



2014 Performance Report La Plata 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 Representatives

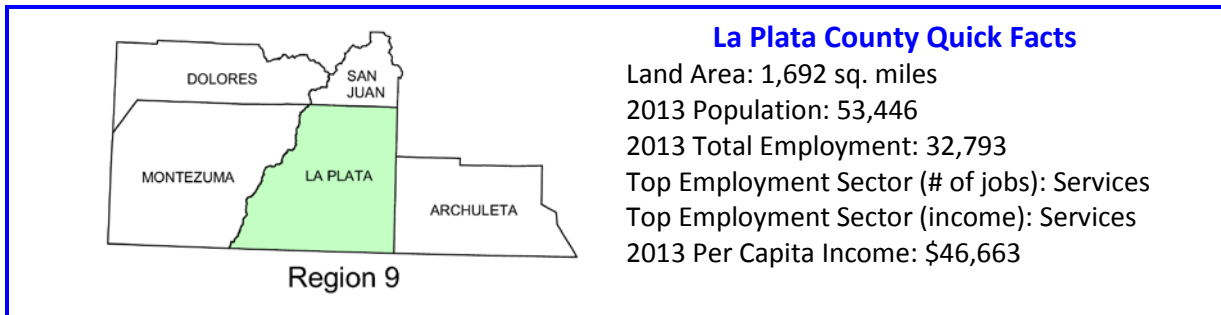
Bobby Lieb – La Plata County
Robert Kunkel/Ariel Wishkovsky– Durango
Lee San Miguel – Ignacio
Erin Dunavant/JJ Sanders – Bayfield
Norm Jones – At large
Laurie Sigillito – At large
Mark Prouty – At large
Robert Sonora, Ph.D. – At large
Pam Miles – Loan Committee Chair
Amy Long – Loan Committee
Gina Piccoli – Loan Committee
Terryl Peterson – Loan Committee
Rodney Class-Erickson – Southern Ute Tribe



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
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 provides technical assistance in La Plata County and area municipalities by participating in community meetings, writing and administering grants, and advocating for communities at regional, state and federal levels. Below are some specific examples at the county level, see specifics for individual communities on the following pages.

County-wide

- Provides support for regional Four Corners Film Office increasing film and television productions. Activity in the County included the following: Brew Dogs production; background footage requested for British Adventure series “Ben Fogel: New Lives in the Wild”; Railroad photos for Schenk Productions; regional photos for Colorado State Office; dog sled, snow shoe and cross country footage; Bounty Hunters on public lands; Tiny Houses; locations for Nike shoot; request ranch locations -- search for barn, rustic lodge; snow, high elevation; Centura Health commercial; 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.(Specific community activities are listed below.)
- Advocates for and supports La Plata Economic Development Alliance and area Chambers.
- Provides 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 Co. 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 already serve our region.
- Coordinating Colorado Blueprint efforts and updates in region.
- Exploring Community Development Finance Institute (CDFI) small loan fund designation.
- Provided information on CDBG infrastructure funding to Boys & Girls Club, and La Plata Economic Alliance.
- 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 Colorado Council of Governments to complete \$4M telecommunication development grant from DoLA for the Southwest Colorado Access Network (SCAN).
- Participating in Train Smoke Mitigation Task Force reconvening.
- Working with THRIVE group to provide livable wage data.

- 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 the funds raised are spent 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 – La Plata County does not meet distress criteria but certain census areas and agricultural lands in La Plata County are designated Enterprise Zones, with the exception of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. 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. From 1993 through 2013, La Plata County businesses claimed approximately **\$643 million** in eligible investments, resulting in **\$18,209,681** in certified tax credits, and reported **3.915** jobs. In 2014, 94 businesses claimed \$602,981 in tax credits and showed 365 jobs created. As economic conditions improve, eligible boundaries will change in 2016 with information on changes to be distributed in 2015.

La Plata County is home to numerous Enterprise Zone Contribution Projects. This State designation allows all donor contributions of at least \$100 or more (depending on the organization) 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, the projects have brought in cash and in-kind contributions valued at **\$4,738,730**. Mercy Health Foundation successfully went through the State's critical review for certifying over \$4million in tax credits.

Approved Enterprise Zone Contribution Projects that impact La Plata County include:

- 4CORE
- Axis Health Systems
- Durango Adult Education Center
- La Plata Homes Fund
- Boys & Girls Club of La Plata County
- Durango Discovery Museum
- Durango Arts Center

- Fort Lewis College Building Fund
- Habitat for Humanity of La Plata County
- La Plata Economic Development Alliance
- Mercy Health Foundation
- Hospice Residence – Mercy Health Foundation
- San Juan Symphony
- Southwest Conservation Corps
- Volunteers of America
- Housing Solutions
- Four Corners Film Office
- S. Ute Head start Infrastructure Project
- Region 9 /SBDC

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

- 2015 – *Region 9 Report –includes La Plata Data snapshot*
- 2014 – *Base Analysis (tourism included)*

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 loans to businesses totaling **\$12,148,514** and resulting in **816** jobs in La Plata County (through June 2014). There were sixteen inquiries to Region 9 from businesses located primarily in the unincorporated areas of the County. In the entire La Plata geographic area, there were 11 new loans and 9 loans paid off. Current loans in the County unincorporated area include the list below and activities in each municipality are also provided.

County Loans

Anasazi Pine Farms	\$ 32,000
Bent River Leather Co	\$ 50,000
Echo Jar dba Sit Ins	\$ 50,000
Gardenhart Landscaping & Design	\$ 35,000
San Juan Waterworks	\$ 60,000
Southwest Measurement	\$ 25,000
Task Masters of SW Colorado	\$120,000
Hermosa Iron Works	\$233,733

Town of Bayfield

Technical Assistance

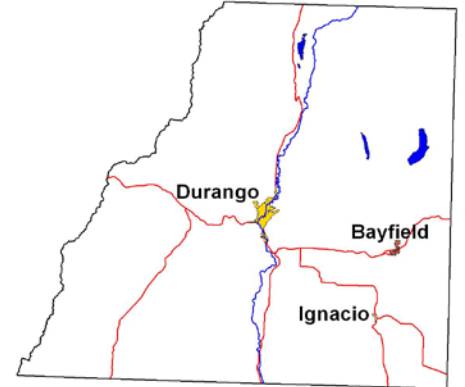
- Community visioning process
- Provided assistance to following film/media productions in Bayfield: photos requested of ranches including Wommer Ranch, Wilderness Trails and Wit's End.

Bayfield Loans

Four inquiries came to Region 9 from Bayfield businesses.

Current Region 9 loans in Bayfield include:

Bottom Shelf Brewery	\$154,500
Elk Point Lodge	\$ 30,000
Well on Wheels	\$ 10,000



Bayfield 2013 Population 2,416

City of Durango

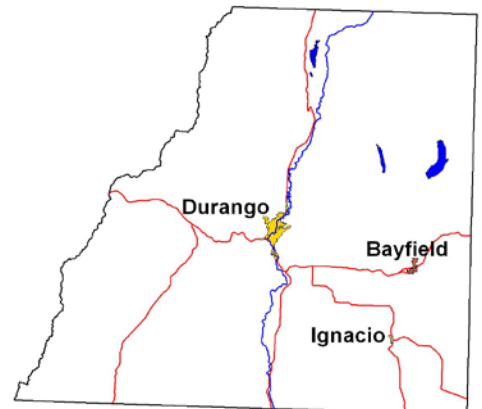
Technical Assistance

- Provided business resource workshop through Durango BID
- Provided assistance to following film/media productions in Durango: Music Voyager inquiry; photos of Durango for potential new series, Badlands; StoryTrek interviews; Remington Rifles winter catalog shoot at Railroad, Strater Hotel and Jean Pierre Bakery; NY Film Academy shoot at Mercy Medical; and Nickelodeon Network at Big Picture High School.

Durango Loans

Sixteen inquiries came to Region 9 from Durango based businesses. Current loans include:

Advertising Innovations	\$ 40,000
Airborne Media Group	\$250,000
Animas High School	\$200,000
Baby Basecamp	\$ 80,000
Band Wagon Music	\$ 25,000
Bo Deans Towing	\$ 80,000
Branding Promotions	\$ 30,000
Chip Peddler	\$ 70,000
Christie's Wood & Glass	\$ 47,500
Cream Bean Berry	\$ 25,000
D&SNGRR Scenic Tour Bus	\$178,500
D&SNGRR	\$451,200
Durango Gift & Gourmet	\$ 10,000
Durango Indoor Flea Market	\$ 22,500



Durango 2013 Population 17,689

Durango Party Rental	\$ 70,000
Durango Urgent Care	\$250,000
Fired Up Pizzeria	\$123,783
Hollywood Finishes	\$100,000
Kirsch Chiropractic PC	\$ 96,750
Lesley Ponce	\$ 25,000
Linnovations	\$ 25,000
Milestones Pediatric Therapy	\$ 10,000
Native Roots Garden Center	\$125,000
Pathways LLC	\$ 25,000
Provencher Sports	\$250,000
Surf the San Juans	\$ 10,000
Tegre Corporation	\$250,000
The Microconnection	\$ 50,000
Ultrasteam Prof. Cleaning	\$132,529

Town of Ignacio

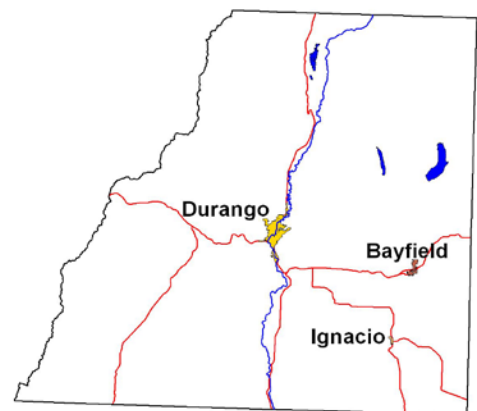
Technical Assistance

- Region 9 staff facilitated town Board meeting
- Working to promote Ignacio business façade loan program

Ignacio Loans

Three inquires came through Region 9 from Ignacio businesses. Current loans include:

Blackhawk Trading	\$ 12,000
Brand Salon	\$ 4,101
Moon's Custom Cycles	\$106,000
Patio Restaurant	\$ 9,000
Walker Holding Company	\$180,247



Ignacio 2013 Population 711