



2017 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.

2017 Dolores Representatives

Dan Fernandez – Chair
Ernie Williams/Dennis Goldbricht – Dolores County
Gary Reid – Rico – Vacant
Bryce Capron – Dove Creek/Loan Committee

Region 9 Staff

Laura Lewis Marchino – Executive Director
Terry Blair-Burton – Program Administrator
Stephani Burditt – Office Manager
Sanjiv Doreswamy – Loan Officer (through October)
Shirley Jones – Comptroller

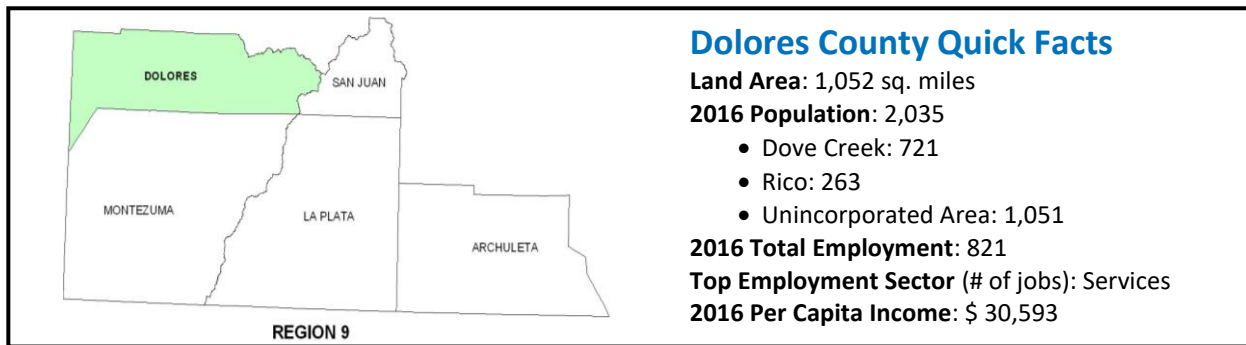
Region 9 Programs and Services

- Business loans
- Colorado State Data Center local affiliate
- Technical assistance and special projects
- Southwest Enterprise Zone administration
- Research for community and regional projects

Elizabeth Marsh – SCAPE Director
Melanie Russek – SJ County Recovery Coordinator
Jill Seyfarth – Economic Development Planner
Jenny Stollar – Business Loan Officer

- Four Corners Film Office administration
- SW CO Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs (SCAPE)
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
- Montezuma County Economic Development fiscal agent





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. Below are some specific examples at the county level. Specifics for individual communities are on the following pages.

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
 - *Nevada Paranormal Task Force*, a television production using mining town scenery and history
- Partnered with the **Southwest Colorado Small Business Development Center** to provide more business services in the County.
- Region 9 has a seat on the DCDC Board of Directors.
- Worked closely with **Dolores County Development Corporation (DCDC)** to:
 - provide financial support to the **Dove Creek Chamber**.
 - Acquired a **Colorado Tourism Office Technical Assistance Grant to fund Chamber activities**
 - successfully nominate **Gus Westerman as Economic Development Council of Colorado Volunteer of the Year**
 - **enhance the web presence for DCDC** through updated information on the County website.
 - update the **Dolores County CDAP** for 2018 approval.
 - assist Dolores County to obtain **Rural Jumpstart Status and tax benefits** for Dolores County and provide announcements to local media once the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) selected **Dolores County** and SCCC as participants.

Regional Initiatives – Region 9 regional efforts positively impact the county. Members of Region 9’s staff serve on a variety of boards and committees, including the Animas River Community Forum Steering Committee and the Small Business Development Center Advisory Committee. 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 2017, we also:

- served on the **Homes Fund Board** to stay abreast of housing issues in the County.
- served on the **Southwest Colorado Community College Advisory Board** to promote regional workforce and job training needs.
- served on the **Southwest Colorado Workforce Investment Board**.
- **expanded the Region 9 loan program** funding by **\$1.2M** through additional CDBG and EDA monies.
- collaborated with education, and economic development organizations in the four-corners area to explore creation of a **multi-state** database for economic and labor force information, and to pursue multi-state funding opportunities for economic development.
- helped organize a **four-state economic development forum** that was held in November
- selected by the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) to administer the **Statewide Loan Fund** and awarded **\$800,00** to lend to rural counties.
- responded to **141 inquiries about business loans** and provided one-on-one **assistance to 86 businesses**.
- provided **data for 59 inquiries** and assisted with **48 grant inquiries** throughout the year.

Southwest Colorado Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs (SCAPE) offers in depth mentoring, office space and access to equity funding for early stage and growing companies. In 4 short years the program launched 19 companies based in rural southwest Colorado. These businesses raised \$4.7 million in capital to grow their businesses and create 65 local jobs. SCAPE companies received national recognition in publications such as Inc.com, Product Hunt, and CNBC. SCAPE is the hub of the entrepreneurial ecosystem and this past year hosted GoCode Colorado, Innovate Her, Startup Colorado, Colorado Tech Tour and regional investment and startup initiatives. SCAPE coordinates monthly Entrepreneur of the Southwest Meetups which has 375 members and teaches the curriculum for the Fort Lewis College Hawk Tank competition.

Enterprise Zones – All of Dolores County has been designated as an Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EZ) through 2018 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 2017, Dolores County businesses claimed approximately **\$24.9 million** in eligible investments, resulting in **\$797,189** in certified tax credits, and reported **116** new jobs through the program. In 2017, **25** businesses claimed **\$23,002** in tax credits; and participating businesses created **1** new job.

This State designation also allows donor contributions of at least \$100 or more (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 2017, twenty-eight projects in our region brought in cash and in-kind contributions valued at **\$3.3 million**.

Enterprise Zone contribution projects that impacted Dolores County in 2017 are below. One new project was designated this year:

- **Southwest Colorado Council of Governments NEW!**
- Dove Creek Community Health Clinic
- Housing Solutions for the Southwest
- Region 9 EDD
 - Four Corners Film Office
- Southwest Colorado Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs (SCAPE)
- Southwest Small Business Development Center

Reports – Many research and strategy reports have been prepared by Region 9 in 2017 that include data specific to Dolores County:

- Economic Contributions of Cultural Resources in SW Colorado
- Economic Employment Trends
- Region 9 Economic Snapshot 2017

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

Loans – In the past 28 years, Region 9 provided business loans totaling over **\$1,163,865** resulting in **43** jobs created or retained in Dolores County (through June 2017). The County generated **2** business loan inquiries to Region 9. No new loan activity was generated in 2017. Current loan activity is listed below.

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|-----------------------|-----------|
| • Carhart Customs | \$ 63,000 |
| • Rico Masonic Temple | \$ 45,278 |
| • La Watha Bakery | \$ 49,000 |
| • JT's Country Store | \$ 50,000 |