

Coeur d'Alene Tribe wins license for radio station

Last week, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) gave the Coeur d'Alene Tribe approval to start a radio station broadcasting to 8,000 households in Benewah County and southern Kootenai County. Last fall, the Coeur d'Alenes were among 37 tribes that applied for FCC licenses to run noncommercial FM stations. The tribe has a three-year window to get the station on the air.

The tribe will broadcast on KWIS FM 88.3. The station's name means "to be called" in the Snchitsu'umshtsn language. The station will feature tribal news, Native music and other culturally-relevant content. It will give the 1,900 Tribal members, living in the broadcast area, access to timely news that affects them, such as local winter road conditions and wild fire risks during seasonal huckleberry harvesting times, on the 345,000 acre Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe will join thirty-three of the nation's federally recognized tribes in operating radio stations.