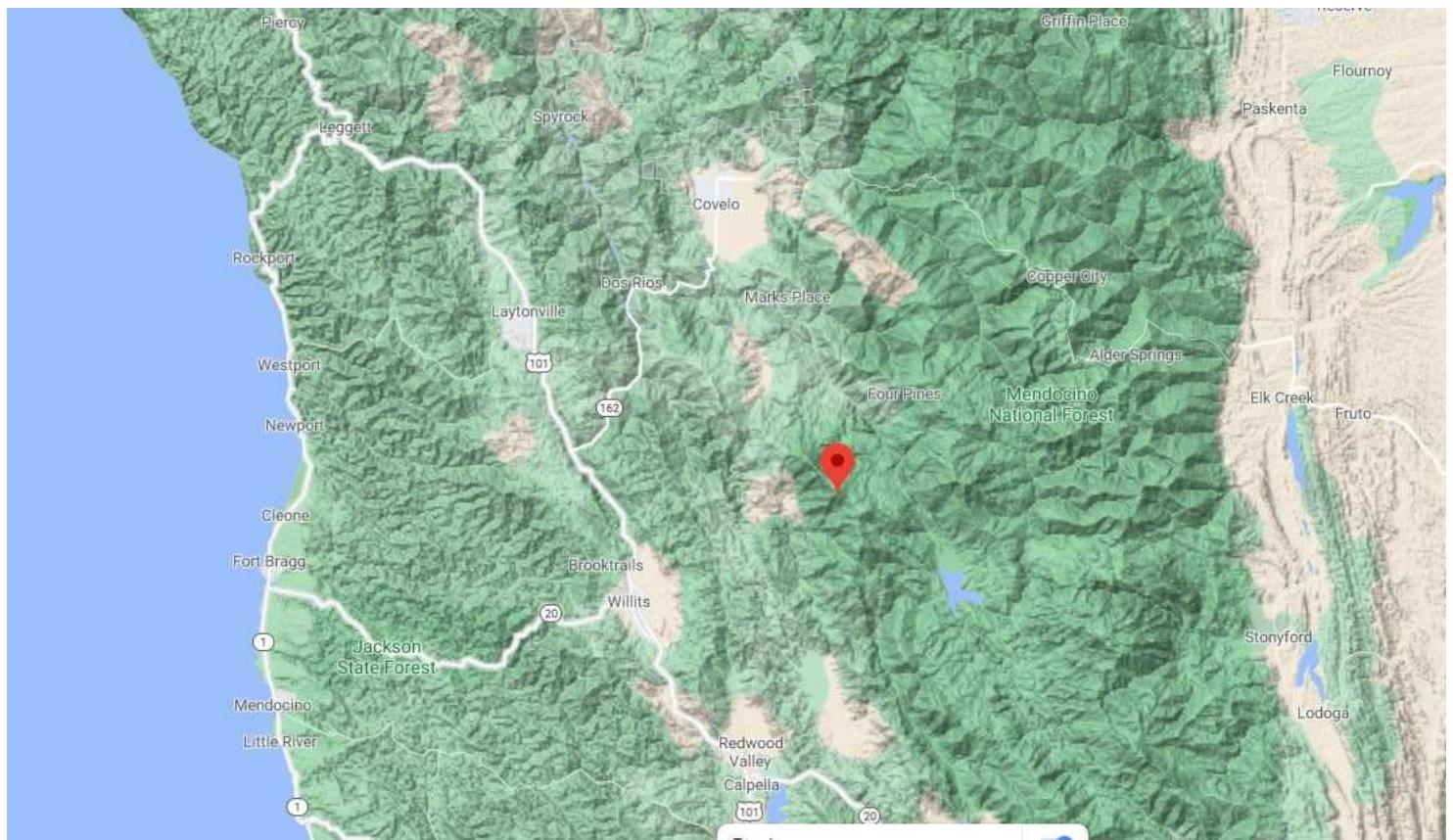


## New communications tower in the Mendocino National Forest will improve rural internet service



The availability and quality of internet service for Covelo, Laytonville, Willits, and Ukiah will be improved due to the new tower facility.

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Posted By: Lorraine Dechter

**MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST, Calif.** - A new lease for communication use of the Big Signal Peak communication site in the Mendocino National Forest was issued on Dec. 24, 2020.

An additional wireless communications tower will be installed on Big Signal Peak which is located approximately 18 miles southwest of Willits, adjacent to the Sanhedrin Wilderness.

According to a spokesperson for the Mendocino National Forest, the telecommunication services provided at the site will contribute to the safety of surrounding communities.

The existing facility on Big Signal Peak is on National Forest land but is owned by the Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services. The facility provided critical communications for law enforcement, medical personnel, and firefighters.

4/1/2021

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According to the Forest Service, the operation will improve internet services for families and schools, but in addition, will improve internet services for an emergency command center or Incident Command posts that are established in these communities in response to incidents.

According to the spokesperson the Mendocino National Forest worked in collaboration with Mendocino County Emergency Services to find a solution that would provide the communication site without any interference with existing county emergency operations and maintenance.

Mendocino Forest Supervisor Ann Carlson said, "Issuing this lease will bring important internet services to rural communities like Covelo and Laytonville during a time when telework and distance learning for families is ever more important due to the Covid-19 pandemic."

The implementation of the project can start immediately, said Carlson on Thursday.

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