



What Met Rec is Doing to Improve Television Services

April, 2020

Over the past three months you've heard from the Gunnison County Metropolitan Recreation District (Met Rec) about why we were formed, how our mission has evolved, Met Rec's successful de-brucing, and what we're doing to support recreation. This month, to conclude our four-part series, we want to share what we're doing to improve television services.

The planning for strategic improvements of the translator system could not come at a better time. Following an overhaul of the entire system approximately ten years ago as part of the conversion to digital, much of the television system equipment is nearing its end of life. Even the towers require replacement to meet safety standards and ensure reliable operations.

To guide these upgrades Met Rec developed a plan that focuses on improving safety, increasing reliability, in part through enhanced environmental controls, making improvements within the context of long-term needs, and defining the circumstances under which Met Rec will expand service.

As we have started to rebuild the system we have begun with the hub in Gunnison. Improvements here increase reliability for the largest number of viewers. We have replaced all hub satellite receivers with professional grade receivers, improving signal strength and system reliability. The wiring has been completely re-done, organized, labeled and documented, resulting in increased durability. Additionally, the Gunnison satellite dishes have been overhauled or re-built to maximize signal strength, improving reception during weather events. New network equipment has been installed and reconfigured to enable technicians to remotely monitor, diagnose and reset equipment at remote sites. This will save the district money and reduce downtime of service. The computer that provides the over-the-air channel guide was replaced, as the old system was prone to freezing up and failing. We are carefully documenting the system to facilitate future maintenance and planning. It is always helpful when viewers report problems, and especially when we are making so many upgrades. If you are having any problems, please call Met Rec or submit observations online through our new website (www.gcmetrec.com).

Moving forward, Met Rec is committed to keeping the system on the air, enhancing the reliability of equipment and providing the best programming in an everchanging world.