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2015 Performance Report

San Juan County, Colorado

The Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado Inc. (Region 9), is a nonprofit, 501 (c) 6 public private partnership that's mission is to promote and coordinate 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.

2015 San Juan County Representatives

William Tookey – Vice Chair & San Juan County

Chris Tookey – Silverton

Anthony Edwards – At large

Bill McDougall – Loan Committee (Since 1993)

Fritz Klinke – Loan Committee (Since 1993)



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 – Deputy Director

Stephani Burditt – Office Manager

Jenny Stollar – Business Loan Officer

Terry Blair-Burton – Program Administrator

Shirley Jones – Comptroller

Elizabeth Marsh – SCAPE Director



San Juan County Quick Facts

Land Area: 389 sq. miles
 2014 Population: 718
 2014 Total Employment: 360
 Top Employment Sector (# of jobs): Services
 Top Employment Sector (income): Services
 2014 Per Capita Income: \$25,926

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

- Provide support for regional Four Corners Film Office increasing film and television productions in San Juan County. Production activity included: exploration of open space in San Juan County for travel documentary, reality show, non-working mine locations, Ice Cowboys (Ski joring) and Lifestyle shoot of Pro Athletes. Also made numerous referrals to area production professionals.
- Provided economic development support and technical assistance as identified by San Juan Development Association
- Coordinating the Silverton Stakeholders meeting..
- Coordinating Colorado Blueprint 2.0 efforts and updates in region and brought Blueprint 2.0 meeting to Silverton.
- Exploring Community Development Finance Institute (CDFI) small loan fund designation.
- Developed RFP and Housing survey to assist in securing contractor for development of portion of Anvil Mountain Housing sites.
- Facilitated broadband needs to State officials.
- Updated Community Development Action Plan.
- Participating in the Animas River Community Forum and economic/business meeting after the Gold King Mine Spill.
- Provided grant research for numerous Town and County projects including Blair Street, San Juan Development Association and the Lackawanna Bridge.
- Received \$25K matching grant for the Silverton Chamber from the Colorado Tourism Office.
- Governor John Hickenlooper visited Barz Hardware during a fall visit through Silverton.
- Office of Economic Development & International Trade Executive Director, Fiona Arnold visited Barz Hardware.

Enterprise Zones – All of San Juan County is currently a designated Enhanced Rural Enterprise Zone (EREZ) through 2016 which is a special status evaluated every two years. The entire State is reviewed for distress criteria every 10 years and San Juan meet the criteria and will be in the Enterprise Zone for the next ten years. 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

incentives. In 2015, San Juan County businesses claimed \$47,089 in tax credits. Since 1993, San Juan County has seen approximately **\$7,380,171** in eligible investments, resulting in **\$207,017** in certified tax credits, and reported **55** jobs through the program.

The Mountain Studies Institute is approved as an Enterprise Zone Contribution Project located in the county and certified \$60,456 in qualified EZ donations in 2015. This designation allows all donor contributions of a \$100 or more for these projects eligible for a 25% state tax credit on cash donations, and a 12.5% state tax credit on in-kind donations. In 2015, EZ projects have brought in cash and in-kind contributions valued at **\$3.91 million**. San Juan County also benefits from some regional EZ projects that include: Axis Health System, Mercy Health Foundation, Housing Solutions, Four Corners Film Office and Volunteers of America.

Loans – In the past 27 years, Region 9 has provided business loans totaling **\$1,381,865** and resulted in **46** jobs in San Juan County. In 2015, two loans paid off and there was 1 new loan. Region 9 saw 10 business inquiries from additional Silverton businesses.

Current loans include:

- Venture Snowboards **\$100,000**
- San Juan County **\$64,430**
- Barz Decorative Hardware **\$45,000**
- Pickle Barrel **\$130,000**
- Timber Ridge Construction **\$33,000**

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.

- Committed match for SW Colorado Council of Governments DoLA grant for broadband.
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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 10 companies, created 26 jobs and raised almost \$3 Million 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.

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

- 2015 – *Region 9 Report –includes Dolores Data snapshot*
- 2015 – *Southwest Colorado Indicator Report – Housing, Livable Wage & Economic Diversity*
- *San Juan Housing Market Study 2015 and community survey*

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