



2014 Performance Report

Archuleta County, Colorado

The Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado Inc. (Region 9), is a nonprofit, 501 (c) 6 public private partnership that promotes and coordinates economic and community development efforts throughout southwest Colorado. Region 9 covers five counties, ten municipalities and the two Native American Tribes in Colorado (Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute).

Incorporated in 1989, Region 9 is led by a 26-member board of directors; 17 from local governmental jurisdictions and 9 from the private sector.

- 2014 Board Representatives**
Todd Starr – Archuleta County
Clint Alley – Pagosa Springs
Mary Jo Coulehan – At large
Derek Farrah – Loan Committee
Livia Lynch – Loan Committee

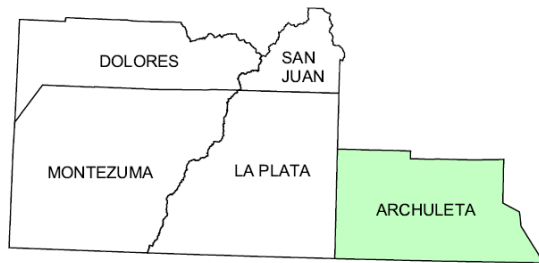


Region 9 programs include business loans, producing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), Southwest Enterprise Zone administration, and working with the Four Corners Film Office.

In addition to these programs Region 9 also provides social and economic data, technical assistance and research for local and regional projects.

Region 9 Staff

Ed Morlan – Executive Director
 Laura Lewis Marchino – Assistant Director
 Terry Blair-Burton – Loan Servicing
 Stephani Burditt – Office Manager
 Jenny Stollar – Business Loan Officer
 Shirley Jones – Accountant
 Elizabeth Marsh – SCAPE Director



Archuleta County Quick Facts

Land Area: 1,355 sq. miles
 2013 Population: 12,168
 2013 Total Employment: 5,833
 Top Employment Sector (# of jobs): Services
 Top Employment Sector (income): Services
 2013 Per Capita Income: \$35,263

Technical Assistance – Region 9 continues to provide technical assistance by participating in community meetings, writing and administering grants, and advocating for Archuleta County at regional, state and federal levels. Below are some specific examples:

- Working with the Town, County and Pagosa Verde to facilitate exploration and utilization of geothermal resources. Assisted with CDBG feasibility grant funds.
- Provides staff assistance and financial support to rebuild the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation, a county-level economic development organization.
- Provides support for regional Four Corners Film Office increasing production opportunities in Archuleta County. 2014 productions included: Remington Rifles winter catalog shoot; Myth Hunters seeking public lands permit by Treasure Falls; Peter Rowan film debuted in Pagosa Springs, and photographing of Chimney Rock for National Geographic. Also provided businesses to supply Hateful Eight movie production office in Telluride (office supplies, water and coffee service); and made numerous referrals of production professionals to hateful Eight Production staff.
- Assisted Parelli Natural-Horse-Man-Ship in their final year to receive job creation incentive money from the State to locate their world corporate headquarters in Pagosa Springs.
- Skywerks chosen as a 2014 Colorado Company to Watch and nominated Voormi for 2015.
- Provide bookkeeping services for SW Travel Region and assisting them to find another fiscal agent.
- Closely partnering and providing financial assistance and staffing support to the SW Small Business Development Center.
- Advocating and supporting Pagosa Springs Chamber during their transition.
- Coordinating Sector Partnership in Energy.
- Explored development of an EB-5 Regional Center but decided to work with existing Center that can serve our region.
- Coordinating Colorado Blueprint efforts and updates in region.
- Exploring Community Development Finance Institute (CDFI) small loan fund designation.
- Receiving input regarding economic development direction from “Transition Team”.
- Provided information on CDBG infrastructure funding to Forest Health Timber Projects.
- Produced Implan model for Pagosa Springs Recreation Center.
- Involved the State Office of Economic Development regarding incentives for county based businesses including area pharmacy and Voormi.

- Region 9 transitioned all bookkeeping and the administration of the Southwest Transportation Planning Region to the Southwest Colorado Council of Governments.
- Worked with the SW Council of Governments to complete \$4M telecommunication development grant from DoLA for the Southwest Colorado Access Network (SCAN).
- Assisted with High School Regional Career Fair in La Plata, Archuleta and San Juan Counties.

Regional Initiatives – Region 9 works across the region which includes several efforts that have the potential to positively impact your county. Below is a list of some of those initiatives.

- Supporting Tracks Across Borders Byway (TABB) - The designation of this byway we believe will bring additional visitors to the area, strengthening the service sector which includes the purchase of food, lodging, supplies, fuel and amenities.
- The Southwest Colorado Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs (SCAPE) offers in-depth mentoring, office space and an equity investment to help new ventures enter markets and raise capital. Since beginning in 2013, the program has graduated 6 companies that have raised \$485,000 in capital to grow their businesses. The majority of those funds raised are spent in locally, with web design, marketing, technology or production needs, accounting and small business services. SCAPE was honored by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) with an Innovation Award for 2014.

Enterprise Zones – All of Archuleta County is a designated an Enterprise Zone through 2015 with the exception of the Southern Ute Reservation lands, which have been excluded following the wishes of the Southern Ute Tribal government. This program provides financial incentives to businesses to promote and encourage new job creation. A business (which includes a farm or mine) located within these boundaries may be eligible for EZ tax credits, including capital investment tax credits, job tax credits, research and development tax credits, and other credits and incentives. The boundaries will be changing in 2016, affecting sections of the county's eligibility.

From 1993 through December 2013, Archuleta County businesses claimed approximately **\$69,898,030** in eligible investments, resulting in **\$2,061,070** in certified tax credits, and created **1,183** jobs. The 2014 numbers show a gain of 68 jobs from a total number of 41 businesses claiming tax credits. The job gains are significantly higher (over 60) than the previous year, as are the tax credits going to \$103,550.

The currently designated Enterprise Zone Contribution Projects that benefit Archuleta County include:

- Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta
- Pagosa Springs CDC
- Dr. Mary Fisher Medical Foundation
- Archuleta County Education Center
- Geothermal Greenhouse Project

- Axis Health Systems
- Housing Solutions
- Four Corners Film Office
- Region 9/SBDC

This designation allows donor contributions of at least \$100 or more (depending on the project) to be eligible for a 25% state tax credit on cash donations, and a 12.5% state tax credit on in-kind donations. In 2014, projects have brought in cash and in-kind contributions valued at **\$4,738,730**.

Reports – A number of research reports have been prepared by Region 9 that include data specific to Archuleta County:

- 2015 – *Region 9 Report –includes Archuleta Data snapshot*
- 2014 – *Base Industry Analysis (including tourism industry)*

These reports, as well as other publications of interest, can be found at www.scan.org.

Loans – In the past 25 years, Region 9 has provided business loans totaling **\$1,557,379** (through June 2014) in Archuleta County and resulting in **90 jobs**. Current loans include:

• Allen’s Auto body	\$ 30,000
• Earthsense Herbals, LLC	\$ 6,500
• Enchanted Valley Farm, LLC	\$ 20,000
• In Balance Physical Therapy, LLC	\$ 67,500
• Pagosa Recovery Center	\$ 20,000
• Pagosa Verde	\$ 100,000
• Quantum Travel Group, Inc.	\$ 22,500
• Terry’s Ace Hardware	\$225,000
• Tony’s Taps	\$ 60,000
• High Horse Video	\$ 35,000
• Wolf Creek Rod Works, LLC	\$ 60,000

In the past year, CT Automotive has paid off and three new loans were made. Region 9 had 14 business inquiries from Archuleta businesses.