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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **Sacred Wind to Spend \$13.8 Million to Improve Internet Facilities**

**To support a growing demand for Broadband, Sacred Wind will apply a \$13.8 Million USDA-RUS Loan to Strengthen its Broadband Infrastructure on or near Navajo Lands**

Yatahey, NM, March 21, 2016 – Sacred Wind Communications, Inc., (Sacred Wind”) a New Mexican telecommunications company, received a \$13.8 million dollar loan from a USDA-RUS program aimed to expand and improve communications facilities in unserved or underserved native communities. The USDA-RUS and members of New Mexico’s Congressional Delegation announced the loan during an award ceremony on Thursday, March 17, 2016.

Sacred Wind acquired much of its old copper legacy facilities in 2006 from Qwest. Sacred Wind has continuously upgraded or replaced these antiquated facilities over the past ten years. With the additional loan funds, Sacred Wind will construct a new fiber optic middle mile network that will increase broadband speeds for its customers and connect Tohajiilee, its farthest community, with its Yatahey headquarters. This will increase reliability and provide improved service to all of its customers.

The \$13.8 million will not only improve and expand a communication network for Sacred Wind's customers, but will bring an influx of money and construction jobs to New Mexico. Increased Internet capabilities create increased educational and health care opportunities as well.

Sacred Wind's CEO John Badal states: "Sacred Wind will provide customers on and off the Navajo reservation with the highest quality telecommunications services, taking advantage of the most appropriate technologies. What we at Sacred Wind hope to achieve is to provide every person in our service territory with high quality, reliable telecommunications services. We acknowledge that what we may be contributing to the underserved areas of our society is opportunity ... and perhaps a bit more stability."

### **About Sacred Wind Communications**

Sacred Wind Communications is a privately owned New Mexico-based company, dedicated to improving telecommunications services to rural areas within New Mexico. Established in 2006 by John Badal and Walter Maki of New Mexico and Gil Arviso of St. Michaels, Arizona to provide basic telephone and advanced Internet services to mainly the thousands of underserved homes on Navajo lands, Sacred Wind also offers advanced services to remote non-Navajo communities, governmental entities and business in its territory. Sacred Wind was voted "**The Most Inspiring Small Business in America**" in 2009 in a national American Express/NBC Universal *Shine A Light* contest. Sacred Wind will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year of operations in December 2016. For more information, please visit [www.sacredwindcommunications.com](http://www.sacredwindcommunications.com).