this time | No, though offer arts & crafts for children | The extra rooms they have are rented out to the American Legion & a Clinic. Though at times when the library is closed, they could offer the big library room for use. | |
| O'Neill Public Library | O'Neill | 3,537 | Mon, Tues, Fri 10 - 5:30 pm, Wed 10-7:00 pm, Sat. 10-5:30 pm | WiFi, & hotspot which extends outside to vehicles, 8 desktops (1 of which is ADA station), 4 laptops, 1 b/w printer/copier/fax for public use (less) (received funds for newer 2 printers and have another for library use and assisting with copies | Yes, several | Fiber | OPTK (internet for businesses only) | \$150.00 per month(Do not have Erate, application process too complicated) | Yes, librarian tries to help | 50.1 to 100.0 mbps/1 mbps | Good | | Maybe a couple external disc drives | No, though would like one but no room. There may be a telescope to loan out soon and would like to start Lego Club. | Yes which seats 70 people - Free | |
| Stuart Township Library | Stuart | 482 | M & W 1:00 - 5:00 pm, Fri - Noon - 5:00 pm | WiFi, 1 laptop (not sure how old, it works) | There's a table though outlet is across the room | Fiber, probably? | NNTC | Don't know | No | Don't know | Good | Don't know | No, people aren't asking for more | No, no room, someone would have to learn, don't know if community would be interested | No, though there is a room that the village council uses for meeting but not open to public | |
| Koya Paha County | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|--------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
| Keya Paha County Library | Springview | 241 | Tues. 1:00-5:00 pm, Wed. 10:00-2:00 pm, Fri. 1:00-5:00 pm | WiFi, 2 old laptops, 1 b/w printer, really old scanner/copier | No | Fiber | Three River Teleco | Free, by donation by Three River Teleco? | No | Don't know | Good | 879 annually | No need at this time | The Library District loans different things to share every 3 months when they bring another batch of books as part of the loan program. They have a table allotted for those items such as button makers, etc. but not enough space for a makerspace | | |
| Loup County | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Taylor Public Library | Taylor | 140, Loup County 604 | Tue 11:00-3:00 pm, Th 1:00-5:00 pm | WiFi, 1 up to date Chrome Book and 1 b/w printer | Yes, 4 places | DSL | NCTC | \$85 per month, no Erate | No | 24.1 - 50 mbps | Good | 10 per week | No need at this time | No | No | Accomplished everything on the Want List - they were able to get a new roof and furnace this year. |
| Rock County | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rock County Public Library | Bassett | 514, Rock County 1,210 | M, Tu, Th & F 10-6:30 pm, W 10-6:30 pm, Sat. 9:00-Noon | WiFi, can access in parking lot though need password, 5 desktops, up-to-date (try to purchase a new one each year) 1 color printer/copier/scanner/fax | Several places throughout the library (they just remodeled) | Fiber | Fastwyre | \$115 to \$120 per month with 70% Erate discount | Librarian tries to assist | Don't know, could be better, speed is not what they say | Good | 4-5 per day | Wish there was some tech support and maybe have tech workshop(s) | Working on one, lots of grants out there for makerspaces, so far have robots, iPads, button maker, Cricut | Yes, they just now have one that seats 15-20 people | Fiber in town and surrounding area is here and there. The area does not have fast enough WiFi for people to work at home. |
| Sherman County | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Litchfield Public Library | Litchfield | 220 | ? | No Phone though village has a hotspot on the water tower they received from a GEAR grant; Hoping to get an email address soon. | ? | Hotspot on water tower | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | When gathering further information, tried to contact director on her cell phone, left phone messages and sent email - No response |
| Loup City Public Library/Loup City High School | Loup City | 1,045 and Sherman County 2,964 | Mon Closed, T & Th 9-1:00 & 2-6:00 pm, Wed 2-8:00 pm, Fri 2-6:00 pm, Sat 2-5:00 pm | WiFi, 10 desktops up to date w/Windows though would like to replace some of the computers, 1 b/w printer | Yes, at least 6 places with tables/outlets | Fiber | ESU-10 | Don't know, school district pays for it | There is a basic computer class, and librarian tries to assist | 626.36mbps/317.25mbps | Good | 8,001 annually, though varies upon school schedule | Would love update on computers and have faster ones for children's games. The ones they have are too slow. | Yes, Electronics, Lego, Laser, button maker, scanner, laminator, router, vinyl cutter, etc. | Yes, though it's used for school though available in the summer during the day except for a 30 min. reading class; Accommodates 15 people - Free for Philanthropic purpose | Please note this library is for the school and the public |
| Valley County | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Arcadia Township Library | Arcadia | 330 | M & T 9-1:00 pm, Wed 1-5 pm, Thu 2:00-5:00 pm | WiFi, people can access outside, 1 new laptop, 2 others, 2 new iPads for children, 1 color printer | 3 tables with outlets | ? | Hamilton Communications | \$64.00 per month w/ Erate (Otherwise it would be \$132.00) | Librarian tries to assist | 25 mbps/5mbps | Good | 45 adults per month, summertime add 30 children per month | Always room for advancement, what is there now seems sufficient. Though fiber is being installed in town and things may need to be re-evaluated | No, maybe if there was more money, don't know if community would be interested | Yes, there's a meeting room downstairs. Three 6' tables fit, 6 to 8 people per table | Fiber has been laid in the country but not yet in town, though in the process of getting it. |
| North Loup Township Public Library | North Loup | 270 | M, W, F 1:00-4:30 pm | WiFi, people can access WiFi outside! new laptop, 1 new desktop and 2 other desktops, 1 printer | Yes, a few tables with outlets | DSL | Hamilton Communications | \$228.00 before 80% Erate discount (\$38.00 per computer - 6 computers, to include administrative computer) | There are classes and librarian tries to assist | 25 mbps/5mbps | Good | ? | No need at this time | No, though they are currently re-evaluating the library programs and may be considering a makerspace later. | No | Anxiously awaiting getting Fiber. No fiber in town but in the country |
| Ord Township Library | Ord | 2418 - Township | M,W,F noon - 5:30 PM, T & Th noon - 8:00 pm, Sat & Sun noon - 3:00 pm | WiFi, (inside, only when building is open), 5 up-to-date desktops, 12 kindles for children, & 1 color printer | All over the library, approximately 10 | Cable | Spectrum | \$79.99 (before 60% Erate discount) | Librarian tries to assist | 300 mbps/20 (not yet receiving this speed, need equipment upgrade - Service to building fine) | It will be with equipment upgrade | 22,734 annually | Some tech support would be helpful | Yes, they have a Cricut, button maker, heat press, laptop, 3-d printer, laminator, sewing machine, etc. | Yes, There's a finished basement that seats approximately 50 people. WiFi, Free for philanthropic events | Looking forward to updated equipment for better broadband service |
| Wheeler County | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No Libraries | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

NOTE: All libraries that offer Wi-Fi offer it free to the public, except Spencer Library charges 5 cents per

Public Device & Internet Access - Senior Centers in the CNEDD Region

| Senior Center | Location | Population | Days and Hours Open | Technology Available | Type of Access | ISP | Cost to Facility | Who May Access | Cost for Access | Tech Support Available (Y/N) | Speeds (Mbps) | Reliability | Needs |
|--|------------|------------|---|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------|-----------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Blaine County | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No Senior Centers | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boyd County | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boyd County Senior Center | Spencer | 455 | Mon 7 Fri 8:00 - 2:00pm, Tues, Wed, Thur 8:00 - 5:00 pm | None, though have Wi-Fi for the office | Fiber | NNTC | \$85 (phone, tv, internet bundle) | Director | N/A | No, though they try to help each other | 100Mbps (a little less no though they are upgrading and shooting for 300 Mbps) | Good | Don't feel there's a need for seniors to access Wi-Fi or a computer at the center. Most have that at home. There may be some interest in tech tutoring and perhaps telehealth & telecare, though doctors would probably inform their patients of that opportunity, FYI most, if not all, of Boyd County has Fiber. |
| Brown County | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ainsworth Senior Center | Ainsworth | 1,630 | Mon - Fri 8:00 am - 3:30 pm | None, though have WiFi for the office. New director, never thought about offering seniors digital access; Reconsidering after survey | Cable | Three River | \$41.55 per month (includes discount because it's bundled with phone) | Director | N/A | No | 10Mbps/1Mbps paying for but test shows 5.8Mbps/850kpbs | Okay though not used much for office | After conducting a survey, found that seniors would like some tech classes and wondered who provides those. Some interested in telehealth & telecare. The minority, ones who do not have Wi-Fi at home, would like access to the center's Wi-Fi, the majority would like a computer and printer available for them to use at the center. |
| Cherry County | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Valentine Area Community Senior Center | Valentine | 2,633 | Mon - Fri 8:00am - 4:00pm | WiFi, 1 very old desktop | Fiber maybe | Century Link | \$95.00 per month (phone and internet) | Seniors/Public | Free | No | Pretty good | Good | There may be some more interest in using the computer if it were newer and if there was a printer. Also, there may be interest in Tech Tutoring. |
| Custer County | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prairie Pioneer Center | Broken Bow | 3,466 | Mon - Fri 8:00am - 4:00 pm | None, though have Wi-Fi for the office. | Cable | Century Link | \$128.00 per month for internet & phone bundle | Director | N/A | No | Speed varies, sometimes it takes a long time to open things up | Yes | Haven't encouraged seniors to access internet unless they really need it; Don't know if there's a need - I sent a survey for her seniors so she can find out their needs and interest. The office computer could be updated and printer is 20 plus years old b/w - There may very well be interest in tech tutoring lecture |
| Seven Valleys Senior Center | Callaway | 600 | Open during scheduled events | None | There's a cable to the building | Great Plains installed the cable | Can't afford | N/A | N/A | No | N/A | N/A | Need and very much want education on technology |
| Comstock Senior Center "The Den" | Comstock | 50-60 | Mon - Fri 6:00 am (Men's coffee) - 4:00 pm | WiFi, and sometimes seniors use the center's office computer and printer | Fiber | Hamilton | \$60.00 per month | Seniors/Public | Free | No | 5G? | Good | Perhaps if there was a laptop for the seniors to use. The senior center could use a newer computer and printer. |
| Oconto Senior Center | Oconto | 148 | Early morning coffee, Wed & Th 9:30 - 5:00 for ladies sewing time & Whenever someone would like to use it | None. | None | None | N/A | N/A | N/A | No | N/A | N/A | If there was money, they may be interested in a computer and printer. The computers at the library next door are so old nobody uses them and the library is closed. Also, there very well may be interest in a tech tutoring or lecture. Wi-Fi use to extend from the library next door but the library is closed. |
| Garfield County | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|-------------------|--|---|---|-------------|--|-------------------------|------|---|---|------|--|
| Senior Citizens Center - Burwell | Burwell | 1,000 | Tuesday afternoons & Friday nights for cards; Friday mornings for pie & coffee & Anytime that someone may need to use it | None | None | None | N/A | N/A | N/A | No | N/A | N/A | No, thank you! Don't need it. |
| Greeley County | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spalding Senior Center | Spalding | 585 | M,W,Th,F 8:00 am - 2:00 pm and anytime they want to use it for afternoon card games and such | None | None | None | N/A | N/A | N/A | No, though director tries to assist. Most seniors have grandchildren to help them. | N/A | N/A | Not at this time |
| Holt County | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Atkinson Senior Center | Atkinson | 1,624 | Mon - Fri 8:30 - 2:00 pm | None, though office has Wi-Fi | ? | Warp | \$40.00 per month | Director | N/A | No, don't believe there's a need | ? Good - no problems | Good | Don't know |
| Golden Age Senior Center | O'Neill | 3,537 | Mon - Fri 8:00 am - 2:30 pm | WiFi, 3 old desktop computers and seniors can use the office printer/copier/scanner | Cable (understand a new line - Fiber? is being installed) | Three River | \$51.95 per month | Seniors | Free | No, though director tries to help | 15 mg | Good | There may very well be interest in tech tutoring lectures. |
| Keya Paha County | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Keya Paha County Activity Center - Senior Center | Springview | 241 | Mon & Wed Opens at 11:30 am | Wi-Fi | Fiber | Three River | \$50.00 for Activity & Senior Center (\$100 discount w/bundle) | Seniors & Event Patrons | Free | Director tries to help. | ? | Good | May be interested in tech tutoring classes. They would like a computer and printer but could use a new roof, it leaks. And some chairs with arms to help the seniors get up. |
| Rock County | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rock County Senior Center | Bassett | 514 | Mon - Fri 9:00 am - 2:00 pm | Wi-Fi and printer/scanner/copier | Cable | Fastwyre | \$115.00 (Wi-Fi, TV & Phone) | Seniors | Free | Director & staff try to assist. Going to start what they use to offer. Every 3 months they would advertise a tech day and are trying to get the high school seniors to assist | Not certain - but it's fair, middle of the road speed | Yes | They may be interested in having a computer available for the seniors to use and will discuss technological needs at the next annual meeting. |
| Sherman County Senior Center | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sherman County Senior Center | Loup City | 270 | Mon - Fri 8:00 am - 4:00 pm | Wi-Fi | Fiber | Spectrum | Did not want to provide that information | Seniors | Free | No, concerned that if it was offered, they would always have to provide that service. The Loup City librarian, Audrey, tries to help the seniors | Seems fast | Yes | Not sure. More education and outreach. The senior center could assist in tech support more if there was more money for staff to provide that support. The Loup City librarian seems to assist with helping the seniors and there are computers there. Also, Verio cell store provides some tech support. |
| Valley County | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Senior Classics of Valley County "Ord Senior Center" | Ord | 2,418 in Township | Mon - Fri 7:30 am - 2:00 pm - though can use the center anytime for cards and such | None | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | No, never talked about because there is no internet service | N/A | N/A | Seniors very much wish to have Wi-Fi. Perhaps a computer too. Possibly tech tutoring - lectures. None of this has been addressed or discussed. |
| Wheeler County | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No Senior Centers | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Public Device & Internet Access | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Community Center | Population | Technology Available | Type of Access | ISP | Cost to Facility | Who May Access | Size of Rental | Other |
| Blaine County | | | | | | | | |
| Brewster Community Center | 11 | None | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Auditorium w/stage | Hoping that community center can create some income. Village is in a financially precarious situation. Village office has no Wi-Fi or heat. Too expensive. Community members can access the internet at the courthouse and Uncle Buck's. There's a Verizon & Viaero tower. |
| Dunning Community Center | 74 | Wi-Fi | DSL | Consolidated Telephone Company | \$61.24 | For village office use only | Auditorium w/stage, Full kitchen | Village office is inside the community center |
| Halsey Community Building | 64 | Wi-Fi | DSL | Consolidated Telephone Company | ? | Event Patrons | 60 - 75 people w/kitchette | |
| Boyd County | | | | | | | | |
| Butte Community Center | 400 | Wi-Fi | Fiber | NNTC | ? | Event Patrons | 200 + people, w/kitchen | |
| Lynch Community Hall | 212 | | | | | | | |
| Spencer Community Hall | 455 | Wi-Fi | Fiber | NNTC | ? | Event Patrons | 400 people w/kitchen | |
| Brown County | | | | | | | | |
| Ainsworth City Offices, Gym and Meeting Room | 1,630 | Wi-Fi, Desktop and TV monitor on wall | Fiber | Three River | Free, part of installation contract | Event Patrons | 60 - 80 people w/tables, 100 people w/chairs; Full kitchen | There is a gym and a upper walking path for community members |
| Brown County Ag Society Community Hall at Johnstown | 41 | Wi-Fi | ? | Three River | \$65 | Event Patrons | Dance Hall 400 people w/tables, East Room 100 people w/tables, Kitchen | |
| Long Pine Community Center | 305 | None | None | N/A | N/A | N/A | 75 people w/tables | The community center is owned by a non-profit group. The Board is considering Wi-Fi. |
| Palace of Long Pine | 305 | None | None | N/A | N/A | N/A | Auditorium w/ kitchette | Owned by the City of Long Pine |
| Cherry County | | | | | | | | |
| Cody Community Hall | 165 | Wi-Fi - though useless, so spotty can't access the internet | Hotspot on the Village Water Tower | ? | ? | Event Patrons | Meeting Room 45 - 50 people w/tables | Definitely interested in quality broadband, a computer perhaps too. Village very limited in funds |
| Kilgore Community Center | 60 | None | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Meeting Room - 100 people, Kitchen | No need for internet, the building is only used during events and the village board meetings so there is no purpose to have internet service. Village office there, though clerk works from home. |
| Merriman Village Hall | 75 | Wi-Fi | DSL | Great Plains | \$149.48 (includes telephone) | Event Patrons & Village Office | Meeting Room 40 people w/tables, Kitchen | Village Office is in the Hall |
| Custer County | | | | | | | | |
| Arnold Community Center | 592 | Wi-Fi & Flat screen in auditorium | ? | Great Plains | \$136.00 (includes telephone) | Event Patrons | Auditorium & Meeting Room 30 people w/tables | Also, used for community members to walk & play basketball |
| Broken Bow Community Auditorium | 3,466 | Wi-Fi | Fiber | Century Link | ? | Event Patrons | Auditorium attached to City Offices | |
| Callaway Community Center | 600 | Wi-Fi | Fiber | Great Plains | ? | Event Patrons | Meeting Room 25 people w/tables | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-------|-------|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Merna Community Center | 341 | Wi-Fi | DSL | Consolidated Telephone | ? | For village office use only | Large room 150 people w/tables, Small meeting room 48 people w/tables, Kitch | Village office inside of community center |
| Oconto Community Hall | 148 | Wi-Fi | Fiber | Great Plains Communications | \$138.00 | Event Patrons & Village Office | Meeting Hall 150 people w/tables, Kitchen | The community hall, village office, senior center and library are all in one building. Library has been closed for a few years. |
| Sargent Community Center | 500 | Wi-Fi | Cable | NCTC | \$67.00 | Event Patrons & Public if need be | Large Room 200 w/tables, Small Room 50 seated/25 w/tables, Full Kitchen | Community members use the center to walk, school uses it, also serves as a rental venue for events |

Garfield County

Calamus Conference Center at Burwell is in the works 1,000- county wide

Greeley County

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-------|-----|----------|------|---------------|---------------------|--|
| Scotia Community Building | 300 | Wi-Fi | DSL | Hamilton | \$40 | Event Patrons | 200 people, Kitchen | |
| Scotia Rec Hall | 300 | None | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 100 people, Kitchen | |
| Spalding Community Center | 409 | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|---|
| Wolbach Community Center | 206 | Booster, people can use their cell phone as a hotspot for the Roku TV | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Large meeting room 250+ people w/tables, Small Room 20 people w/tables, Kitchen & Wetbar | Internet is too expensive. The village had cable but it was no good. Great Plains is applying for the Capital Broadband Fund Grant and working with the village to install fiber. |
|--------------------------|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|---|

Holt County

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------|---|--|
| Atkinson Community Center | 1,264 | Wi-Fi, w/flat screen | Fiber | Great Plains Communications | Free, part of installation contract | Event Patrons | Large room w/flat screen 500 people, Small room 100 people; Full kitchen | |
| Chambers Community Center | 294 | | | | | | | |
| O'Neill Community Center | 3,537 | Wi-Fi & Flat screen w/HDMI hookup | Fixed Wireless | Three River & Telebeep | Free in exchange for installing receivers on the city's water tower | Event Patrons | Large room w/flat screen, 500 people, small room 10 people w/tables, medium room 50 people w/tables Small Gym 350 people, | Three River was the initial ISP, then went to Telebeep. Though Three River's internet is better. |
| Stuart Auditorium | 482 | Wi-Fi | Wireless | Elkhorn | Free, part of storage rental equipment agreement | Event Patrons | Multipurpose room 60 people, small meeting room 30 people and 2 rented office spaces and a larger rented area for the newspaper | |

Keya Paha County

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------------|---|--|---|--|
| Keya Paha County Activity Center & Senior Center | Springview 241, 751, County | Wi-Fi | Fiber | Three River | \$50.00 (receive \$100 discount for phone, cable tv, internet bundle) | Event Patrons & Seniors during Senior Center time - Monday & Wednesday | Front meeting room 70 people w/tables; Back room 40 -50 people w/tables& Full kitchen | Would be nice to have a wall mounted flat screen but could use a new roof, it leaks. |
|--|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------------|---|--|---|--|

Loup County

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------|----------|---|---|---|
| Loup County Community Center | 140 Taylor, 604 County | None | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 80 people w/tables - 100 people w/chairs; Room can be divided, Kitchen | Owned by non-profit; Part of the building is leased to Village of Taylor for office space; Center can't afford \$80 quote from Hamilton for Wi-Fi; Was informed that village did not want to share Wi-Fi/expenses, afraid others will access village computers; Encouraged a further conversation between them. |
| Rock County | | | | | | | | |
| No community center | 514 Bassett, 1,210 County | | | | | | | Rock County is currently raising money for a community center |
| Sherman County | | | | | | | | |
| Community Center at Loup City | 1,045 Loup City, 2,964 County | Wi-Fi, Flat screen w/monitor, sound, video | Cable or Fiber? | Charter (Spectrum) | \$273.00 | Event Patrons | Open area 350 people, Small meeting room 25 people w/tables, Kitchen | |
| Valley County | | | | | | | | |
| Arcadia Community Center | 330 | None | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 100 people w/tables, Kitchen | No phone, no Wi-Fi - cost prohibitive |
| Elyria Community Hall | 53 | None | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Auditorium 200 people w/tables and downstairs meeting room w/kitchette holds 100 people | No Phone, No Wi-Fi Nobody has asked for it |
| North Loup Community Building | 270 | Wi-Fi | DSL | Hamilton | Free | Event Patrons, Village Office & Library | 300 People, Kitchen | Library and village office are in the same building w/free Wi-Fi |
| Wheeler County | | | | | | | | |
| No community centers | | | | | | | | |

Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory

| Precision Agriculture | | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| | Special Needs | Digital Inclusion Programs | Advocacy/Support Organization | Access | Notes |
| Internet | Robust, reliable, high-speed broadband especially cellular | | | | Precision Agriculture is dependent upon quality broadband service. |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Digital Skills Education & Tech Support | Precision Agriculture Training and Tech Support | | | Dealerships that sell the equipment provide training opportunities though limited | Some farmers are challenged with digital technology. Some don't have the desire to learn more. |
| | | | | There's also a tech support company specializing in Precision Agriculture within the Region | |
| | | | | | |
| Devices | Specialized technologically enhanced agricultural equipment | | | Titan Machinery, Lexington; John Deere, Ainsworth; Claas, Trimble, Precision Planting, Agsense, Mitchell Equipment | |
| | Combines w/computers | | | | |
| | Planters w/GPS units | | | | |
| | Guidance systems for center pivot irrigation | | | Valley, Zimmatic, T-L, Reinke | |
| | Moisture Monitors for Grain Bins | | | | |
| | Measurement Monitors for Grain Bins | | | | |
| | Cameras | | | | |
| | Auto Feeders for Cattle | | | | |
| | Fitbits for Cattle | | | | |
| Applications & Services | GPS | | | | |
| | GPS Correction Apps | | | | |
| | Data Analysis Apps | | | | |
| | Yield Apps | | | | |

Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory

| Individuals 60 Years or Older | | | | | |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Special Needs | Digital Inclusion Programs | Advocacy/Support Organization | Access | Notes |
| Internet | Affordability for those on limited retirement incomes; Connectivity for support of special needs devices & medical needs in general | ACP | FCC | | Discounts offered. ACP accessibility and application are difficult and needs to be streamlined. Still may be cost prohibitive to limited retirement incomes. |
| | | Lifeline | FCC | | Limited in CNEDD |
| | | No special programs available specifically for seniors | | | Cost prohibitive to limited retirement incomes. |
| | | | Communities | Libraries and Senior Centers | Some Libraries & Senior Centers may offer access to internet. Need transportation. |
| Digital Skills Education & Tech Support | Bridging the generational digital knowledge gap of the seniors | Senior Planet Tech Classes | ARRP | | May not have a computer, internet or accessibility to either |
| | | Tech Tutoring Classes | Communities | Community Libraries | Occasional classes offered. Only a handful of our libraries offer update to date, functional devices and adequate Wi-Fi |
| | | Seniors helping Seniors | Volunteer | Rock County High School | High School Seniors assist Seniors |
| Devices | Cell Phones for emergency contact and device interfacing | | Medicaid | | Partially funded. Need connectivity. Still may be cost prohibitive. |
| | | Lifeline | FCC | | Partially funded. Not readily available in our region. |
| | Computers/iPads for Telehealth and other | ACP | FCC | | Discount. Still cost prohibitive to limited retirement incomes |
| | Fall devices | MedScope | Medicaid | | Partially funded. Need connectivity. Cost prohibitive. |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|------|---------------------|---|---|
| | Smart Home/Echo Devices for assistance | None | | | Requires connectivity; Cost prohibitive |
| | Accommodation for those with vision/hearing and other disabilities: Text to Talk a/k/a/ Read Aloud Devices | | | | |
| Applications & Services | Capability of participating in Telehealth appointments rather than traveling long distance for specialists | | Community Hospitals | Community hospitals will assist in setting up appointments, provide internet access & device. | There are 8 rural hospitals within our region. |
| | | | Medicaid | Nebraska Area Agencies on Aging will help facilitate | |
| | Telecare monitoring to have the ability to live at home as long as possible. | | | | Limited in rural areas. Lack of financial feasibility, and capacity of rural hospitals. |
| | | | | | |

Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory

| RACIAL OR ETHNIC MINORITIES | | | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| | Special Needs | Digital Inclusion Programs | Advocacy & Support Organizations | Access | Notes |
| | Accommodation of overall diversity and culture challenges as they pertain to achieving digital equity | | | | |
| Internet | | ACP | | ISPs | |
| | | | Communities | Libraries | 1/3 of our regional libraries offer internet access |
| Digital Skills Education & Tech Support | | | Public School System | Public School System | Nothing noted for adults of racial or ethnic minorities |
| | | Tech Tutoring Classes | Communities | Community Libraries | Occasional classes offered. Only a handful of our libraries offer update to date, functional devices and adequate Wi-Fi |
| Devices | | ACP | | ISPs | |
| | | | Communities | Community Libraries | Only a handful of our libraries offer update to date, functional devices and adequate Wi-Fi |
| Applications & Services | | | Public School System | Public School System | Nothing noted for adults of racial or ethnic minorities |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

NOTE: The Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services does not provide any oversight or specialized services or technological services to racial or ethnic minorities. The Nebraska Minority Resource Center out of Gordon is not within our region and may no longer be active - unresponsive.

Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory

| Low-Income Households | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|---|
| | Special Needs | Digital Inclusion Programs | Advocacy & Support Organizations | Access | Notes |
| | Affordability & Accessibility | | | | |
| Internet | | ACP | FCC | | Even with receiving a discount, still may be cost prohibitive. |
| | | Lifeline | FCC | | Even with receiving a discount, still may be cost prohibitive. |
| Digital Skills Education & Tech Support | | | Education Service Units - Public School System | Public School System attend to the children and youth | |
| | | | Communities | Libraries | Occasional classes offered. Only a handful of our libraries offer update to date, functional devices and adequate Wi-Fi |
| Devices | | ACP | FCC | | Discount. May still be cost prohibitive. |

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|--|--|---|---|
| | | | Communities | Libraries | Only a handful of our libraries offer update to date, functional devices and adequate Wi-Fi |
| Applications & Services | Economic Assistance | | Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services | Regional Offices offer use of a computer to apply for economic assistance online. | The computer is available for use ONLY for applying for economic assistance programs |
| | | | Education Service Units - Public School System | Public School System attend to the children and youth | |
| | | | | | |
| NOTE: The Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services does not provide any technological programs/services for low-income households. No workforce or job service offices have yet been found within our region. | | | | | |

Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory

| Individuals with Language Barrier | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|---|
| | Special Needs | Digital Inclusion Programs | Advocacy & Support Organizations | Access | Notes |
| | Translation Applications & Education | | | | |
| Internet | | ACP | FCC | Through ISPs | Marketing Outreach for individuals with a language barrier is limited. May still be cost prohibitive. |
| | | | Communities | Libraries | Only a handful of our libraries offer update to date, functional devices and adequate Wi-Fi |
| Digital Skills Education & Tech Support | | Regional Migrant Program | Oversight to our region provided by ESU 7 out of Columbus and ESU 13 out of Scottsbluff | Offered to school aged children in the Public School System | Have not found opportunities for adults with language barrier. |
| | | | | | |
| Devices | | ACP | FCC | Through ISPs | Marketing Outreach for individuals with a language barrier is limited. May still be cost prohibitive. |
| | | | Communities | Libraries | Only a handful of our libraries offer update to date, functional devices and adequate Wi-Fi |
| Applications & Services | Translation Applications | Regional Migrant Program | Oversight to our region is provided by ESU 7 out of Columbus and ESU 13 out of Scottsbluff | Offered to school aged children in the Public School System | Have not found opportunities for adults with language barrier. |
| | Google Translator | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| NOTE: The Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services does not provide any oversight or specialized services or technological services to individuals with a language barrier. | | | | | |

Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory

| Individuals with Disabilities | | | | | |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|--|--|
| | Special Needs | Digital Inclusion Programs | Advocacy & Support Organizations | Access | Notes |
| Internet | Special Needs devices and applications depend upon affordable, reliable, robust broadband | ACP | | ISPs | ACP accessibility and application are difficult and needs to be streamlined. |
| | | No special programs offered for the disabled | | Cost prohibitive to limited retirement incomes and limited social security incomes of the disabled. Some areas have minimal or no coverage to access broadband | Disabled adults are on a limited income. Adults with developmental disabilities may receive social security benefits in the amount of \$914 per month. |
| | | | Communities | Libraries | Limitations on accommodations. Only a couple offer ADA workstations and only a handful of our libraries offer up-to-date, functional devices and adequate Wi-Fi. |
| Digital Skills Education & Tech Support | Accommodation of the challenges of specific disabilities; Technological and generational challenges of elderly | ESU - Public School Districts for children and youth up to 21 years old | ESU - Public School Districts | ESU - Public School Districts | |
| | | No special programs offered for the disabled | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Devices | Specialized assisted technology to accommodate the challenges of specific disabilities | | | | Assisted technology comes at a cost. |
| | Cell Phones for emergency contact and device interfacing | Medicaid | | Cost prohibitive | Some partial funding available for communication devices. No grants available. 50% of the disabled do not have a cell phone. |
| | Computers & iPads | ACP discount | | ISPs | Still cost prohibitive and application is not easy to access and complicated |
| | | Occasional grant opportunity for an iPad | DHHS - League of Human Dignity | DHHS - League of Human Dignity applies | No readily awarded |
| | | | ESU - Public School Districts | Children and Youth up to 21 years old | |
| | ADA workstations | | | Libraries may offer | The majority of our libraries have no ADA workstation; Transportation issues |
| | MedScope - Fall Devices for Physical & elderly disabled | | | Medicaid | Partially funded. Need connectivity. Cost prohibitive. |
| | Text to Talk a/k/a Read Aloud, Read & Write Devices and apps. | None | | | Require connectivity & technologically behind |
| | Smart Home/Echo Devices | None | | | Cost Prohibitive |
| | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Applications & Services | Needs Assessment of Disabilities | | Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) for disabled elderly & children | By contacting the Regional DHHS Office | ADRC conducts a needs assessment on individual basis to include access to broadband, digital devices and visual/hearing needs. No funding for digital needs. |
| | | | League of Human Dignity for disabled adults | By contacting the Regional DHHS Office | The League advocates independent living and conducts an assessment of needs and barriers. No funding for digital needs. |
| | | | | | |

NOTE: There is no funding mechanisms for digital needs of the disabled noted in our region other than what is set forth above. The ARC of Nebraska and NorthStar Services has provided no further information regarding any additional funding for digital needs for the disabled.

Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory

| Veterans | | | | | |
|--|--|--|----------------------------------|--|--|
| | Special Needs | Digital Inclusion Programs | Advocacy & Support Organizations | Access | Notes |
| | | | | | |
| Internet | | ACP | FCC | ISP | Needs more marketing |
| | | Lifeline | FCC | | Needs more marketing, Not readily available in this area. |
| | | No special programs offered for Veterans | | | |
| | | | Communities | Libraries | Some of our libraries offer adequate Wi-Fi |
| Digital Skills Education & Tech Support | Different generational needs | Nothing specific as to Veterans | | | |
| | | | Communities | Libraries | Occasional classes are offered at some of our libraries |
| Devices | Devices accommodating hearing loss | Heroes with Hearing Loss | Hamilton | Elderly veterans may need transportation to VSO office | Needs more marketing |
| | Devices accommodating physical disabilities | | | | Generally, see Individuals with Disabilities tab |
| | | | Communities | Libraries | Some of our libraries offer update to date, functional devices and adequate Wi-Fi |
| Applications & Services | Ability to apply online for VA benefits & other programs | | Veterans Service Officers | Veterans Service Office | There are 6 Veterans Service Offices within to serve Veterans in our region. The office serving Sherman County is in Grand Island. |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Central Nebraska Region's Asset Inventory

| Incarcerated Individuals | | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| | Special Needs | Digital Inclusion Programs | Advocacy & Support Organizations | Access | Notes |
| | Connectivity for communication, access to legal support and other needs | | | | |
| Internet | | | Provided by Sheriff's Department/Jail Budget | | |
| Digital Skills Education & Tech Support | | | | Sheriff's Department | Assistance is provided if needed on how to use the communication devices. |
| Devices | Mutual Use Mounted Tablet | | Provided by Sheriff's Department/Jail Budget | Shared access to Cidnet with other inmates in common area | 2 out of our 7 jails offer a shared use tablet |
| | Individual Tablets | | Provided by Sheriff's Department/Jail Budget | Individual access to Cidnet with additional options of You Tube and appropriate movies | 3 out of our 7 jails provides individual tablets for the inmates |
| | iPhones | | Provided by Sheriff's Department/Jail Budget | Ability to text and have video chats. iPhone is provided for shared access in each pod. Inmates need to schedule time. Family pays for use online. | 1 out of 7 of our jails provides this system and feels it's sufficient |
| | None | | | | 1 out of 7 of our jails does not provide a digital device. |
| Applications & Services | Cidnet - Communication Interface | | Provided by Sheriff's Department/Jail Budget | Free access to communicate with Sheriff's office for needs to include medical, commissary, grievances, attorneys, and Nebraska law library. Texts and video chats w/family cost range in cost some are .33 cents per minute. | 5 of our 7 jails utilize this system of communication. |
| | Cable TV | | | | All 7 of our jails have Cable TV |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Nebraska Broadband Speed Test Results



NROC
Nebraska Regional
Officials Council

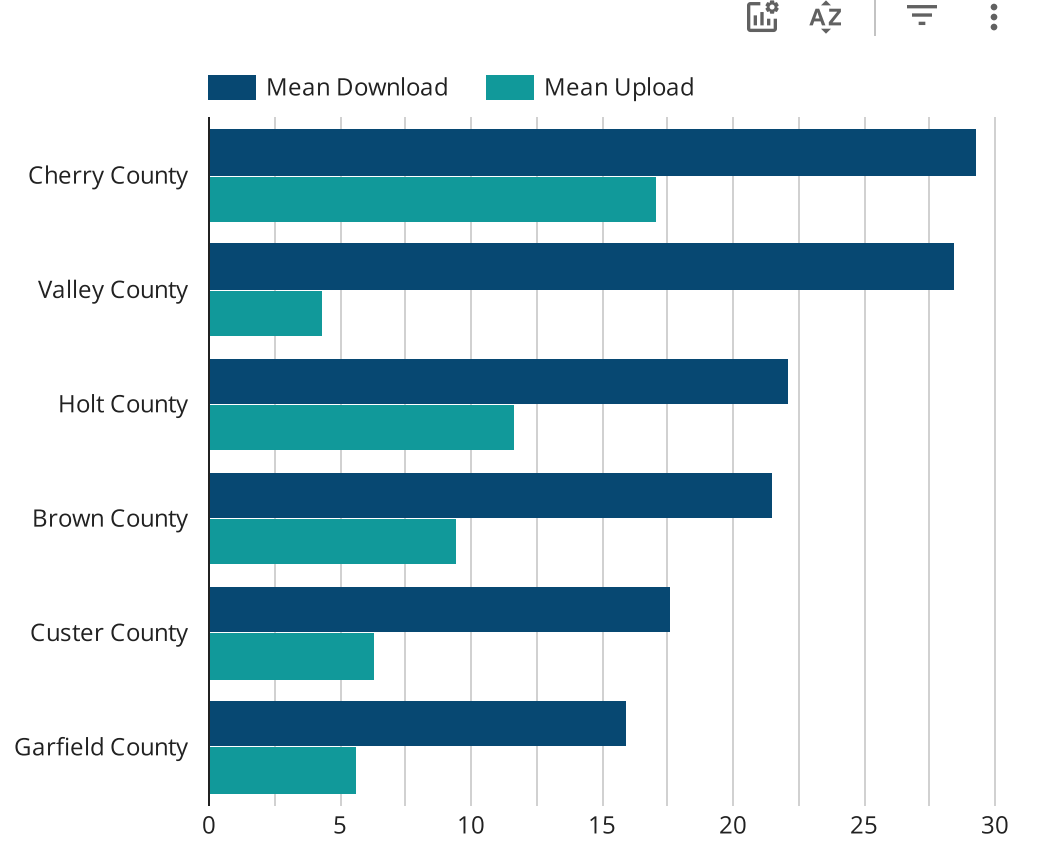
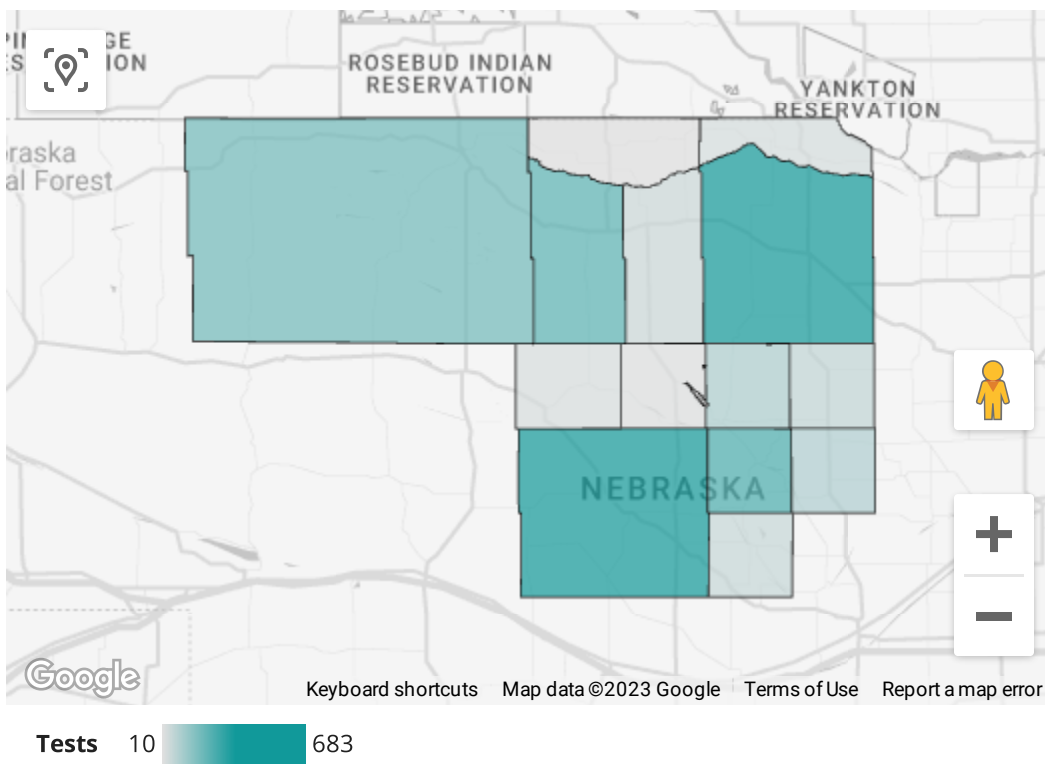
Central
Nebraska
Economic
Development
District
CNEDD



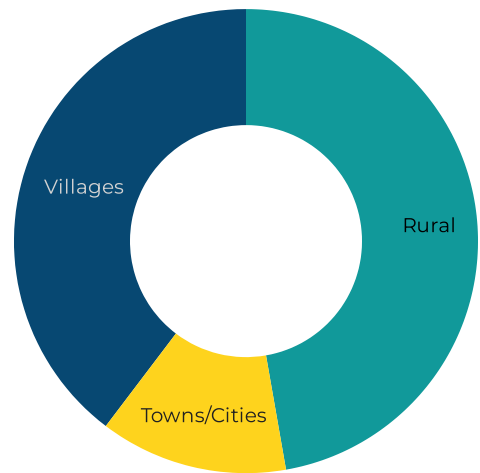
The Nebraska Broadband Speed Test is a project of the Nebraska Regional Officials Council, the statewide organization of Nebraska's eight Economic Development Districts. This statewide initiative launched in February 2021 and aimed to use crowdsourced broadband speed tests to quantify Nebraska's digital divide. Residents were able to submit parcel-level speed tests from anywhere in the state by visiting nebraskaspeedtest.org. Click on different map and chart elements or use the dropdown menus to filter speed test data!

Tests in View: **2,155**

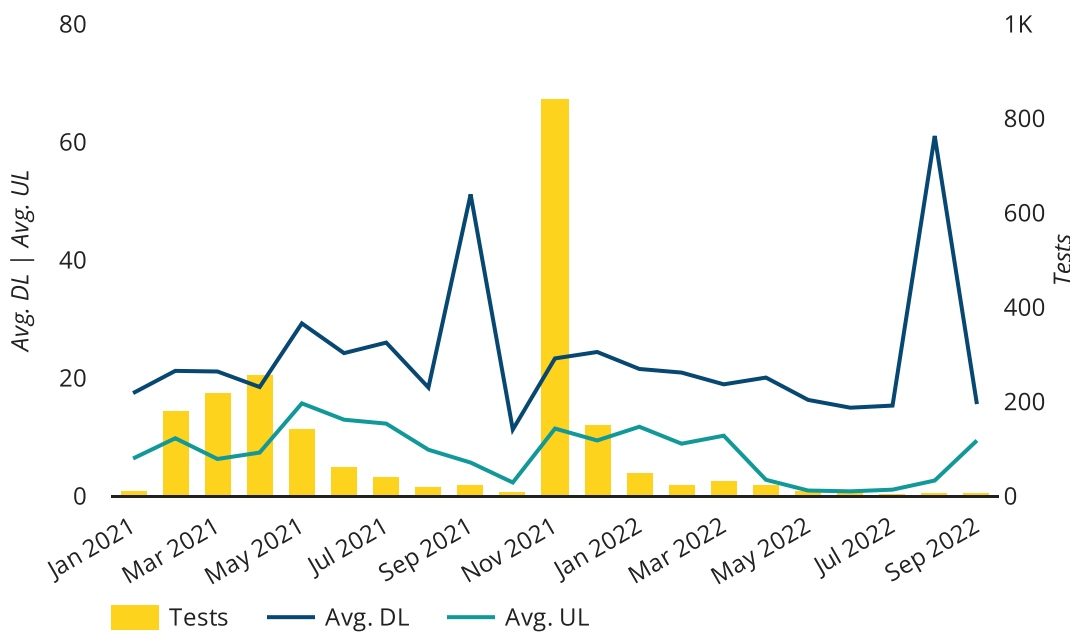
ISP Classification: ... (2) | County | Urban/Rural | Quarter | NROC: CNEDD (1)



Urban/Rural Breakdown

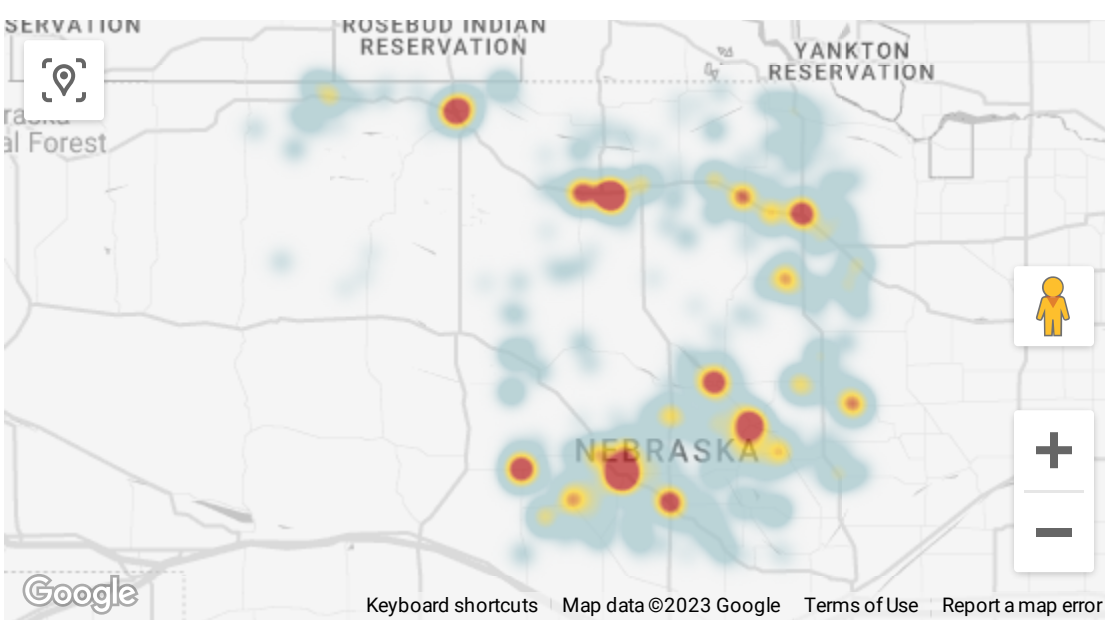


This graph shows the proportion of tests taken in rural and urban areas classified according to the 2010 Census definitions found at: [US Census - Urban and Rural](https://www.census.gov/popest/data/totals/urbanandvillage/).
Rural: unincorporated
Villages: > 2,500 residents
Towns/Cities: 2,500-50,000
Urban Areas: 50,000+



| Internet Service Provider | Tests | DL | UL |
|--------------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| Great Plains Communications | 360 | 24.62 | 8.53 |
| Nebraska Central Telephone Company | 342 | 18.68 | 8.69 |
| Three River Telco | 215 | 27.34 | 8.9 |
| CenturyLink | 195 | 13.3 | 3.97 |
| Verizon | 171 | 13.56 | 5.61 |
| Viaero | 122 | 11.86 | 10.44 |
| no service | 97 | 0 | 0 |
| Charter Communications | 95 | 70.7 | 11.43 |
| Consolidated Telephone Company | 79 | 13.66 | 9.07 |
| HughesNet | 73 | 10.43 | 2.53 |
| US Cellular | 64 | 15.2 | 4.49 |
| Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company | 51 | 109.8 | 92.63 |
| Rise Broadband | 51 | 17.35 | 3.33 |
| K&M Telephone Company | 46 | 5.58 | 1.49 |
| Frontier Communications | 32 | 8.43 | 1.02 |
| HunTel | 30 | 8.24 | 2.31 |
| ViaSat | 28 | 12.55 | 2.07 |
| Eagle Communications | 27 | 25.87 | 5.68 |
| Sandhills Wireless | 19 | 8.15 | 7.04 |
| Nedelco | 17 | 9.59 | 4.15 |
| Allo Communications | 13 | 230.04 | 192.48 |
| Prairie Hills Wireless | 8 | 9.21 | 24.96 |
| SpaceX Starlink | 5 | 69.5 | 8.97 |
| Nextlink Broadband | 4 | 4 | 4.59 |
| Windstream Communications | 3 | 61.21 | 13.47 |
| AT&T | 3 | 33.95 | 5.86 |
| Sparklight | 1 | 2.8 | 1.92 |
| T-Mobile | 1 | 1.5 | 14.53 |
| Fairpoint Communications | 1 | 13.18 | 4.89 |
| Cox Communications | 1 | 16.11 | 14.49 |

This table contains aggregated (mean) speed test results by Internet Service Provider. ISP names here may not necessarily be identical to the brand/company that offers service. To facilitate comparison between ISPs, use the filter function in the top right corner to show entries with 20 or more tests.



| County | Tests | Geom. DL | Geom. UL | Avg. DL | Avg. UL | Median DL | Median UL |
|-----------|-------|----------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Custer | 683 | 9.71 | 2.67 | 17.62 | 6.36 | 5.96 | 1.48 |
| Holt | 385 | 9.68 | 3.25 | 22.13 | 11.70 | 5.72 | 1.52 |
| Valley | 252 | 11.56 | 2.55 | 28.50 | 4.38 | 5.85 | 1.65 |
| Brown | 229 | 14.46 | 1.85 | 21.54 | 9.45 | 7.06 | 0.83 |
| Cherry | 191 | 10.92 | 3.10 | 29.30 | 17.13 | 5.01 | 1.52 |
| Garfield | 95 | 10.51 | 3.32 | 15.94 | 5.67 | 12.36 | 5.36 |
| Greeley | 89 | 7.36 | 1.64 | 15.88 | 3.12 | 8.69 | 1.55 |
| Wheeler | 59 | 10.33 | 3.23 | 38.20 | 26.61 | 5.06 | 0.88 |
| Sherman | 52 | 11.35 | 3.99 | 31.65 | 23.59 | 5.18 | 2.81 |
| Rock | 42 | 5.76 | 1.82 | 8.93 | 3.41 | 8.21 | 2.93 |
| Boyd | 28 | 62.27 | 40.40 | 109.14 | 77.16 | 36.53 | 41.59 |
| Blaine | 25 | 6.75 | 1.55 | 8.69 | 1.85 | 3.98 | 0.58 |
| Loup | 15 | 12.28 | 2.72 | 21.18 | 5.08 | 8.57 | 3.39 |
| Keya Paha | 10 | 14.79 | 10.88 | 33.71 | 15.80 | 22.59 | 10.17 |

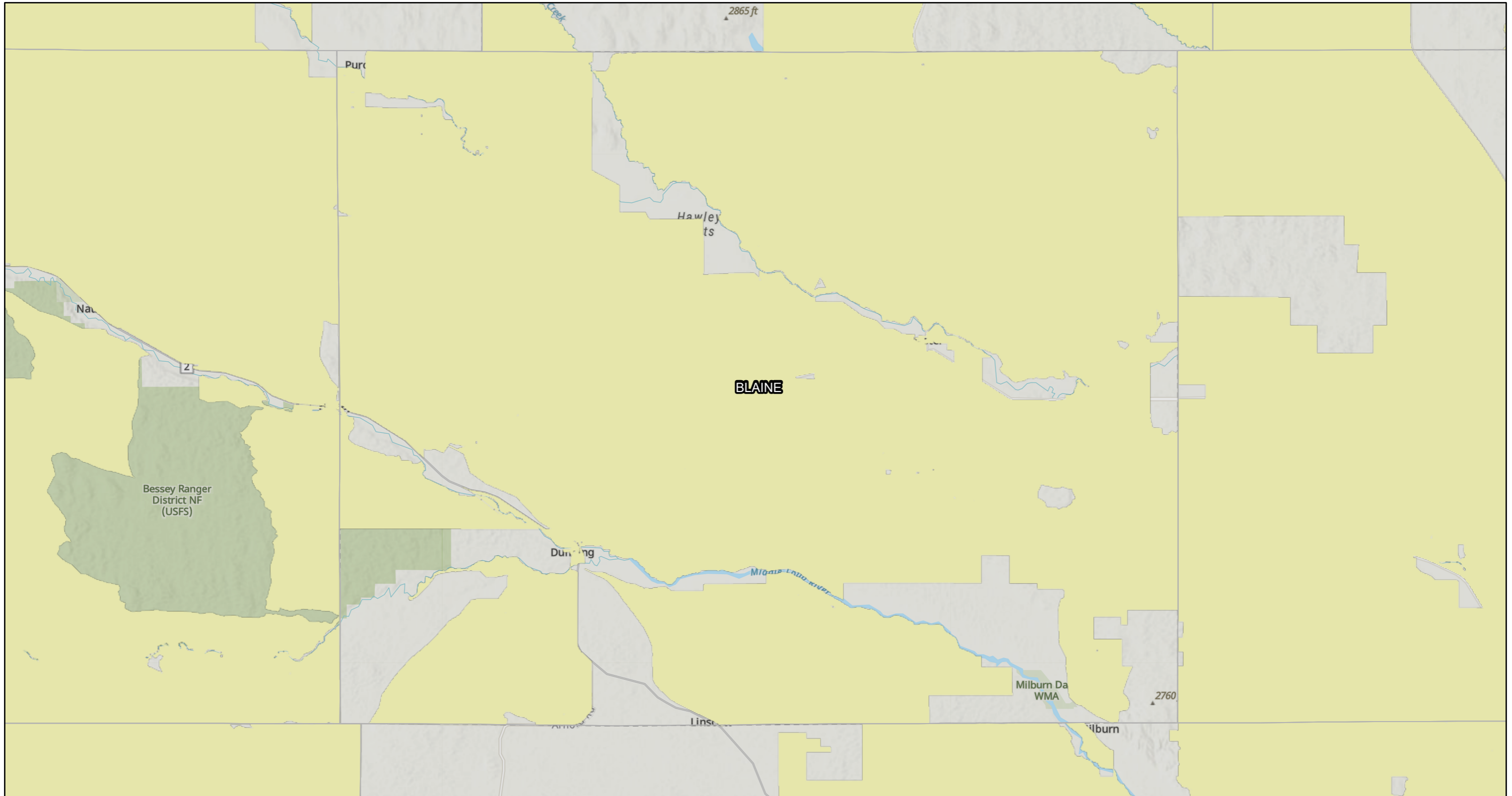
User-generated speed tests provide a valuable but imperfect account of actual broadband quality. Speeds reflected in these tests may be affected by a variety of client-side factors, including time of day, hardware equipment including computers and modems/routers, and type of connection. Aggregating data, as done in this report, may help mitigate potential outliers. ISP classifications are based on a best-efforts assessment of ARIN ASN registrations and FCC 477 filings.

The Nebraska Broadband Speed Test is hosted and operated by Breaking Point Solutions LLC (GEO Partners LLC) and utilizes the [M-Lab](https://www.m-lab.org/) Network Diagnostic Test (NDT). Additional sources used in this report include the US Census Bureau, Google Earth, and M-Lab.

Report prepared by Oliver Borchers-Williams, SENDD/AmeriCorps Broadband Fellow.
oliverbw@sendd.org
Data current through November 10, 2022. Dashboard updated May 26, 2023.



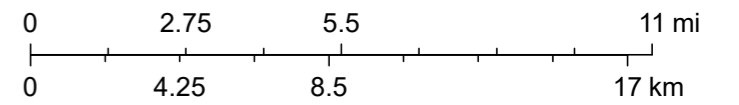
Speed Tier: 25/3 | Blaine County



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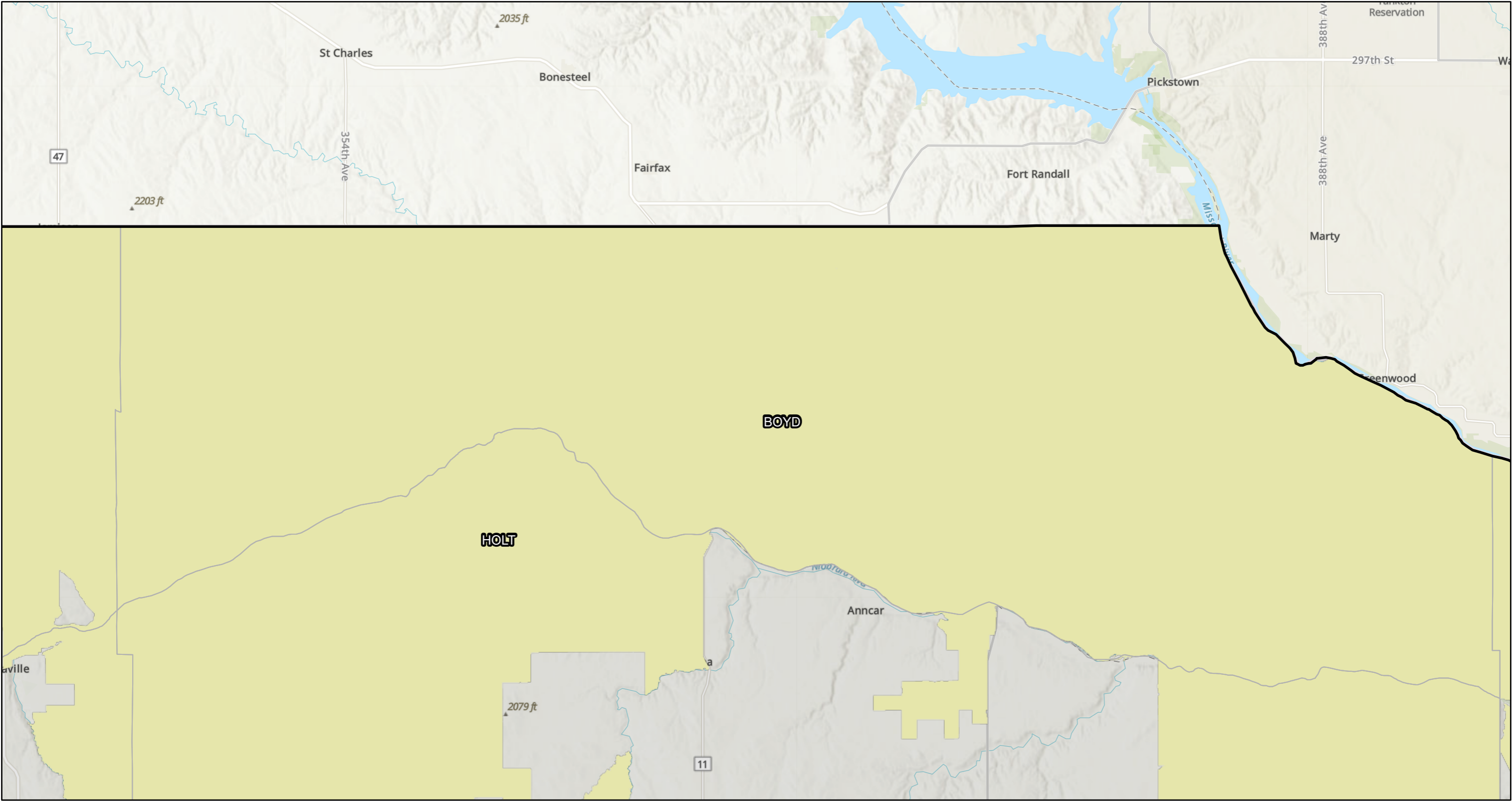
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25 Mbps DL / 3 Mbps UL

Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

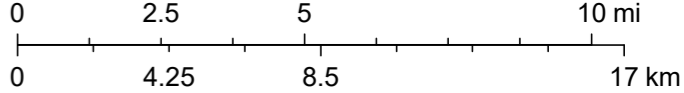
Speed Tier: 25/3 | Boyd County



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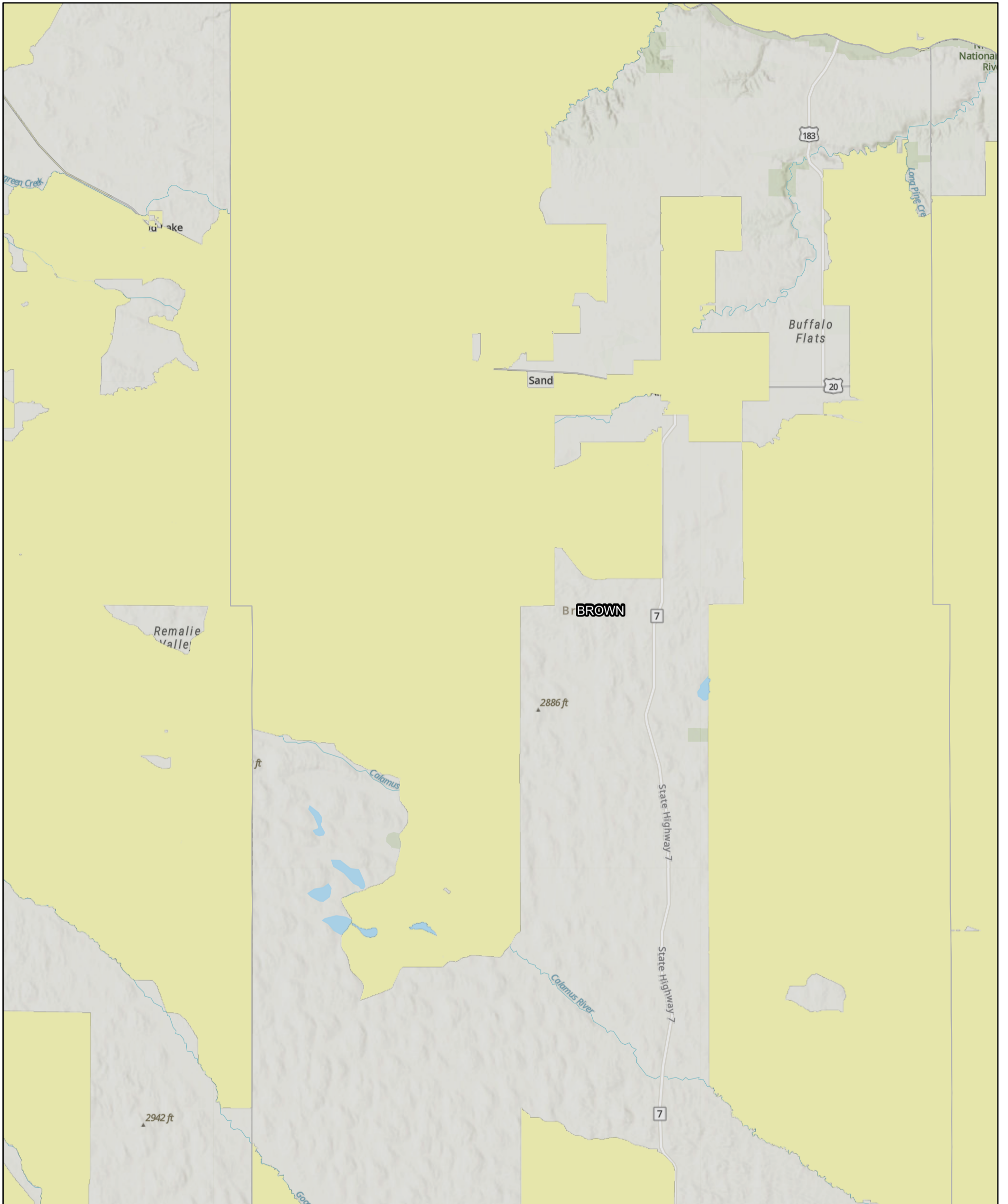
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25 Mbps DL / 3 Mbps UL

1:288,895



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

Speed Tier: 25/3 | Brown County

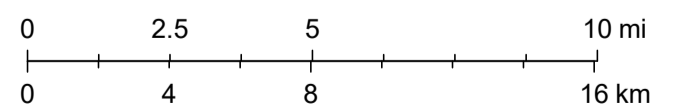


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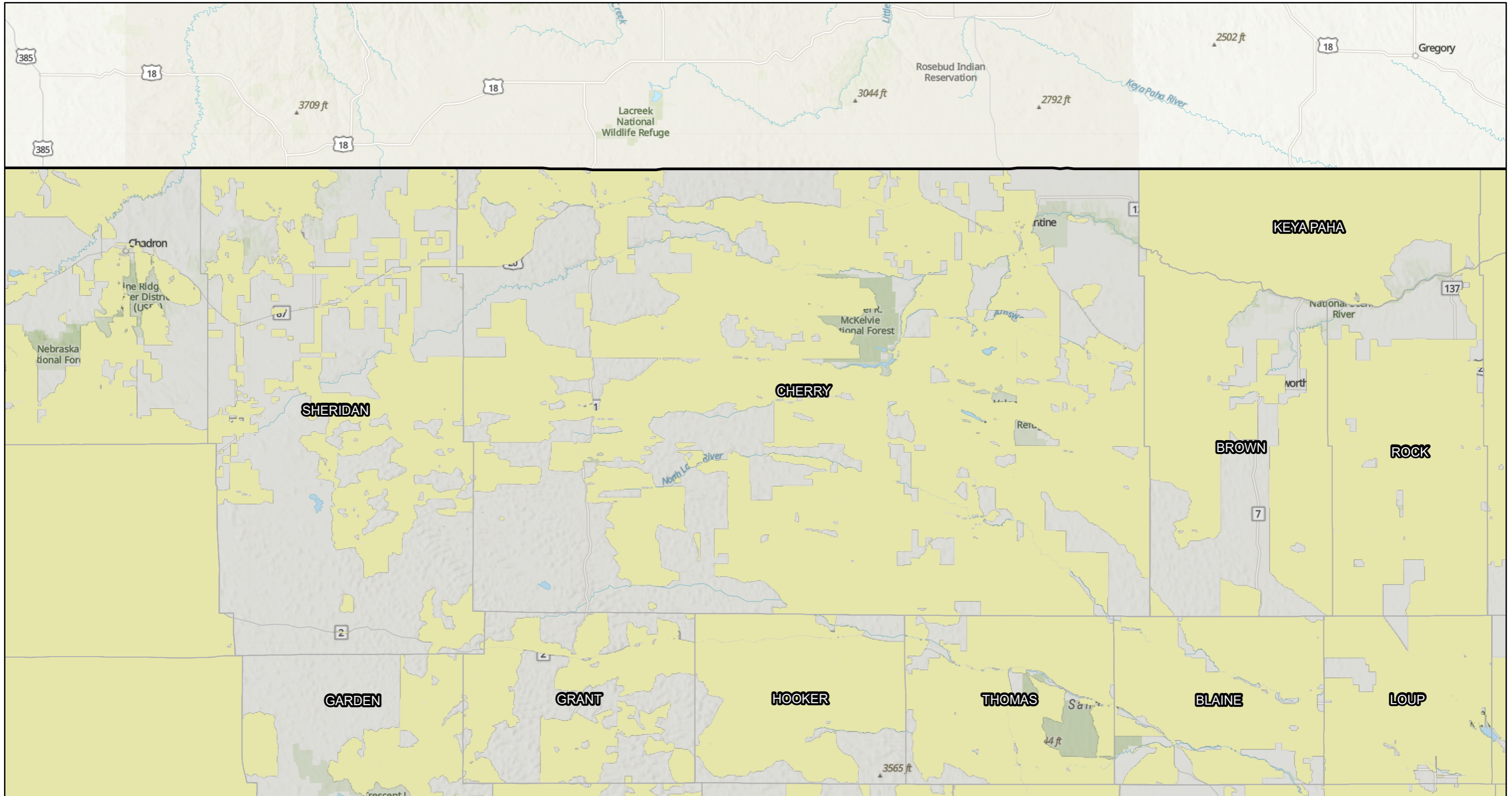
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Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

ArcGIS Web AppBuilder

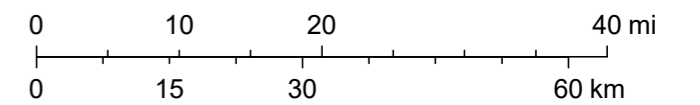
Speed Tier: 25/3 | Cherry County



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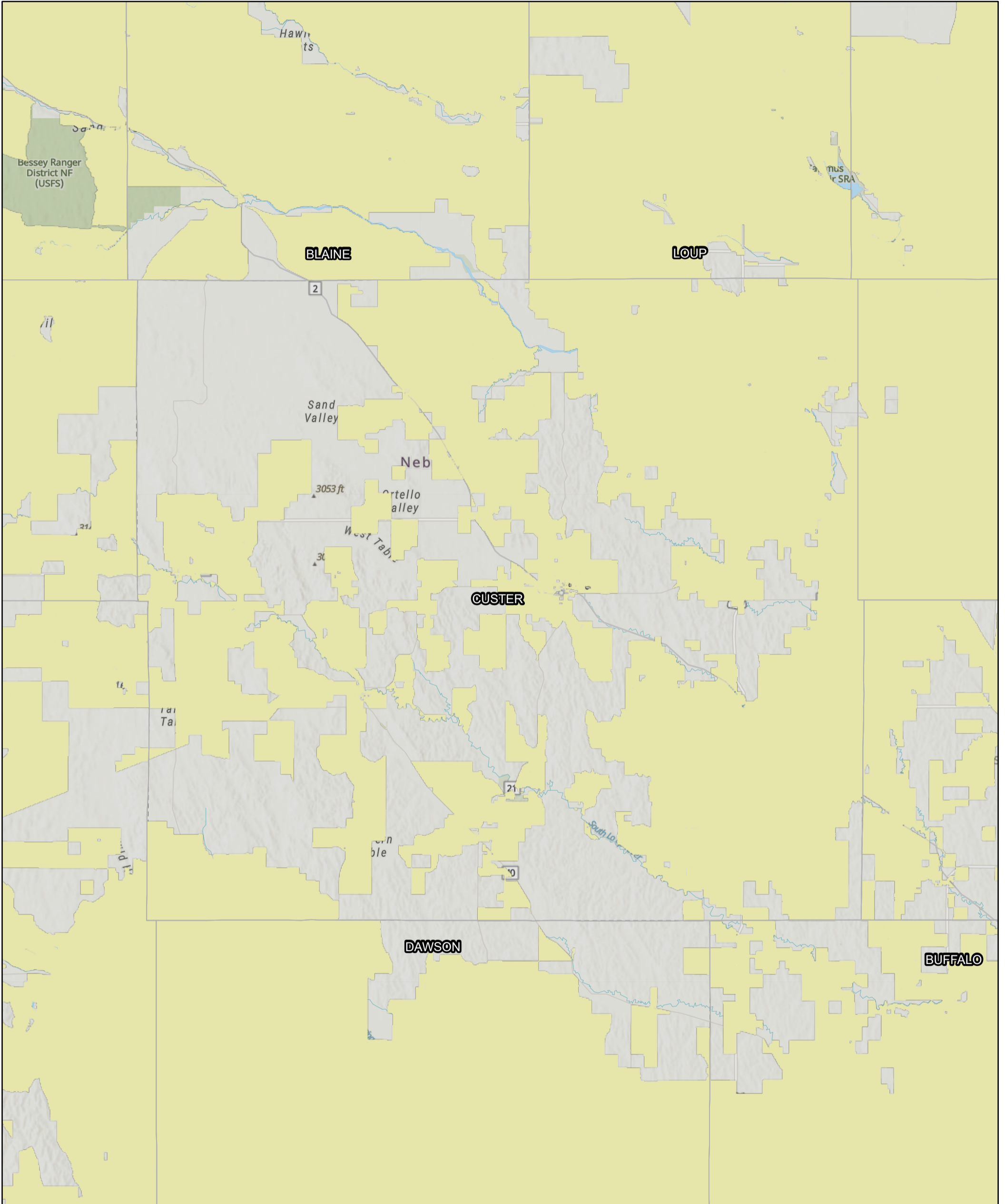
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Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS

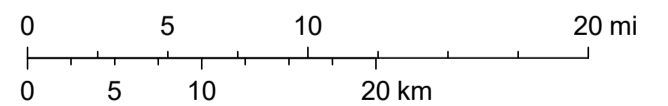
Speed Tier: 25/3 | Custer County



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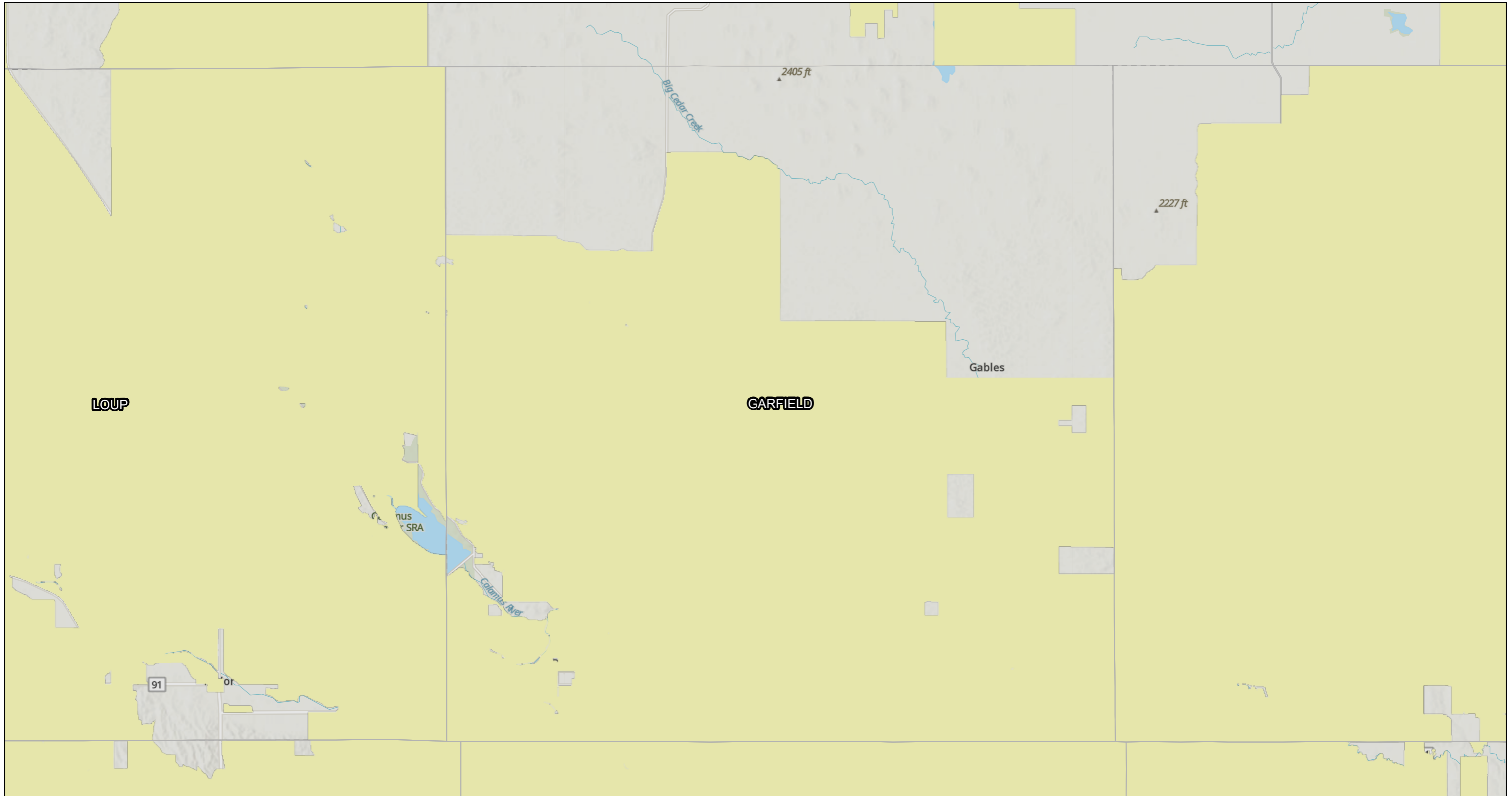
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1:577,791



Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS

Speed Tier: 25/3 | Garfield County

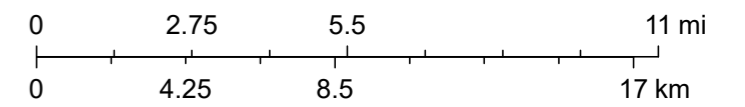


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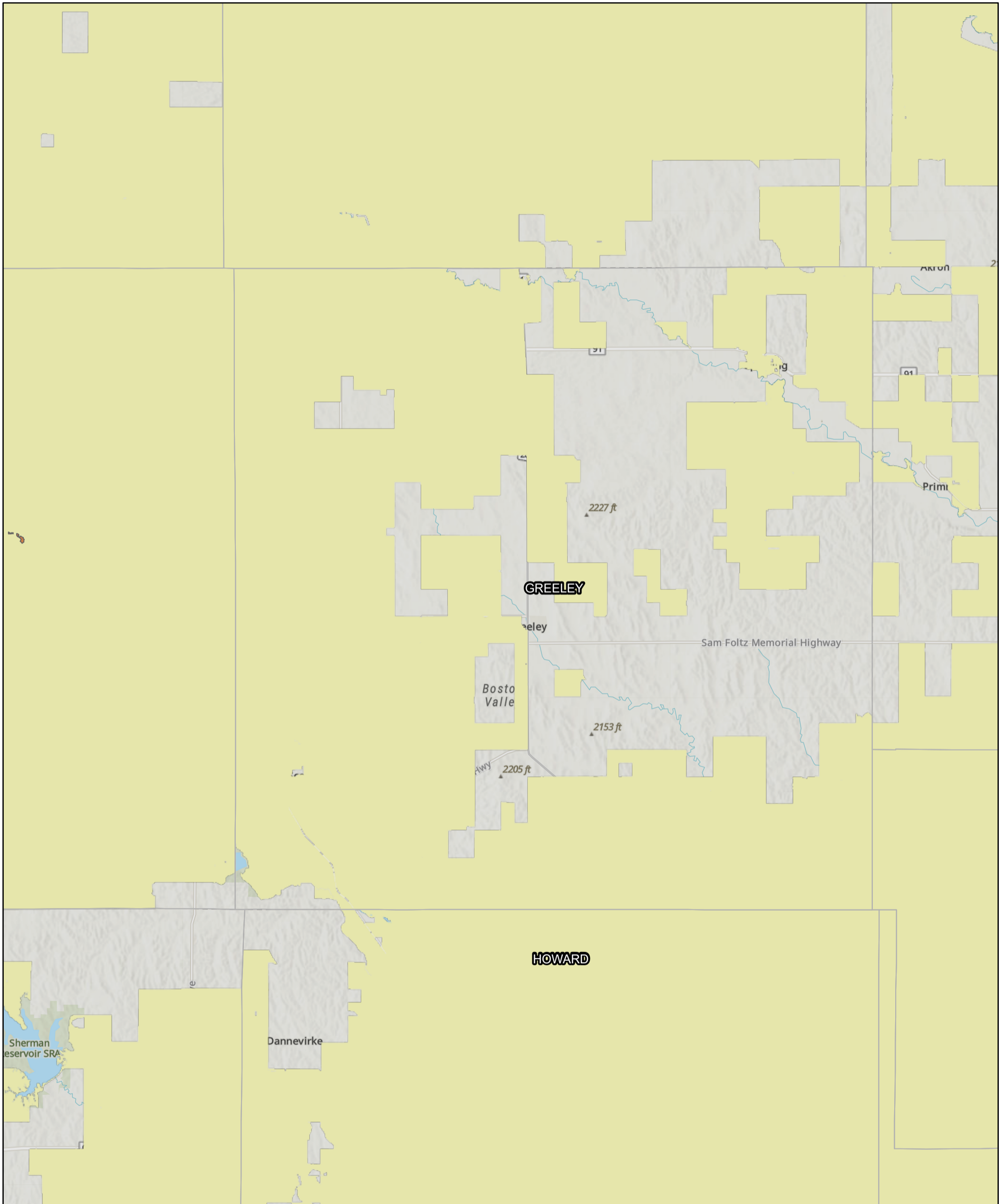
25 Mbps DL / 3 Mbps UL

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


Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

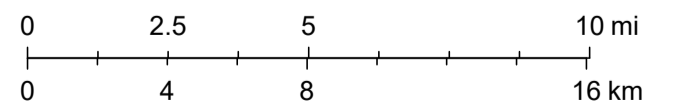
Speed Tier: 25-3 | Greeley County



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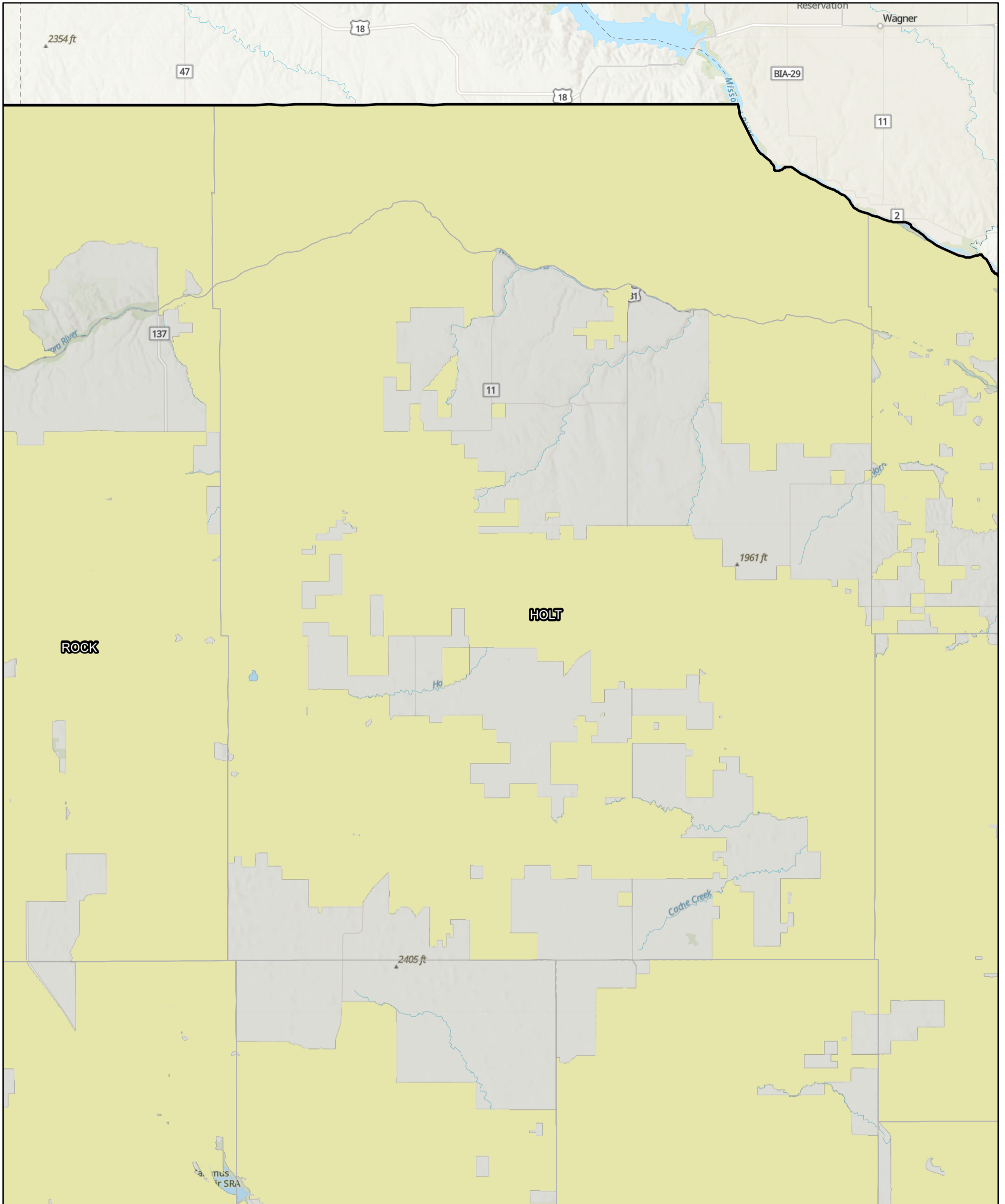
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-  NUSF131 Reverse Auction - Awarded Area
-  25 Mbps DL / 3 Mbps UL

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Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

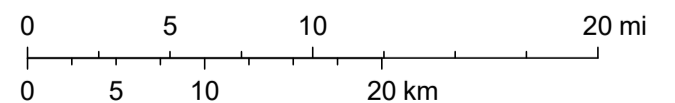
Speed Tier: 25/3 | Holt County



5/26/2023, 10:08:39 AM

25 Mbps DL / 3 Mbps UL

1:577,791



Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS

Speed Tier: 25/3 | Keya Paha County

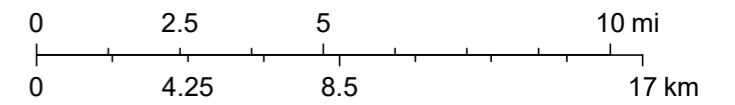


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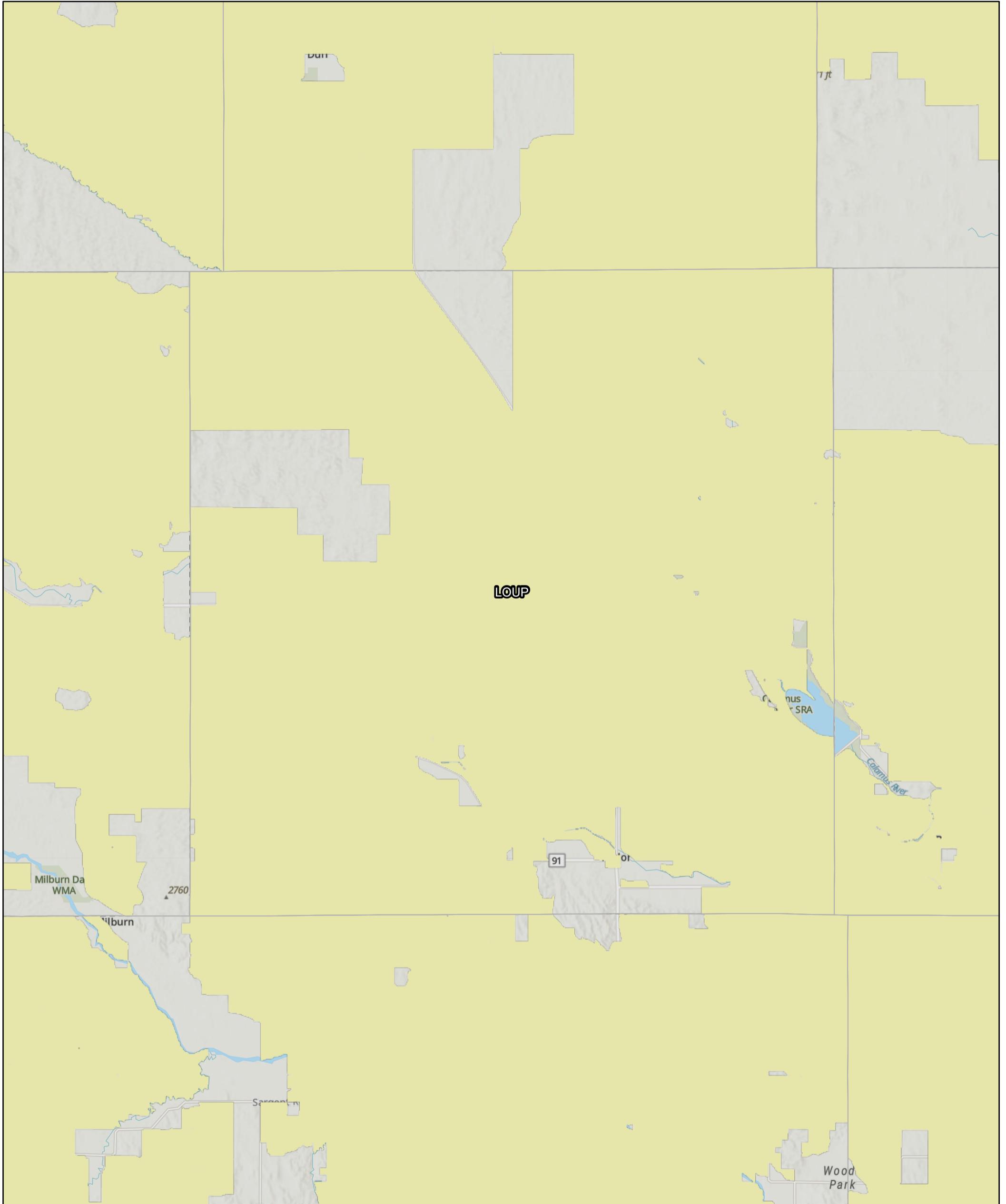
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Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

Speed Tier: 25/3 | Loup County

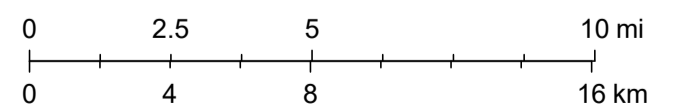


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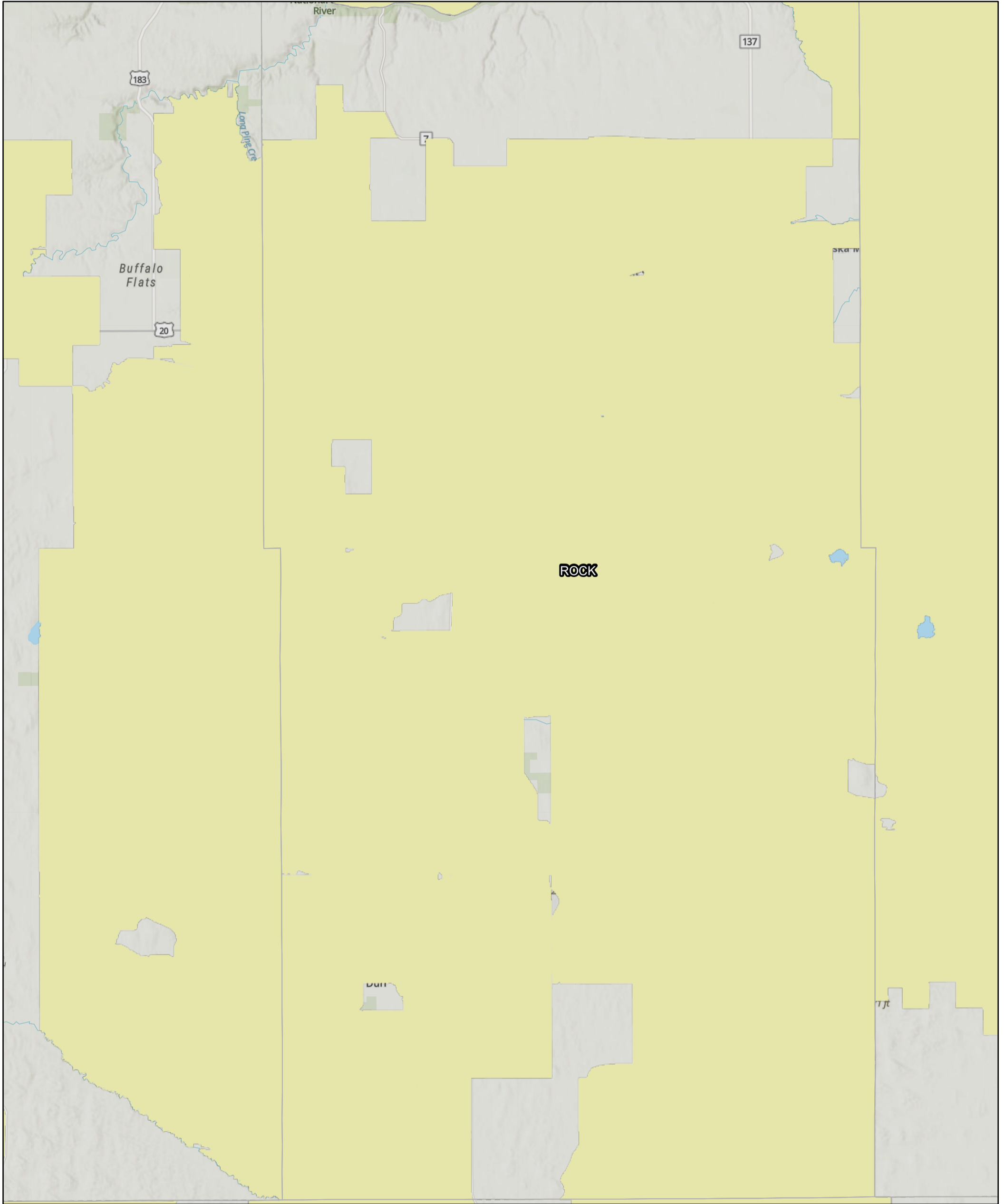
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1:288,895



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

Speed Tier: 25/3 | Rock County

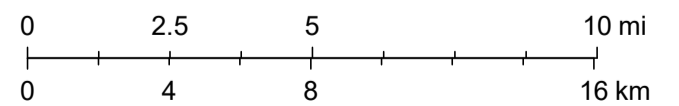


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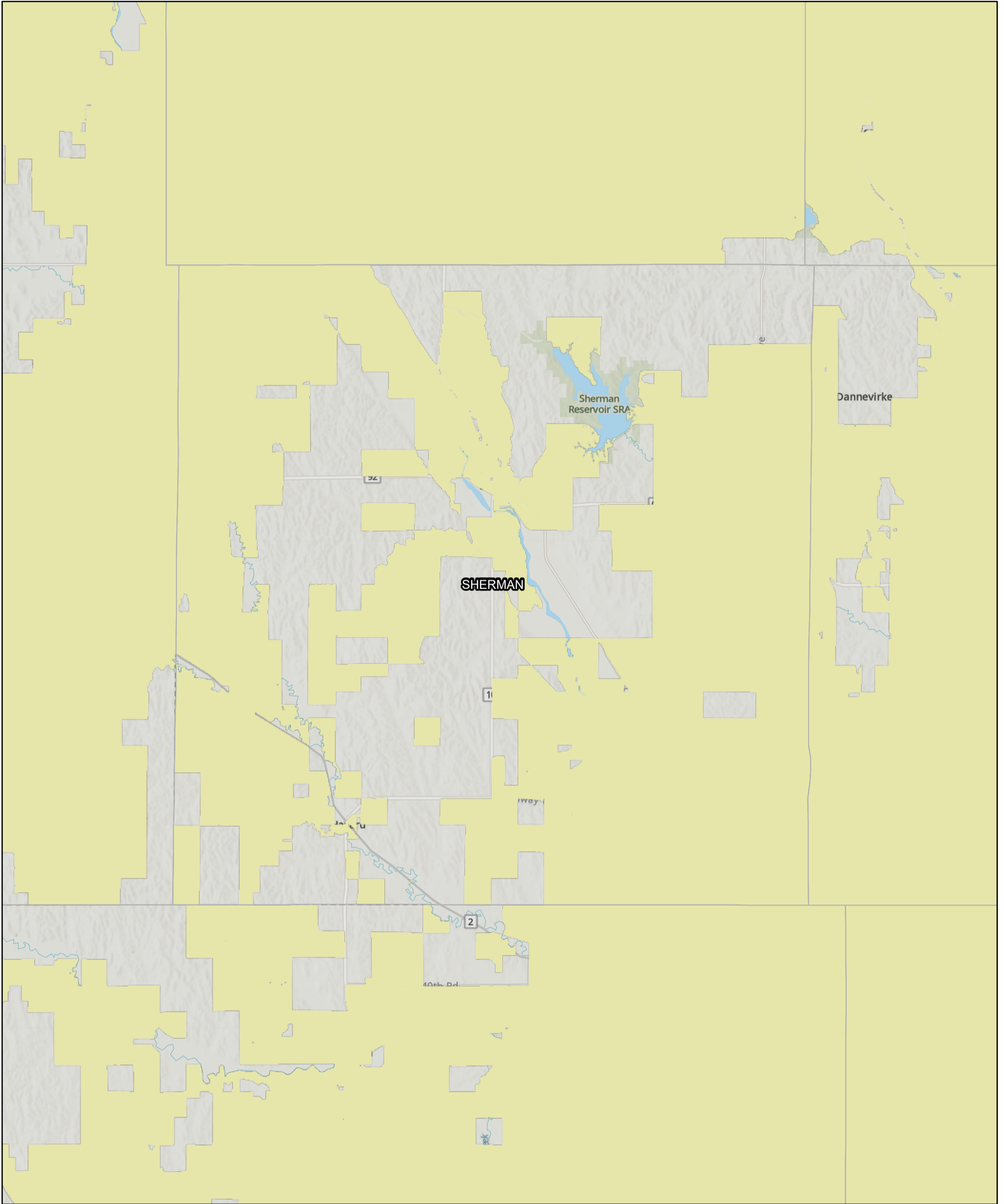
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1:288,895



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

Speed Tier: 25/3 | Sherman County

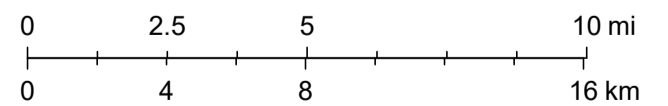


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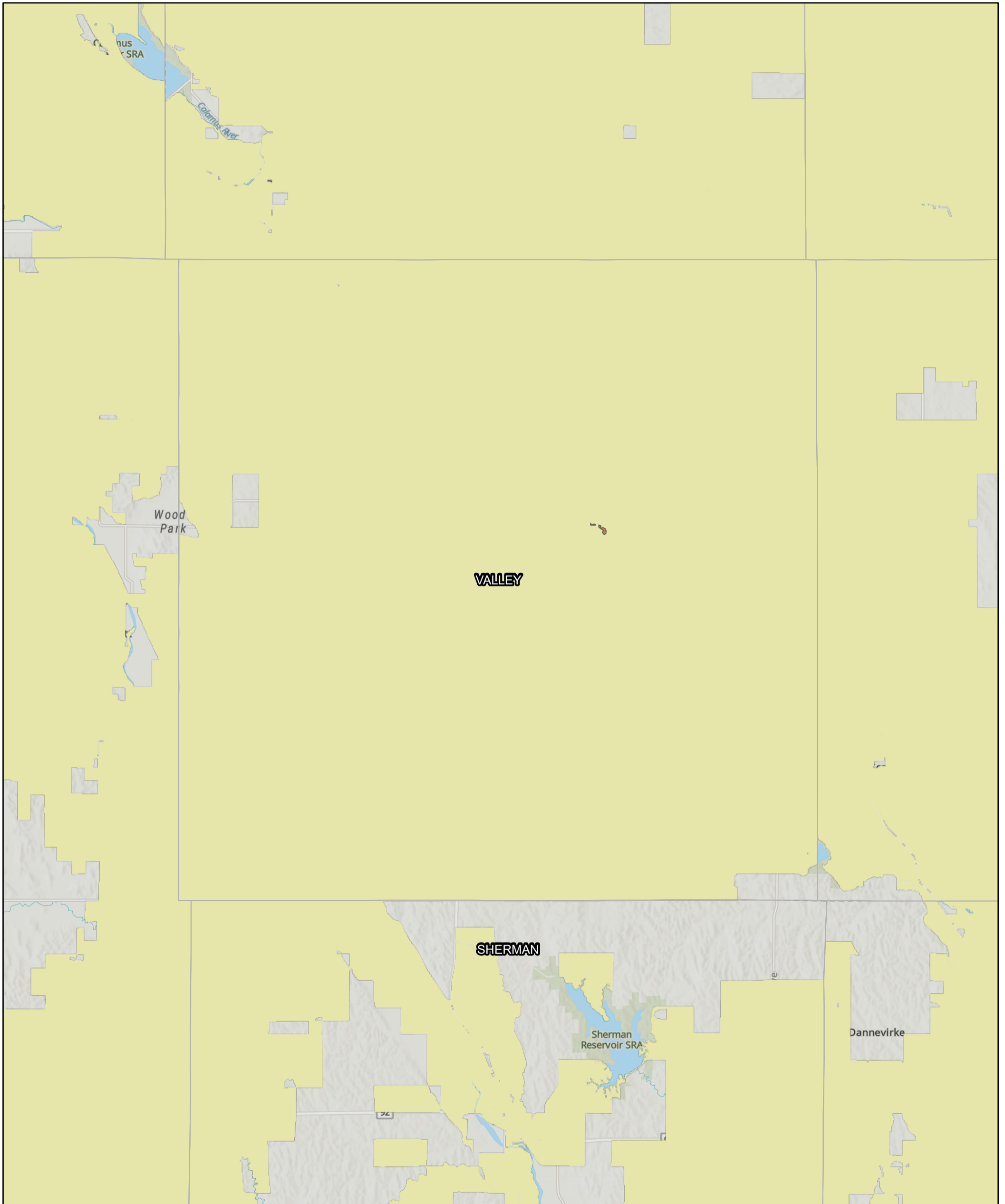
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


Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

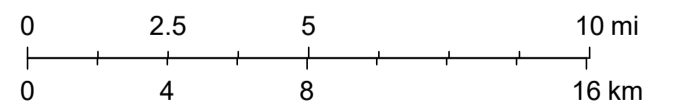
Speed Tier: 25-3 | Valley County



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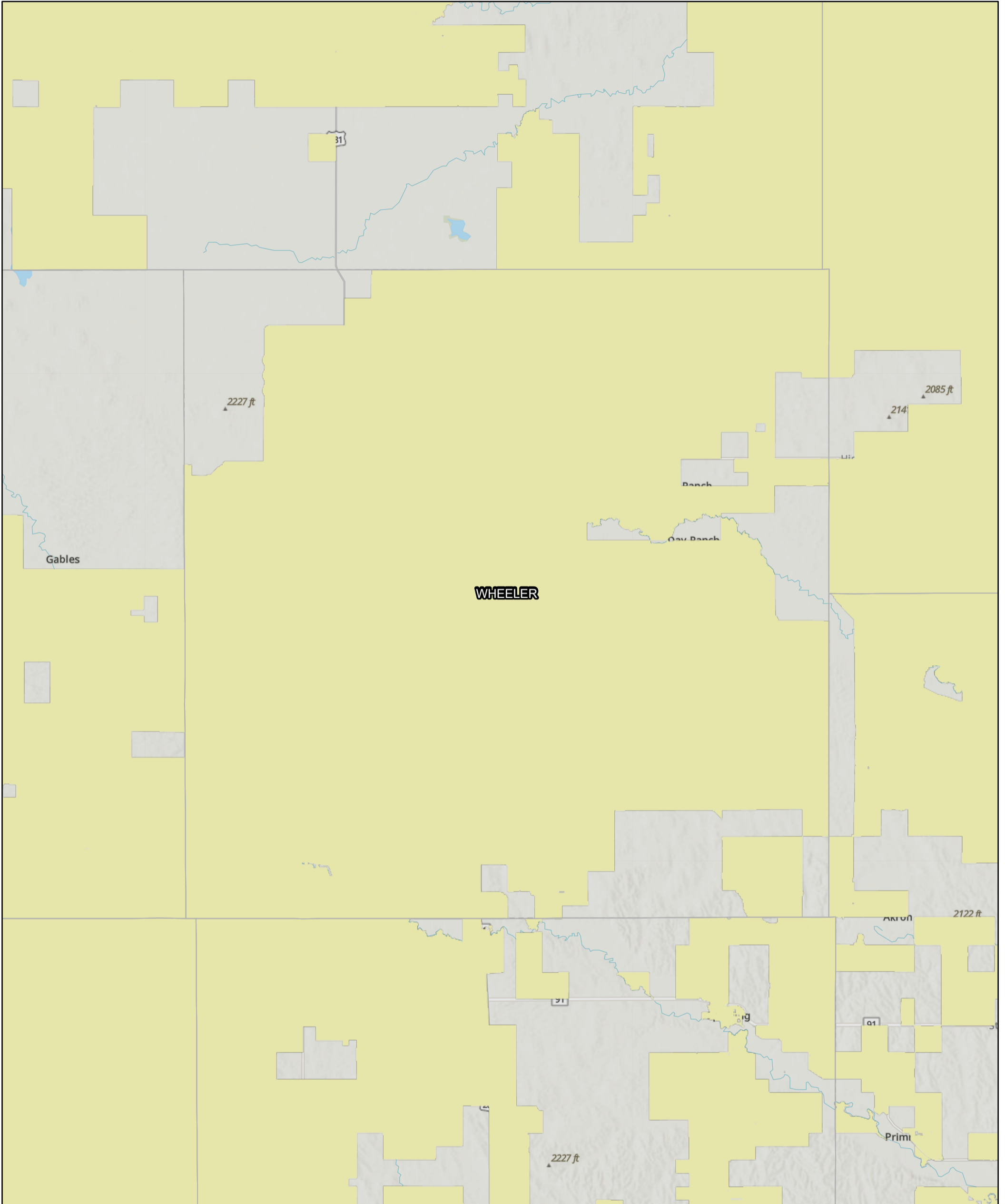
- FCC_477_Blocks
-  NUSF131 Reverse Auction - Awarded Area
-  25 Mbps DL / 3 Mbps UL

1:288,895



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

Speed Tier: 25/3 | Wheeler County

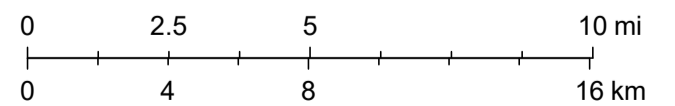


5/26/2023, 10:36:57 AM

FCC_477_Blocks

25 Mbps DL / 3 Mbps UL

1:288,895



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

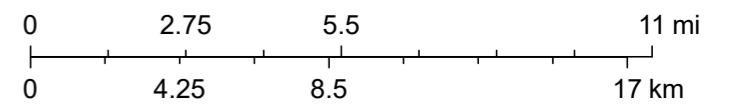
Speed Tier: 100/20 | Blaine County



5/26/2023, 11:06:41 AM

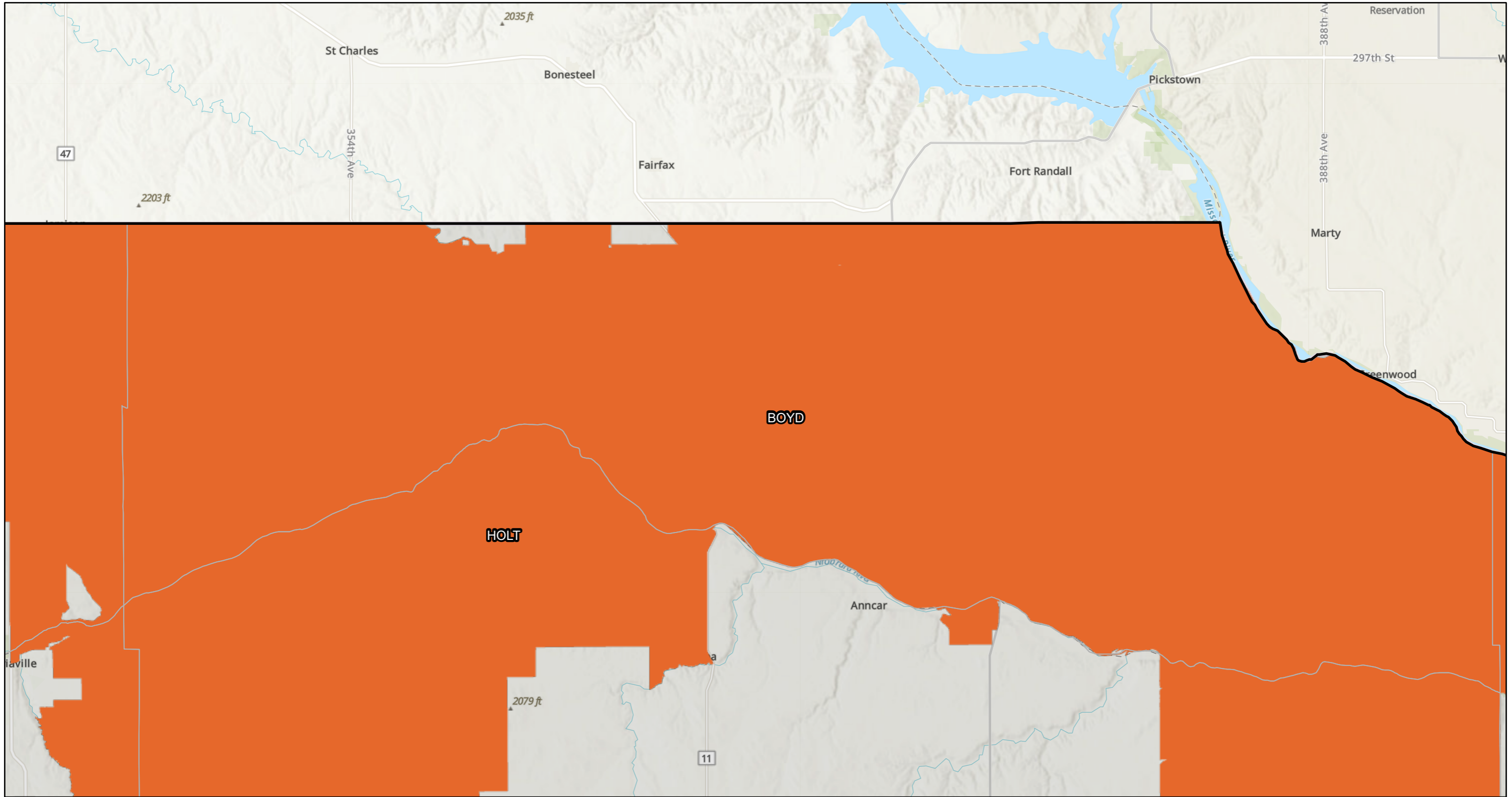
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Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

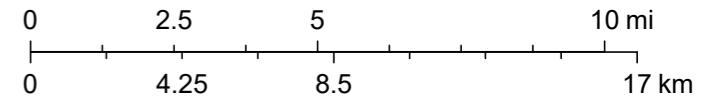
Speed Tier: 100/20 | Boyd County



5/26/2023, 11:12:31 AM

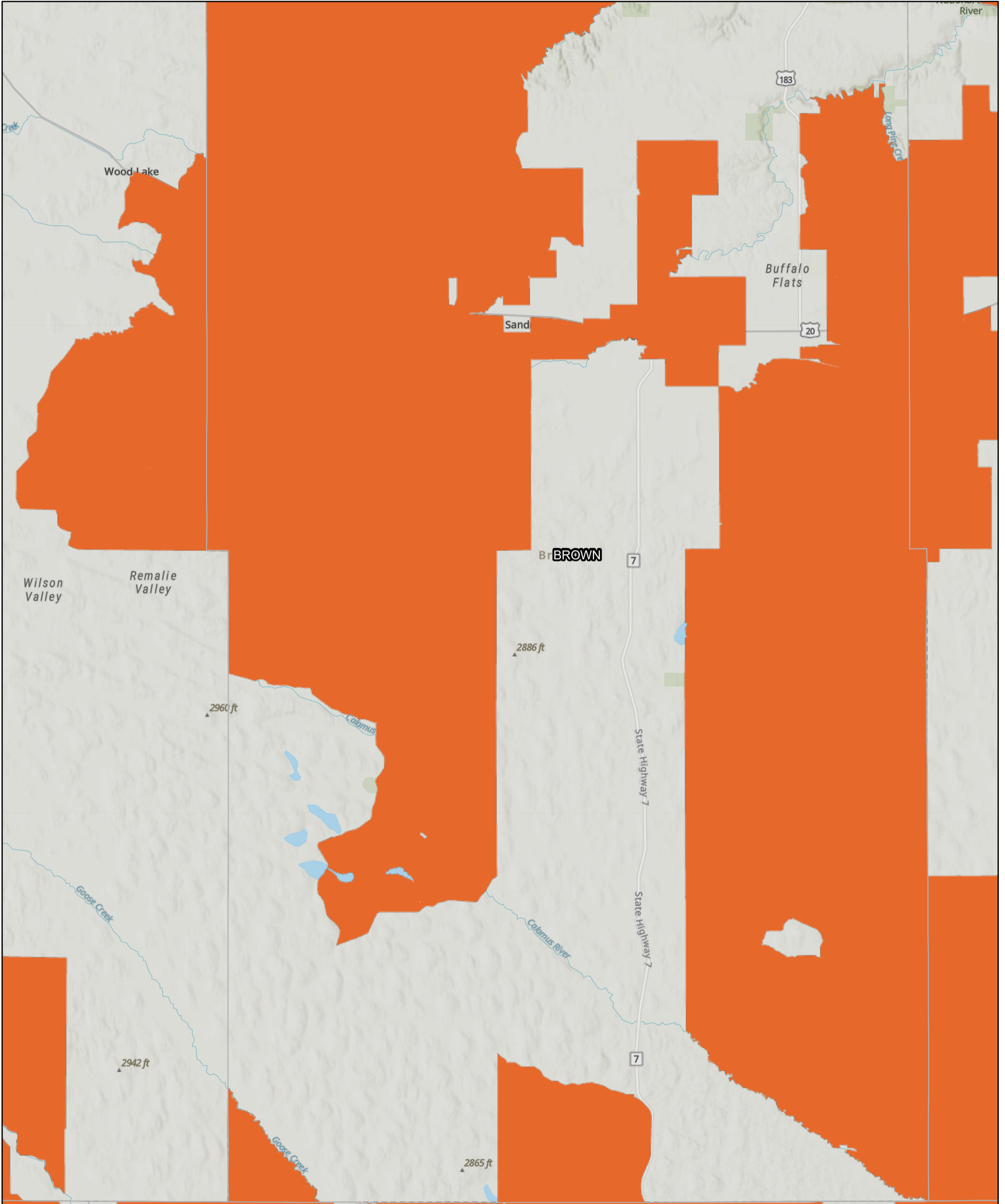
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100 Mbps DL / 20 Mbps UL



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

Speed Tier: 100/20 | Brown County

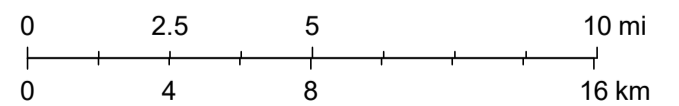


5/26/2023, 11:16:42 AM

FCC_477_Blocks

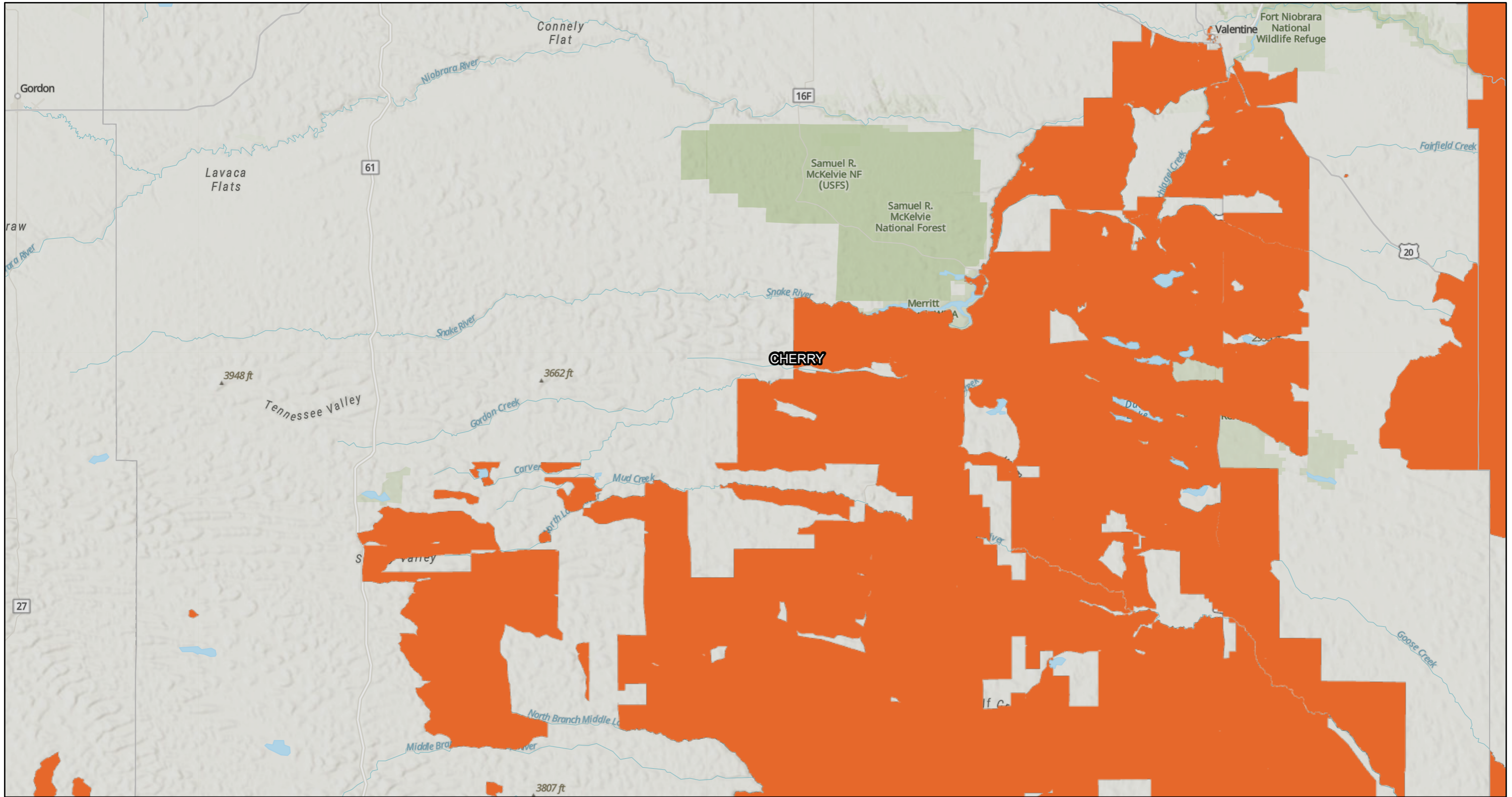
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Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

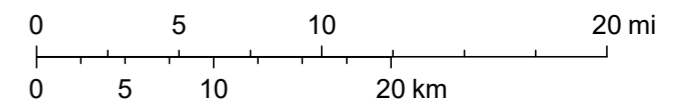
Speed Tier: 100/20 | Cherry County



5/26/2023, 11:36:38 AM

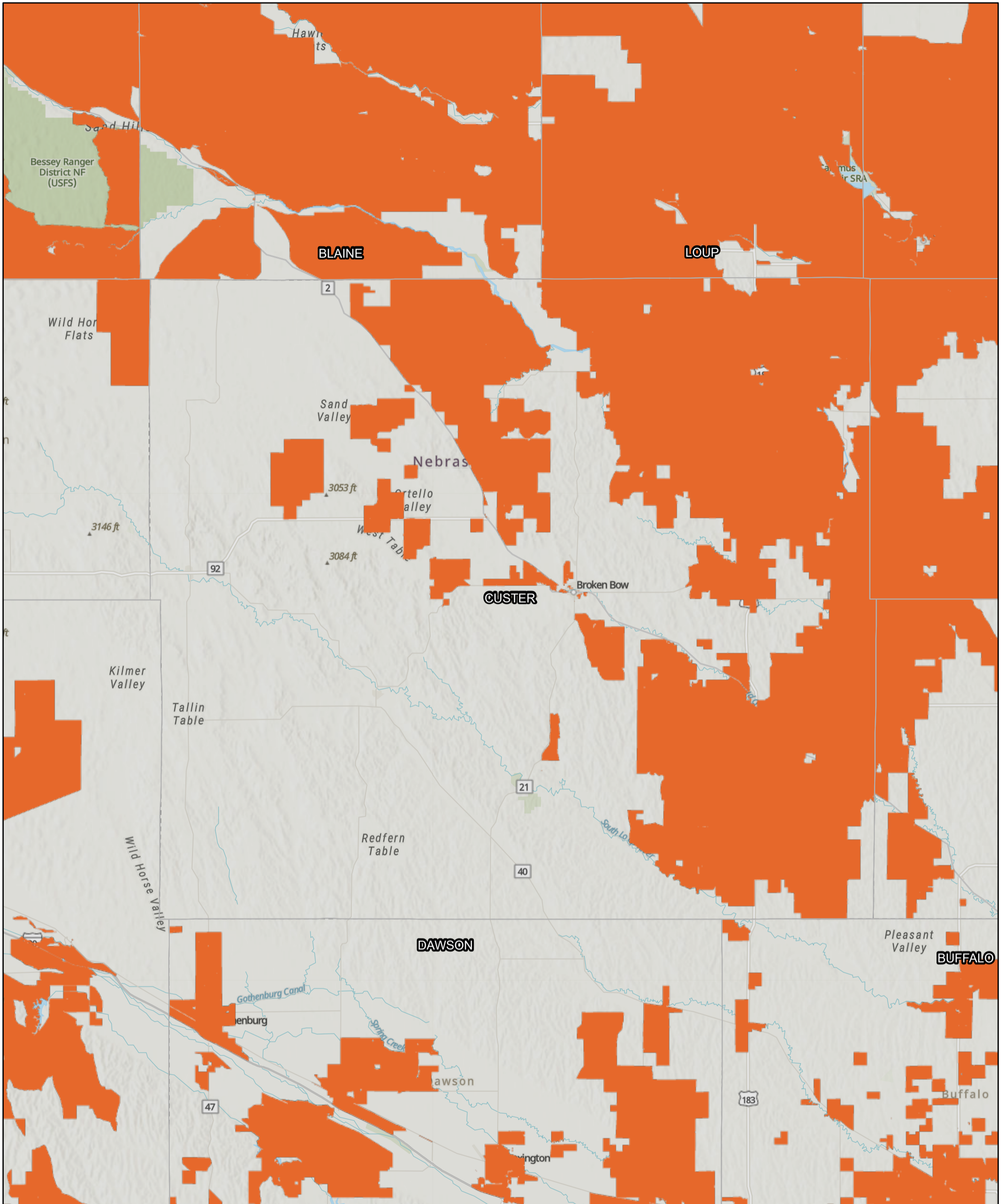
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Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS

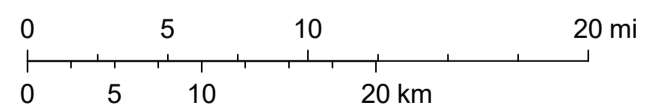
Speed Tier: 100/20 | Custer County



5/26/2023, 10:57:28 AM

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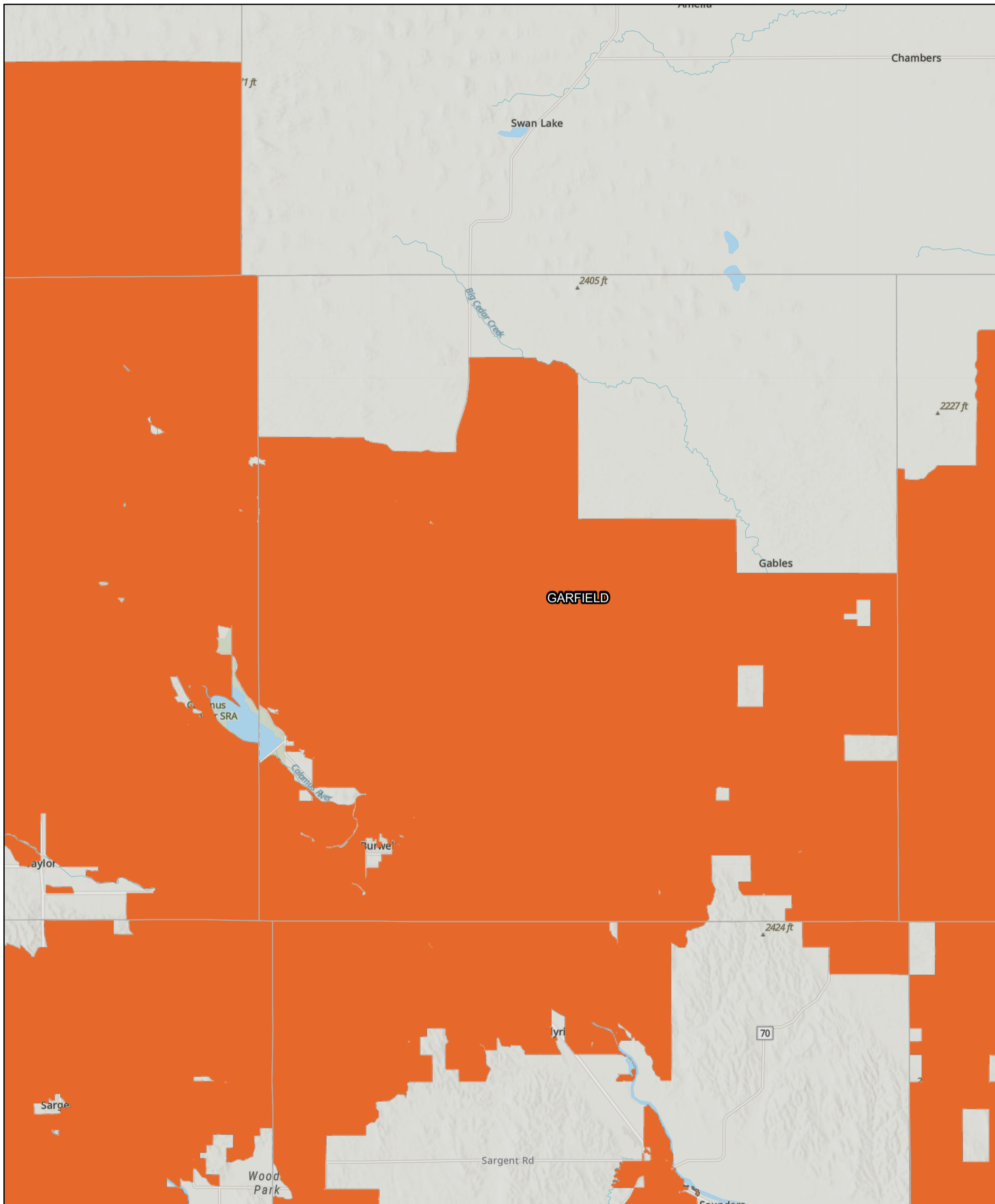


Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS

ArcGIS Web AppBuilder

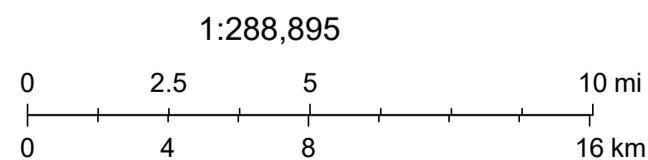
Esri, CGIAR, USGS | Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA | State of Nebraska, Department of Transportation |

Speed Tier: 100/20 | Garfield County



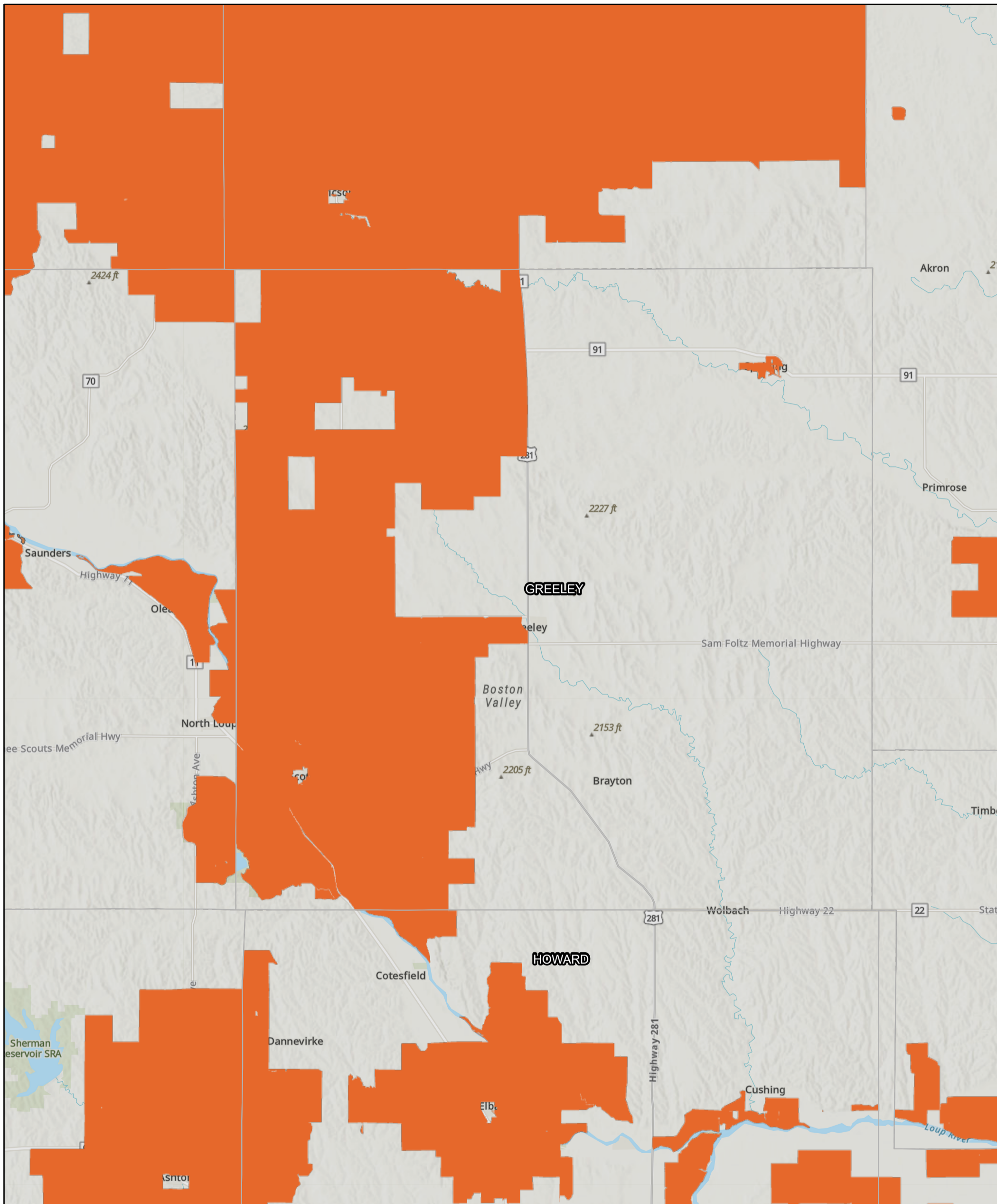
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- FCC_477_Blocks
- NUSF131 Reverse Auction - Awarded Area
- 100 Mbps DL / 20 Mbps UL



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

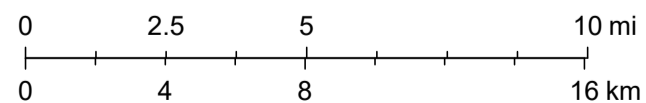
Speed Tier: 100/20 | Greeley County



5/26/2023, 10:41:04 AM

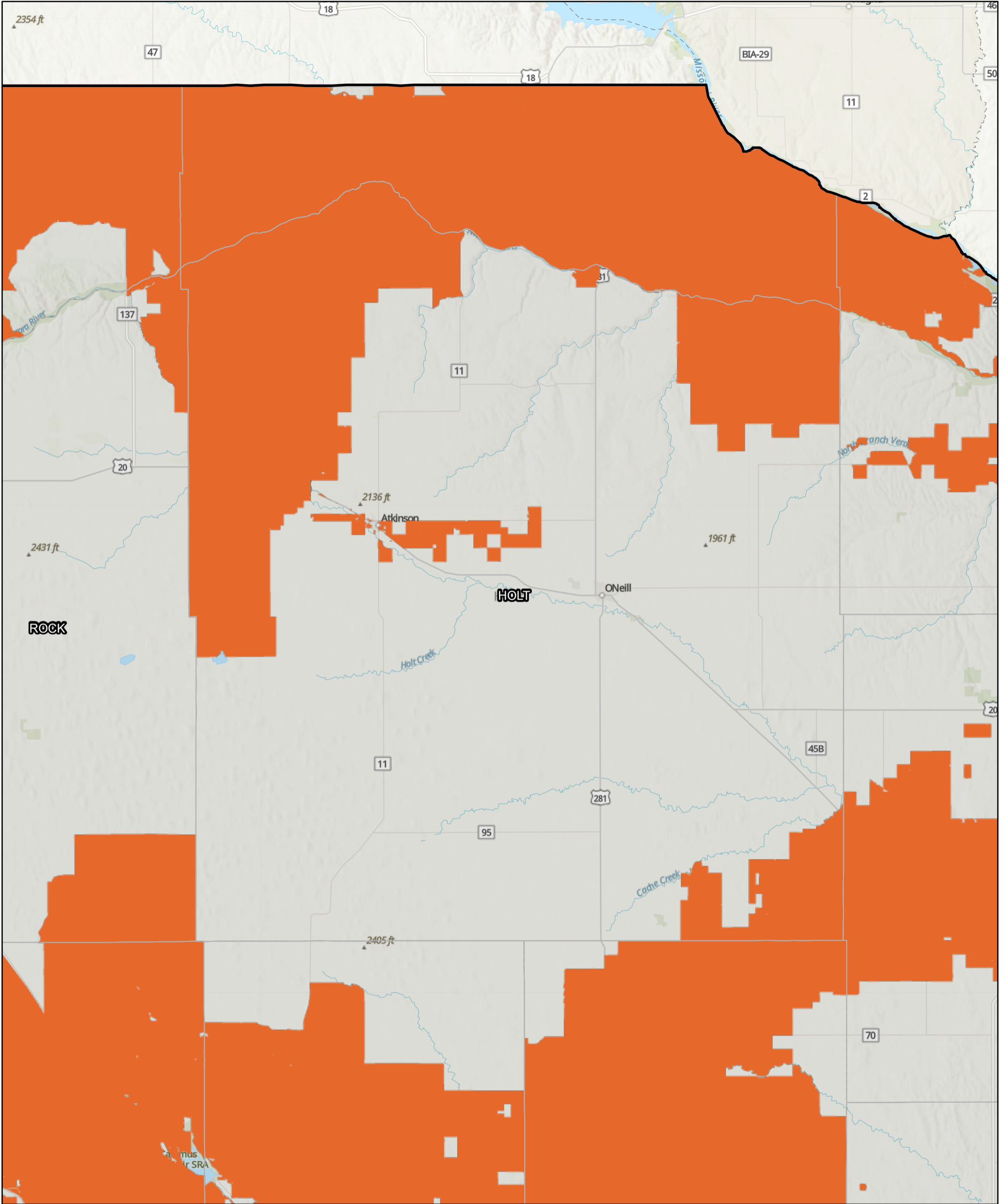
- FCC_477_Blocks
- NUSF131 Reverse Auction - Awarded Area
- 100 Mbps DL / 20 Mbps UL

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Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

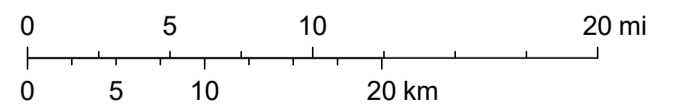
Speed Tier: 100/20 | Holt County



5/26/2023, 11:34:40 AM

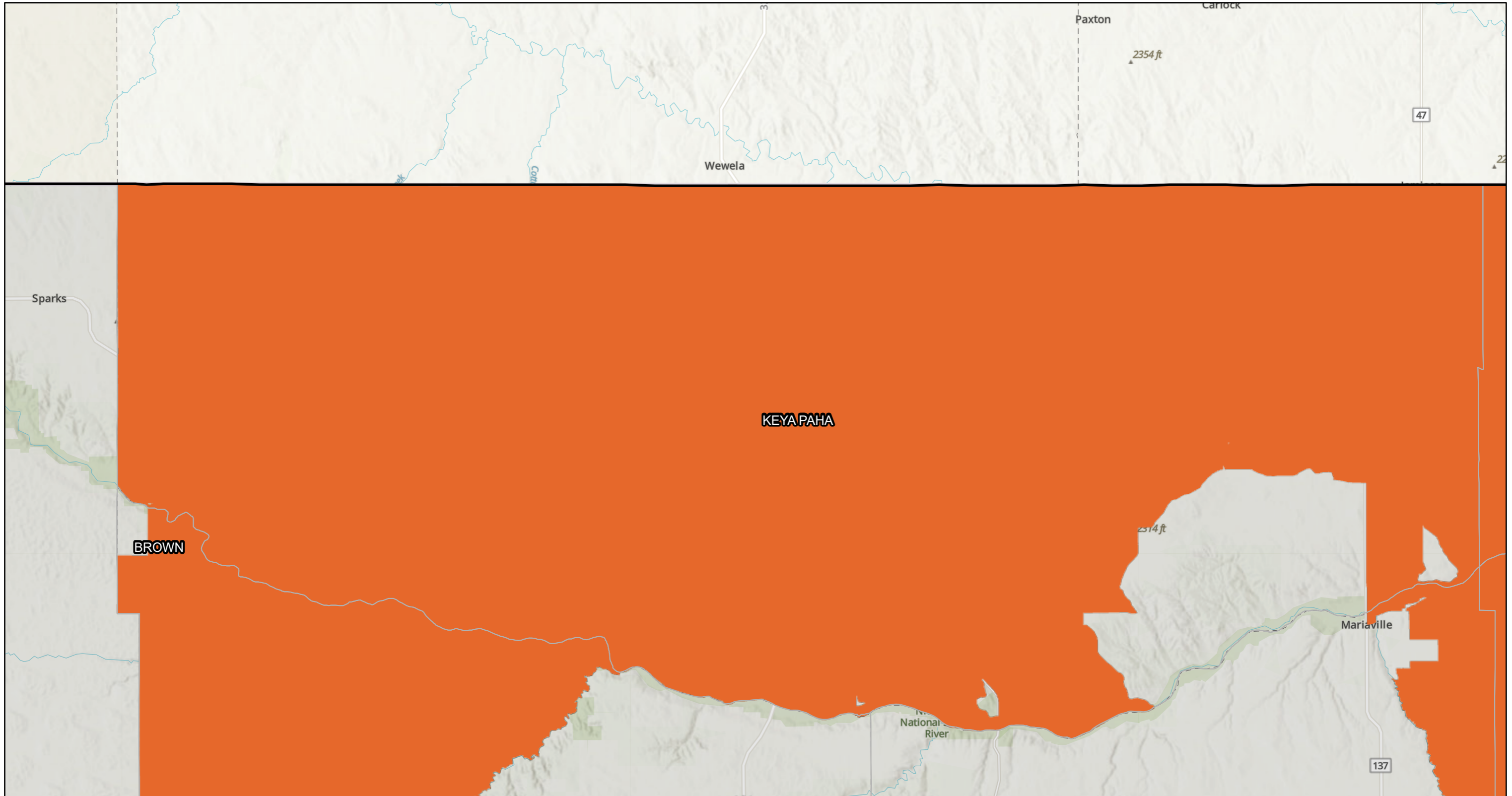
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Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS

Speed Tier: 100/20 | Keya Paha County

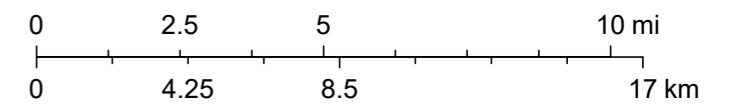


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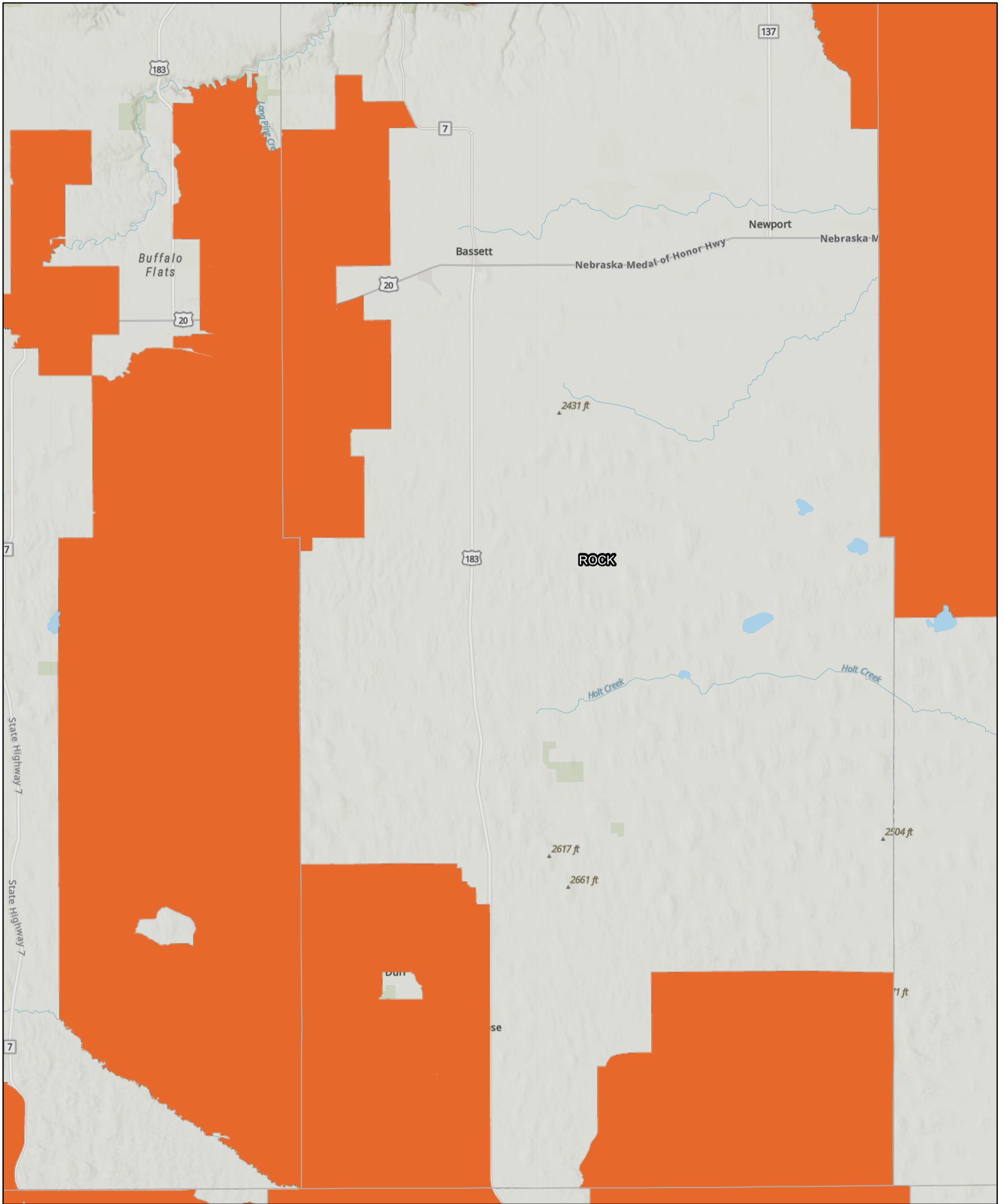
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Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

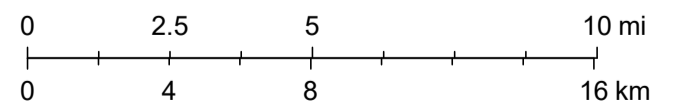
Speed Tier: 100/20 | Rock County



5/26/2023, 11:15:32 AM

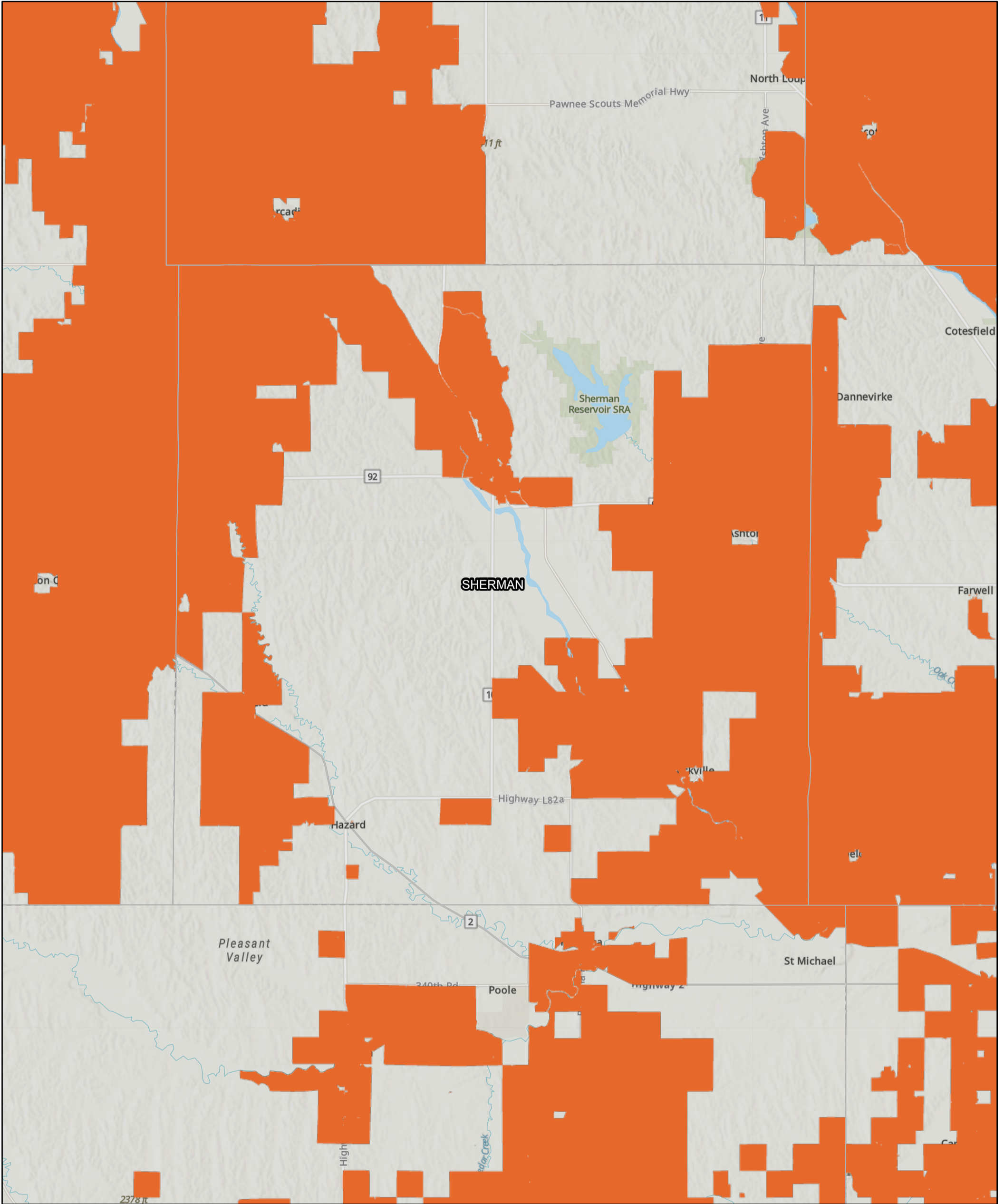
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1:288,895



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

Speed Tier: 100/20 | Sherman County

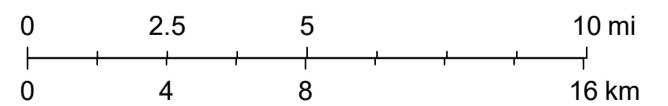


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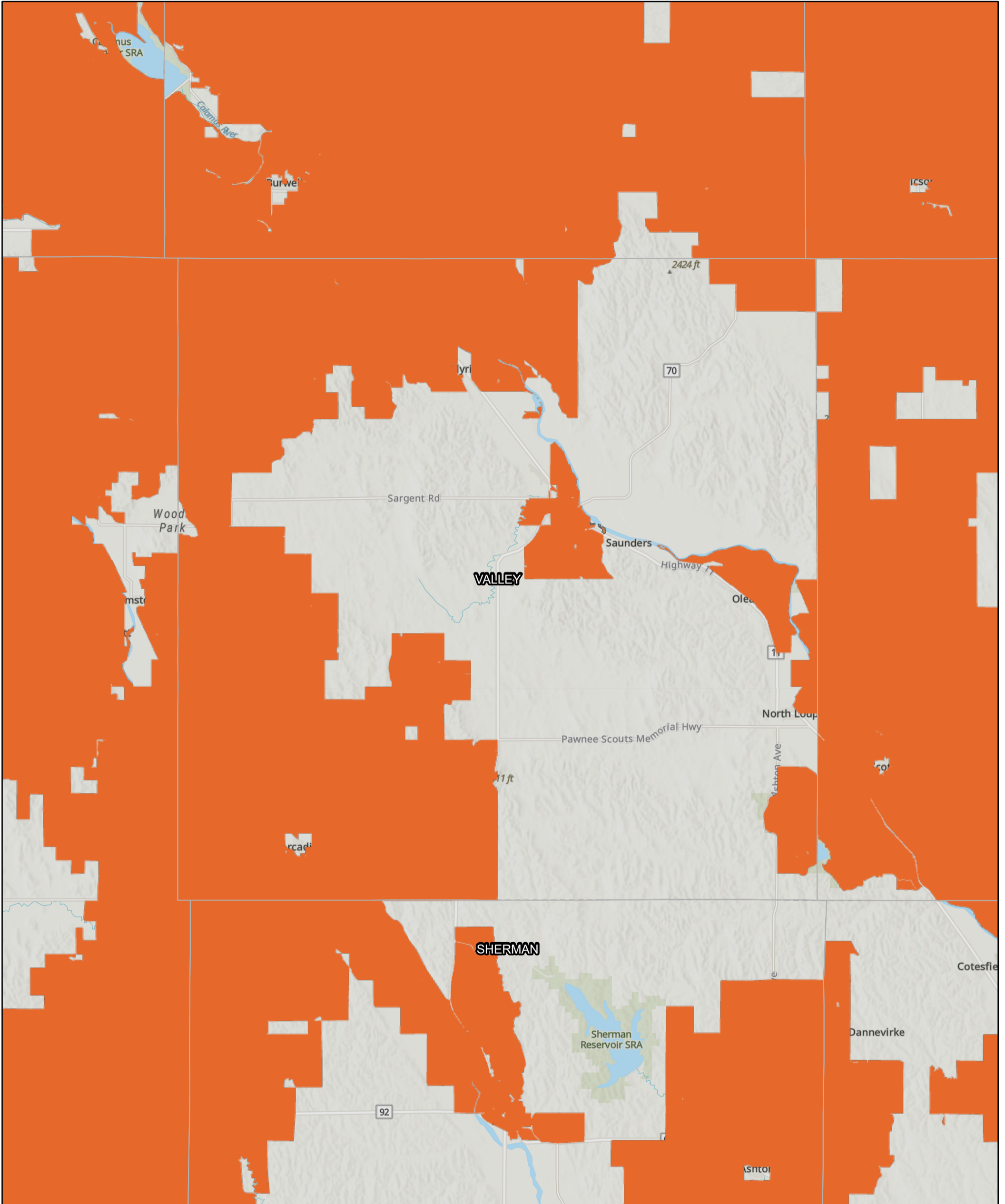
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Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

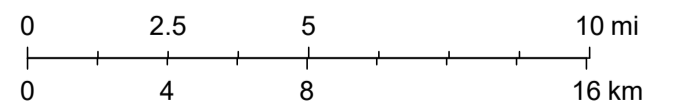
Speed Tier: 100/20 | Valley County



5/26/2023, 10:51:52 AM

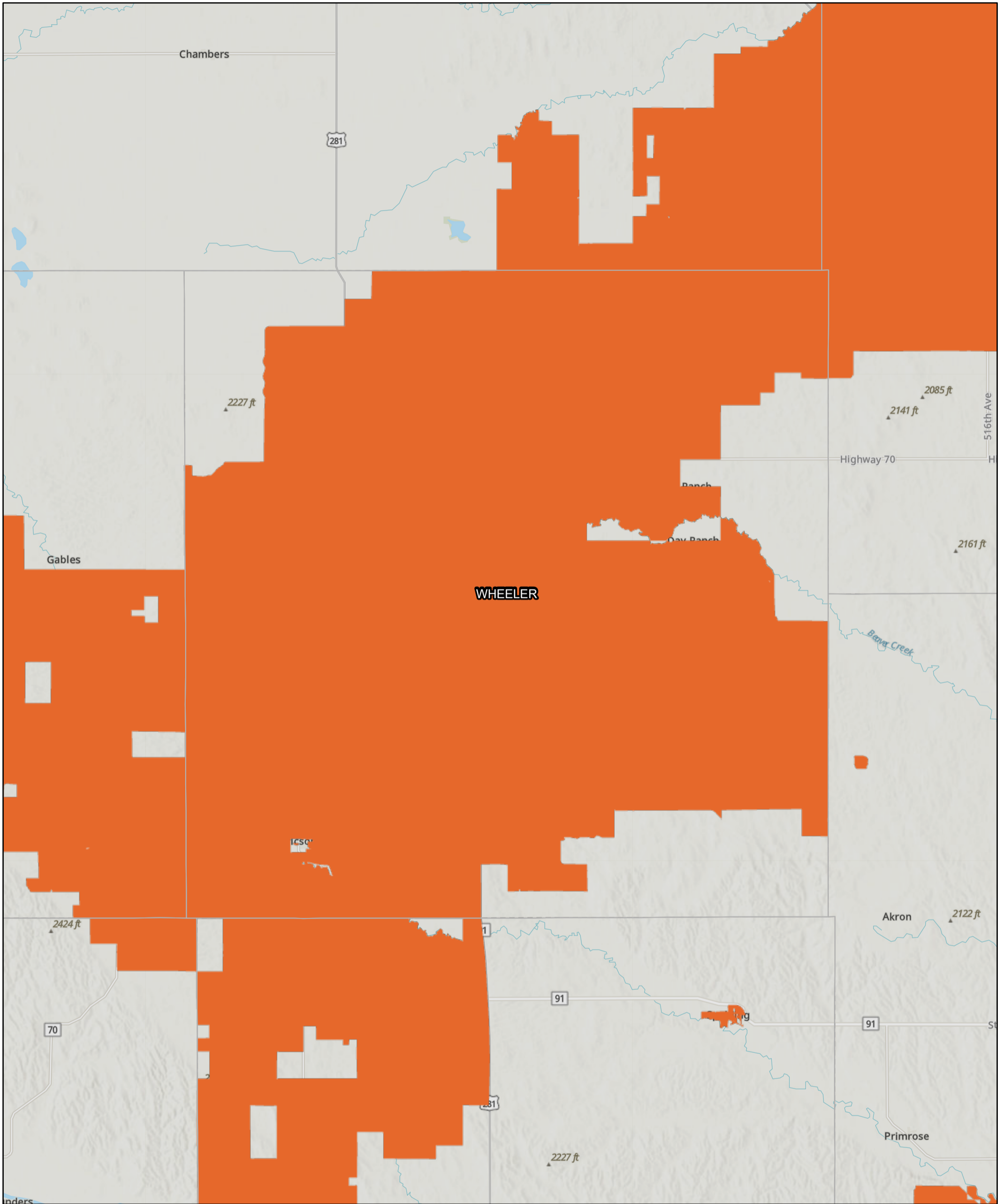
- FCC_477_Blocks
- NUSF131 Reverse Auction - Awarded Area
- 100 Mbps DL / 20 Mbps UL

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Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

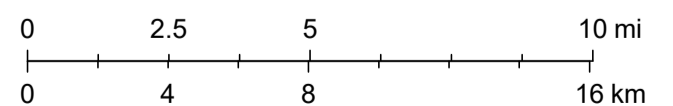
Speed Tier: 100/20 | Wheeler County



5/26/2023, 10:39:48 AM

FCC_477_Blocks
100 Mbps DL / 20 Mbps UL

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Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

Resources

The data and information relied upon to identify and inventory digital equity assets within the Central Nebraska Region include the following resources:

- U.S. Census Bureau <https://data.census.gov>
- Nebraska Information Technology Commission <http://nitc.nebraska.gov>
- Nebraska Digital Equity Benchmark Data, January 17, 2023
https://nitc.nebraska.gov/digital_equity/Benchmarkdata.pdf
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Broadband Map Database
<https://www.fcc.gov/BroadbandData>
- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services <https://dhhs.ne.gov>
- Nebraska Education Service Units <https://www.education.ne.gov/comm/esu-district-resources>
- Nebraska Broadband Speed Test Results (2021), Nebraska Regional Official's Council.
<https://www.sendd.org/broadband>
- Nebraska Public Service Commission's Broadband Infrastructure Database
<https://www.nebraskamap.gov/datasets/nebraska-broadband-mapping-project>
- Nebraska Education Service Units <https://www.education.ne.gov/comm/esu-district-resources>
- Education SuperHighway ACP Enrollment Dashboard, County ACP enrollment estimates Oliver Borchers-Williams, SENDD, American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates Tables B28002, B28001, S 2802 and B 28004
- Meetings and conversations with representatives of:

Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services for the Western Region and Ainsworth

Nebraska Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) & Aging & Disability Resources Centers (ADRCs), Northeast and South Central Regional Offices

League of Human Dignity Waiver Office, Kearney and Norfolk Regional Offices

Regional City and Village Clerks

County Sheriff's Departments to include, Brown, Cherry, Custer, Holt, Rock and Valley

Regional County Hospitals, to include Brown, Custer, Cherry, Holt, Rock, Valley

Regional Community Colleges, Central, Mid Plains and Northeast

Veterans Service Officer for Brown, Keya Paha and Rock

Precision Agriculture Representative

Regional Digital Device Vendors

Regional Tech Support Companies

- One on one phone surveys with representatives of each library, senior center, community center identified within the Central Nebraska Region
- Central Nebraska Regional Broadband Committee Members – Data Gathering Work Sessions
- Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) – Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) Public Outreach Listening Sessions

Appendix b Social Media Post Schedule

| Month | Week | Theme |
|----------|------|-----------------------------------|
| January | 1 | Tech Tip Tuesday |
| | 2 | Telehealth/Telecare Opportunities |
| | 3 | Affordability Program |
| | 4 | Website Accessibility How – To |
| | 5 | Tech Tip Tuesday |
| February | 1 | Tech Tip Tuesday |
| | 2 | Accessibility Programs |
| | 3 | Affordability Program |
| | 4 | Website Accessibility How – To |
| March | 1 | Tech Tip Tuesday |
| | 2 | Devices |
| | 3 | Affordability Program |
| | 4 | Website Accessibility How – To |
| April | 1 | Tech Tip Tuesday |
| | 2 | Telehealth/Telecare Opportunities |
| | 3 | Affordability Program |
| | 4 | Website Accessibility How – To |
| | 5 | Tech Tip Tuesday |

| | | |
|--------|---|-----------------------------------|
| May | 1 | Tech Tip Tuesday |
| | 2 | Accessibility Programs |
| | 3 | Affordability Program |
| | 4 | Website Accessibility How – To |
| June | 1 | Tech Tip Tuesday |
| | 2 | Devices |
| | 3 | Affordability Program |
| | 4 | Website Accessibility How – To |
| July | 1 | Tech Tip Tuesday |
| | 2 | Telehealth/Telecare Opportunities |
| | 3 | Affordability Program |
| | 4 | Website Accessibility How – To |
| | 5 | Tech Tip Tuesday |
| August | 1 | Tech Tip Tuesday |
| | 2 | Accessibility Programs |
| | 3 | Affordability Program |
| | 4 | Website Accessibility How – To |

| | | |
|-----------|---|--------------------------------|
| September | 1 | Tech Tip Tuesday |
| | 2 | Devices |
| | 3 | Affordability Program |
| | 4 | Website Accessibility How – To |

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------------------------------|
| October | 1 | Tech Tip Tuesday |
| | 2 | Telehealth/Telecare Opportunities |
| | 3 | Affordability Program |
| | 4 | Website Accessibility How – To |
| | 5 | Tech Tip Tuesday |
| November | 1 | Tech Tip Tuesday |
| | 2 | Accessibility Programs |
| | 3 | Affordability Program |
| | 4 | Website Accessibility How – To |
| December | 1 | Tech Tip Tuesday |
| | 2 | Devices |
| | 3 | Affordability Program |
| | 4 | Website Accessibility How – To |
| | 5 | Tech Tip Tuesday |