



## 2018 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.

### 2018 Dolores Representatives

**Dan Fernandez** – Chair

**Steve Garchar/Dennis Goldbricht** – Dolores County

**Kari Distefano** – Rico

**Bryce Capron** – Dove Creek/Loan Committee



### Region 9 Staff

**Laura Lewis Marchino** – Executive Director

**Terry Blair-Burton** – Program Administrator

**Stephani Burditt** – Office Manager

**Brian Rose** – Business Resource Specialist

**Shirley Jones** – Comptroller

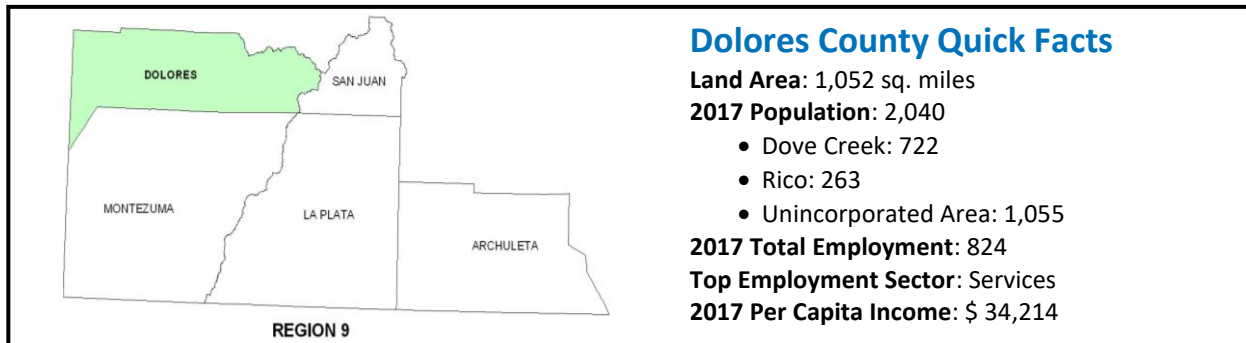
**Elizabeth Marsh** – SCAPE Director

**Heather Otter** – Economic Development Project Mgr

**Jenny Stollar** – Business Loan Officer

## Region 9 Programs and Services

- Business loans
- Colorado State Data Center local affiliate
- Technical assistance and special projects
- Southwest Enterprise Zone administration
- Research for community and regional projects
- Four Corners Film Office administration
- SW CO Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs (SCAPE)
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
- Montezuma Community Economic Development Association fiscal agent
- San Juan Development Association fiscal oversight



**Technical Assistance** – Region 9 provides technical assistance in Dolores County and area municipalities by participating in community meetings, writing and administering grants, and advocating for communities at regional, state and federal levels. Activities are listed below.

### County-wide

- Provided financial and operational support for the regional **Four Corners Film Office**:
  - Made **1** referral to production professionals and assisted with information on film making topics
- Partnered with the **Southwest Colorado Small Business Development Center** to provide more business services in the County.
- Region 9 has a seat on the **Dolores County Development Corporation (DCDC)** Board of Directors, attended **8** board meetings and worked closely with them to:
  - Evaluate Dolores County / Dove Creek signage opportunities.
  - Nominate tracts for designation as Opportunity Zones and promote Opportunity Zone investments. All of Dolores County was designated.
- Obtained approval from the Board of County Commissioners on the **2018 Dolores County Community Development Action Plan (CDAP)**. This document is part of the CEDS and is updated every two years.
- Marketing Region 9 on DCTV in Dove Creek as underwriter.
- Worked with EDA Regional Coordinator to address staffing in Rico (intern) and provided business resources to the Town.
- Successfully nominated Gus Westerman as the EDCC Economic Development Volunteer of the Year.
- Region 9 Quarterly Board Meeting held in Dove Creek.

**Regional Initiatives** – Region 9 regional efforts positively impact the county. Members of Region 9’s staff serve on a variety of regional boards and committees. Staff members also serve on several state-wide boards including the Colorado Association of Regional Organizations (CARO), The Economic Development Council of Colorado (EDCC), and the Colorado Lending Source Loan Committee. In 2018, we:

- **Expanded the Region 9 loan program** funding by almost **\$2.3M**.
- Responded to almost **600 inquiries** covering business activities, grants and data requests.
- Provided **one-on-one technical assistance** to numerous businesses, non-profits and governments throughout the year.
- Partnered with the **SBDC** to provide business services for Region 9 clients.
- Collaborated with the **Healthcare Sector Partnership** on opportunities for funding through Colorado Department of Labor.
- Worked closely with the State and local governments to obtain SBA Disaster status and The Community Foundation of Southwest Colorado to assist businesses impacted by the **416 Fire**.
- Promoted community development in **Opportunity Zones** by developing county prospectuses, hosting informational events and educating local economic development groups.
- Served on the **Homes Fund Board** to stay current on housing issues region wide.
- Served on the **Southwest Colorado Community College Advisory Board** to promote regional workforce and job training needs.
- Served on the **Animas River Community Forum Steering Committee**.
- Served on the **Small Business Development Center Advisory Committee**.
- Served on the **Southwest Colorado Workforce Investment Board**.
- Served on the **Fort Lewis College Business Advisory Council for the School of Business Administration**.
- Served on the **Southern Ute Indian Tribe Economic Advisory Panel**.
- Served on the **4 State Forum Steering Committee**.

**Southwest Colorado Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs (SCAPE)** Southwest Colorado Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs (SCAPE) offers in depth mentoring, education and access to equity funding for early stage and growing companies. In 5 years, the program has launched 25 companies based in rural southwest Colorado. These businesses raised \$17 million in capital to grow their businesses and create 80 local jobs. SCAPE companies have been recognized as Colorado Companies to Watch and been recipients of the Colorado Early Seed Stage grant. SCAPE is the hub of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, teaches the curriculum for the Fort Lewis College Hawk Tank competition and hosts regional investment and startup initiatives, including Entrepreneur of the Southwest Meetups which has 480 members.

**Enterprise Zones** – All of Dolores County has been designated as an Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EZ) through 2020 due to its high level of distress. This designation is updated every two years. Typically, EZ boundaries are reviewed every 10 years to ensure they meet EZ distress criteria. This program provides financial incentives to businesses to promote and encourage new job creation. A business (which includes farms, mines and non-profits) located within the Enterprise zone may be eligible for EZ tax

credits, including capital investment tax credits, job tax credits, research and development tax credits, and other incentives. From 1992 through 2018, Dolores County businesses claimed approximately **\$25.6 million** in eligible investments, resulting in **\$2.8 million** in certified tax credits, and reported **117** new jobs through the program. In 2018, **19** businesses claimed **\$204,367** in tax credits; and participating businesses created **1** new job.

This State designation also allows donor contributions of at least \$100 (depending on the organization) to Enterprise Zone contribution projects to be eligible for a 25% state tax credit on cash donations, and a 12.5% state tax credit on in-kind donations. In 2018, twenty-eight projects in our region brought in cash and in-kind contributions valued at **\$2.8 million**. This is comparable to \$3.7 million in 2016, and \$3.3 million in 2017. The decline may be attributed to fewer eligible projects as well as contributions being submitted after year's end. Those contributions will be in the 2019 numbers.

Enterprise Zone contribution projects that impacted Dolores County in 2018 are below.

- Homes Fund
- Housing Solutions for the Southwest
- Region 9 EDD
  - Four Corners Film Office
- Southwest Colorado Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs (SCAPE)
- Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
- Southwest Small Business Development Center

**Reports** – Region 9 prepared strategy and research reports that included data specific to La Plata County in 2018. These reports, as well as other publications of interest, can be found at [www.scan.org](http://www.scan.org).

- Economic Employment Trends – Base Industries Analysis 2018
- Economic Effects of Wildfires on Colorado 2018

**Loans** – In the past 29 years, Region 9 provided business loans totaling over **\$1,369,115** resulting in **58** jobs created or retained in Dolores County. The County greatly increased its business loan inquiries to Region 9 in 2018, resulting in **2** new loans and **1** loan paid off. Current loan activity is listed below.

- Banger's Bar & Pizza                      \$ 100,000 **NEW!**
- Carhart Customs                              \$ 63,000
- DC Rack Haus                                 \$30,000 **NEW!**
- La Watha Bakery                              \$ 49,000
- JT's Country Store                            \$ 50,000

#### **Paid Off**

- Rico Masonic Temple