

YurokConnect is a division of the Yurok Public Utility District administered by the Information Services Department and overseen by the Yurok Public Utility District Board of Directors. Formed in 2010, the unit functions to construct and operate a multi-functional wireless network system covering the entire Yurok reservation. This system is becoming the primary communications backbone for the Tribal Government, public safety systems, and the provision of broadband Internet services to residences and businesses at competitive rates.

Benefits of reliable wireless Internet service for subscribers include:

- Access to continuing and advanced education via the web interfaces of thousands of schools world-wide, including College of the Redwoods and Humboldt State University.
- Access to shopping web sites and ability to purchase products with pricing and availability generally unmatched anywhere else. Other than mini-marts, there is no retail available for up to 60 miles from parts of the Reservation.
- “Surfing” the web for information, entertainment, and social interaction.
- Alternative communication possibilities through third party providers such as Skype, Vonage, or Magic Jack. (names and services trademarks of their respective owners)
- Access to email services, “cloud computing” services, online data backup services, audio and video streaming services, both free and fee-based.
- Minimized intrusion on the land, including towers installed in locations selected both for functionality and “virtual invisibility” from ceremonial grounds.

Where we operate:

- The lay of the land- (Rugged, mountainous)... There is virtually no other economical and reliable Internet access on the Reservation. Remote and sparsely populated, no commercial operation could expect a return on the investment required to build an Internet access system here.

YurokConnect currently employs three staff members to operate the system and provide service to the customers of the system.