

Radio View shed Tool – Google Earth Pro – For project planning:

1) Zoom to area of project and put a placemark where you want to put your radio antenna. Click add placemark and a dialog box will pop up, and target will be blinking. Use mouse to move target to where you want it. Click on Altitude tab in dialog box and change “clamped to ground” to “relative to ground”. Type in something more than 2m above ground for analysis to work. Click okay.

2) Right click on placemark, click on “show viewshed”. Should process within a few seconds and show areas in green where you will likely get radio reception from that place at that antenna height.

3) You can’t change this with more powerful radio. You can raise the height of antenna and see greater coverage. Simply right click placemark, go to properties, the dialog box will open again. Go back to Altitude tab and raise height above ground and click okay. You will not see any change yet; right click placemark again and once again click “show viewshed” and you will now see revised viewshed.

You might of course see areas of green coverage that are beyond the range of your radio. Rule of thumb 1 watt per mile (use the ruler to measure to a point of interest with the green if necessary). But thick forest in the green areas may reduce coverage from what is shown. I have found it to be a relatively accurate assessment of what to expect, but your mileage may vary.

4) Another free viewshed application: <http://www.heywhatsthat.com/>