

**Resolution #26- 03**

**Adoption of Black Mountain Communication Mitigation**

**WHEREAS**, The Caribou County Board of Commissioners supports the Caribou County Sheriff's Office Community Project Funding request for \$525,000 to install a 700MHz P25 trunking repeater system to the Black Mountain Site.

**WHEREAS**, Caribou County adopted use of the state wide P25 radio system and has worked toward as expansion and implication of the system in Caribou County.

**WHEREAS**, Caribou County has identified a lack of coverage in the north and east areas of the county on the state-wide radio system.

**WHEREAS**, local funding is unable to provide the funding required to purchase and install a 700MHz P25 trunking repeater system without funding support.

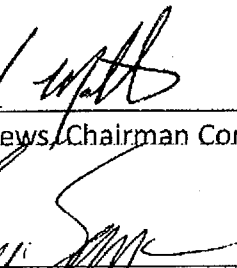
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Caribou County,**

Adopts the amendment #16 to the Caribou County All Hazzard Mitigation Plan stated as,

<b>Caribou County Mitigation Action Implementation #16</b>	
<b>Action Description:</b> Add a 700MHz P25 Repeater site on Black Mountain and/or other proposed sites to improve radio coverage throughout the county.	
<b>Risk(s) Addressed:</b> Public Safety Communications	
<b>Cost Estimate:</b> \$525,000	
<b>Potential Funding Sources:</b> Jurisdictional Budgets, Grants, County and State Partnerships	
<b>Responsible Party:</b> Sheriff's Office	
<b>Estimated Timeline for Completion:</b> 1 to 5 years	<b>Prioritizing Score:</b> 8
<b>Integration and Alignment Opportunity:</b> Agency, County, and State Partnerships	


ADOPTED by the Caribou County Board of Commissioners on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Mathews, Chairman Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryce Somsen, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marty McCullough, Commissioner

**Attest:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tisha Young, Chief Deputy Clerk

*Agriculture - Industry - Recreation*

PHOSPHATE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

# *Caribou County, Idaho*

**Emergency Services ● Public Safety**

40 West Center, P.O. Box 775  
SODA SPRINGS, IDAHO 83276

Phone (208) 547-2583  
FAX (208) 547-2593

1864 - HOME OF IDAHO'S OLDEST AND YOUNGEST COUNTY SEAT - 1919

---

2/28/26

Representative Mike Simpson  
US House of Representatives

Dear Representative Simpson,

We are writing this in support of Caribou County Sheriff's Office CPF request for \$525,000 to add a 700 MHz Repeater Site on Black Mountain to expand coverage into the frontier areas of Idaho on the Statewide Radio system.

Caribou County and other Counties, State, and Federal Law Enforcement response throughout Caribou County and into parts of Bingham and Bonneville counties in this area of no coverage. The area of the county north of Soda Springs is vast but largely unpopulated, extending to Wyoming and Idaho Falls. But these areas have a large number of Recreation, Travel, and Mining operations. Currently, in this area, we are one of the preferred routes on Highway 34 to Yellowstone and Jackson Hole. There are 3 active phosphorus mines and multiple reclaim and exploration projects operating 24/7 with hundreds to thousands of workers in these rural areas at the time. Also, these areas are vast public lands under state ownership, such as the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Blackfoot Reservoir, and Grays Lake Refuge.

Currently, these areas have limited coverage on the Statewide 700MHz system that was adopted by the Law Enforcement agency in Caribou County in 2007 due to the expense of adding more sites in the county. Originally, during the system rollout, 2 sites were purchased by the county for Law Enforcement communications and placed in higher-populated areas of the county. Multiple attempts have been made to expand coverage in these more rural areas, but the limited funding available at the local level has prevented us from moving forward. Many different approaches to grants and shared funding have been explored, but no solutions have been found yet.

The only communication for available for Law Enforcement in these areas is limited to satellite phones and their aging previous system, which provides minimal coverage to the Caribou County Sheriff's Office deputies and other agencies if they have equipment outdated pre-

programmed equipment. Cell Service is also limited to everyone in this area along the 60 miles of HWY corridor. Service is only available on mountain tops and within a few miles of Wayan. If funded, this repeater project would vastly improve law enforcement communications, which are currently lacking or nonexistent for our sheriff's office and the other City, County, State, and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies operating in these areas.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Hobson', with a long, sweeping underline.

Eric Hobson  
Public Safety Director



**03/01/2026**

Representative Mike Simpson  
U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

RE: Executive Summary – Support for Black Mountain 700  
MHz Trunking Site

Dear Representative Simpson,

On behalf of Blackfoot Fire Department, we express strong support for federal funding to add a Motorola 700 MHz trunking radio site on Black Mountain, located near the Caribou, Bonneville, and Wyoming state line.

Radio coverage modeling shows this site would significantly improve State Radio System coverage into remote eastern Bingham County, including the Bone, Paradise, and Cow Camp areas, which currently lack reliable public safety communications. These coverage gaps present ongoing safety and operational challenges for law enforcement, fire, EMS, and search and rescue personnel operating in rugged, infrastructure-limited terrain.

The proposed site would directly enhance public safety by extending coverage into unserved areas, improving responder safety, and strengthening interoperability across county and state boundaries. Improved communications would support more effective response to wildfires, medical emergencies, search and rescue operations, and severe weather incidents.

For these reasons, Blackfoot Fire Department supports securing \$525,000 in federal funding for the Black Mountain site. This is a practical, cost-effective investment that will measurably improve emergency communications and public safety outcomes for rural Idaho communities.

Sincerely,

*Bryon Howell*



Chief Bryon Howell  
[bhowell@cityofblackfoot.org](mailto:bhowell@cityofblackfoot.org)  
(208) 785-8605 (208) 680-1387 Cell  
(208) 785-8604 Fax [www.Cityofblackfoot.org](http://www.Cityofblackfoot.org)

Blackfoot Fire Department  
225 N Ash St  
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221