

Poudre Canyon Five Sites Option Summary

Attachments:

1. Tower Location #1 Mishiwaka site overview
2. Tower Location #2 Indian Meadows site overview
3. Tower Location #3 Prohibition Mountain site overview
4. Tower Location #4 Spencer Heights site overview
5. Tower Location #5 Long Draw site overview

In the Canyon Lakes District Ranger's letter of April 2007 the following question was asked: "Are there other locations, or sets of locations, where less intrusive facilities, or a network of less intrusive facilities, could be placed and still accomplish the desired 800 Mhz improvements? For example, would a series of facilities (repeaters, etc.) along the length of Hwy 14 in the Canyon provide the same improvement in coverage?" In response to this question Larimer County Technical Communications staff used computer modeling to identify a series of 5 locations in the Poudre canyon which provided adequate radio coverage improvement. Each site was modeled with standard 800 Mhz transmitters and antennas mounted on an 80' tall tower. This series of sites would provide good coverage improvement for the Poudre canyon and the Red Feather/Crystal Lakes areas, but little improvement in the Deadman area. This option would not allow decommissioning of the existing Deadman Tower facility.

In 2010 Larimer County sought and was granted a special use permit to conduct engineering studies related to the proposed Middle Bald Mountain facility. In conjunction with this effort the USFS asked that Larimer County evaluate the construction impacts of the 5 sites in the Poudre Canyon. The Larimer County Engineering Department through their contractor AVI conducted evaluations of the proposed locations based on available topographic, land use and ownership information. The results of these evaluations are attachments 1 through 5.

A special condition noted on all attachments is that the USFS has designated an inventoried roadless area on both sides of the Poudre canyon for nearly its entire length. This roadless area is outside of a 600 foot wide corridor (300' each side of roadway centerline).

Tower Location #1 Mishiwaka

Tower Location #1 would be located on high ground slightly south east of Mishiwaka. This site is located on private property. This facility would require an access road 1591 feet long with a grade of 12.4%. Total elevation gain from Hwy 14 would be 197 feet. Power and telecommunications service would follow the access road. Although this site is on private property it falls within the boundaries of the inventoried roadless area.

Tower Location #2 Indian Meadows

Tower Location #2 would be located about 150 feet south of Hwy 14, adjacent to the Cache LaPoudre river. This site is located on private property. There are existing structures on this parcel. Minimal access road construction would be required here. Power and telecommunications service are also close to this site. This site falls within the 600' corridor where road construction is permitted.

Tower Location #3 Prohibition Mountain

Tower Location #3 would be located 1 mile north of Rustic. The site is located on USFS property but is outside the inventoried roadless area. Access would require construction of 4430 feet of road. The access road would connect to USFS Road 171A, which in turn connects to LCR 69. The access road would have a grade of 9.9% with a total elevation gain from LCR 69 of 440 feet. Power and telecommunications service would come up from Rustic along LCR 69, USFS Road 171A and the new access road.

Tower Location #4 Spencer Heights

Tower Location #4 would be located about 200 feet south of Hwy 14. This site is located on private property. There are no existing structures or roadways on this parcel. About 200 feet of access road construction would be required here. Power and telecommunications service are also close to this site and would follow the access road. This site falls within the 600' corridor where road construction is permitted.

Tower Location #5 Long Draw

Tower Location #5 would be located 2000 feet east of Hwy 14. The site is located on USFS property and is inside the inventoried roadless area. Access would require construction of 9105 feet of road. The access road would connect Hwy 14. The access road would have a grade of 10% with a total elevation gain from Hwy 14 of 915 feet. The closest power and telecommunications service would come from about 4 miles east along Hwy 14, and then follow the new access road to the site.