



2014 Performance Report Dolores 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 Dolores County representatives:

Dan Fernandez – Chair

Ernie Williams – Dolores County

Bryce Capron– Dove Creek

Gary Reid – Rico

Bryce Capron – Loan Committee

Erin Johnson – 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 technical assistance, social and economic data, and research for local and regional projects.

Region 9 Staff

Ed Morlan – Executive Director

Laura Lewis Marchino – Assistant Director

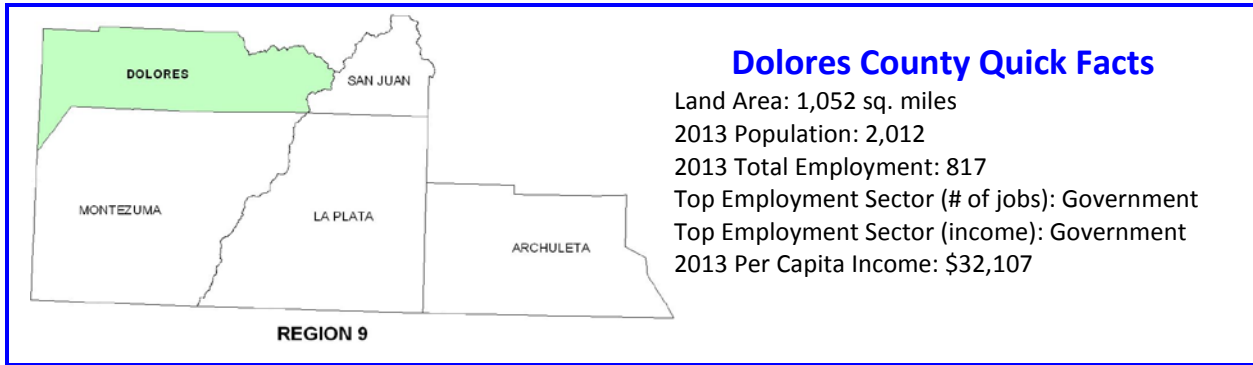
Stephani Burditt – Office Manager

Jenny Stollar – Business Loan Officer

Terry Blair-Burton – Loan Servicing

Shirley Jones – Accountant

Elizabeth Marsh – SCAPE Director



Technical Assistance – Region 9 continues to provide technical assistance by participating in community meetings, writing and administering grants, and advocating for Dolores County at regional, state and federal levels. Highlights include:

- Attend Dove Creek Development Corporation (DCDC) meetings, provide financial support and technical assistance.
- Held Business Resource meeting for business owners in Rico.
- Respond to inquiries from Rico residents regarding geothermal business possibilities.
- Provide support for regional Four Corners Film Office increasing film and television productions in region. Highlights include: interviews for StoryTrek in Dove Creek; photos of Rico as possible location for series in mining community; locations of wheat fields for Furlined Productions (worked with CSU Extension Office); high elevation photos; and provided recommendations for non-Telluride businesses to purchase items for Hateful Eight Production in Telluride.
- Advocates and supports Dove Creek Chamber
- Provides Growth Company Initiative services to emerging growth companies.
- Met with Air Products facility outside Dove Creek on workforce training opportunities.
- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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).

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 Dolores County is currently a designated Enhanced Rural Enterprise Zone (EREZ) through 2016. The EZ program provides financial incentives to businesses to promote and encourage new job creation. A business (which includes a farm or ranch) 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 credits are even higher for Enhanced Zones. From 1993 through 2013 Dolores County businesses claimed approximately **\$18,605,984** in eligible investments, resulting in **\$515,551** in certified tax credits, and creating **42** jobs. In 2014, the utilization of Enterprise Zone Tax credits was recorded by 22 businesses with \$23,304 in tax credits. There was a gain of 1 job in 2014 from businesses that utilized the program.

The Dove Creek Community Health Clinic was approved as an Enterprise Zone Contribution Project in 2001. This designation allows all donor contributions of \$100 or more for this project 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. Dolores County also benefits from regional EZ projects such as, 4CORE, Housing Solutions and Region 9/Four Corners Film Office, and Axis Health Systems.

Loans – In the past 25 years, Region 9 has provided business loans totaling **\$1,056,865** (through June 2014) which created or retained 41 jobs in Dolores County. Dolores had 5 business inquires come to Region 9 -- three from Dove Creek and two from Rico.

Current loans include:

- Herk's Café **\$25,000**
- Rico Masonic Temple **\$45,278**
- JT's Country Store **\$ 50,000**

Reports – Over the years a number of research reports have been prepared by Region 9, which includes data specific to Dolores County:

- 2015 – *Region 9 Report—Dolores County Snapshot*
- 2014 – *Base Industry data (including tourism)*

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