

# Bringing High Speed Internet to Fort Ross

Fort Ross Conservancy (FRC) is seeking high speed internet at Fort Ross State Historic Park. Currently there is minimal to no cell coverage along Sonoma Coast's Highway One in California. We need high speed internet so that we can:

- Stay relevant to new visitors! We need to provide free public access WIFI in the Fort Ross Visitor Center and surrounding areas to encourage our visitors to talk up the park via social media;
- Have sufficient bandwidth in the Visitor Center to allow Fort Ross Conservancy to hold video conferencing for such purposes as:
  - Educational seminars and exchanges—for example, virtual exchanges and distance learning with Russian, Alaskan students.
  - To hold board meetings with board members unable to physically attend at Fort Ross (up to 8 people online simultaneously using Google chat, Skype, or other tools).
  - To provide WIFI at Fort Compound for the public. This will also allow us to interact with our friends and fans around the world within the historic compound itself, and will allow us to hold symbolic events such as the “bell bridge” with school children in Vologda region of Russia.



We do not need high definition, but we do need sufficient bandwidth to allow for a consistent and reliable communication.

## Current status

FRC pays for DSL at our Visitor Center but bandwidth is not enough to share with the public; also DSL's asymmetrical nature is not sufficient for upstream video conferencing. Internally we use DSL to 1) run our office, allowing 3+ staff people to work both locally and remotely (Google docs, Dropbox, etc.), and 2) process credit card sales from the bookshop. When we share the bandwidth with the public our operations process bogs down.

California State Parks has a T1 line that runs from Highway One to the Visitor Center and down to the fort compound. However, because this line connects to Sacramento's State Park's secure system, no one (including FRC) is allowed to tap into it. However, we may be able to run new wire inside their existing underground conduit that is already connecting the locations for which we are seeking high speed internet.

Any potential solution will need to address:

- installation costs and details (to ensure we install it following state parks guidelines)
- monthly cost
- upload and download rates.

## Donor Acknowledgment

If we receive grant funding to install high speed internet, we will acknowledge the sponsor's donation on the landing page that each visitor will see, and on [www.fortross.org](http://www.fortross.org). For more information, or to learn more about our programming, please call Sarah Sweedler, Fort Ross Conservancy CEO, at 415/203-7393.