



## 2015 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.

### 2015 Representatives

**Brad Blake** – La Plata County  
**Ariel Wishkovsky**– Durango  
**Dan Neiman** – Ignacio  
**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/Edward Box III** – 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** – Deputy Director  
**Stephani Burditt** – Office Manager  
**Jenny Stollar** – Business Loan Officer  
**Terry Blair-Burton** – Program Administrator  
**Shirley Jones** – Comptroller  
**Elizabeth Marsh** – SCAPE Director



### La Plata County Quick Facts

Land Area: 1,692 sq. miles  
 2014 Population: 54,014  
 2014 Total Employment: 33,051  
 Top Employment Sector (# of jobs): Services  
 Top Employment Sector (income): Services  
 2014 Per Capita Income: \$31,016

**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 highlights of our activities. 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: Motley Fool interviews, Specialized Bike commercial, locations scout for the Revenant for Animas River and Durango, Purina commercial, travel documentary; and made numerous referrals of production professionals.
- Advocates for and supports La Plata Economic Development Alliance and area Chambers.
- Coordinating Colorado Blueprint 2.0 efforts and updates in region.
- Exploring Community Development Finance Institute (CDFI) small loan fund designation.
- Received \$10K of CDBG funds for a Boys & Girls Club of La Plata County Feasibility study
- Conducted Economic Impact of Bodo Park for the La Plata Economic Alliance.
- Train Smoke Mitigation Task Force exploration of being a not-for-profit organization.
- Provided data to County and City of Durango on funding sources for a new airport terminal building.
- Working on Healthcare Sector partnership opportunities for CO Dept. of Labor funding.
- Conducted Enterprise Zone redistricting workshops for area accountants.
- Successfully received \$60K in USDA funds for the SCAPE program
- Served on the La Plata County Fiscal Sustainability Steering Committee
- Participated in Economic/Business meetings after the Gold King Mine Spill and Disaster Assistance Center and participate in the Animas River Community Forum.
- Serving on the La Plata Homes Fund Board to stay abreast of housing issues in County.
- Worked with Local Technical Planning Team and SW Colorado Council of Governments on broadband.

**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.
- Serving on the SW Colorado Community College Advisory Board to promote regional workforce and job training needs.
- Serving on Community Foundation Serving SW Colorado’s Grants Committee.

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.

**Enterprise Zones** – La Plata County as a whole does not meet distress criteria but certain census tracts do and are designated Enterprise Zones. 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. From 1993 through 2014, La Plata County businesses claimed approximately **\$523.3 million** in eligible investments, resulting in **\$14,809,270** in certified tax credits, and reported **4,060** jobs. In 2015, 94 businesses claimed \$609,152 in tax credits and businesses participating showed a job decline of 8 jobs total.

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 2015, the projects have brought in cash and in-kind contributions valued at **\$3.91 million**. A boundary amendment was also approved for the area by Manna Soup Kitchen and the Durango Community Shelter. Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory was also successful in their application to be grandfathered into the Enterprise Zone for the next 10 years.

Approved Enterprise Zone Contribution Projects that impact La Plata County in 2015 are below. Due to changing eligibility, some areas of La Plata County no longer eligible in the Enterprise Zone. Due to boundary updates, six organizations will no longer be projects in 2016 (in bold). There were two new projects designated this year:

- **4CORE**
- Axis Health Systems
- Durango Adult Education Center
- La Plata Homes Fund
- **Boys & Girls Club of La Plata County**
- **Powerhouse Science Center**
- **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
- **San Juan Symphony**
- Southwest Conservation Corps
- Volunteers of America

- Housing Solutions
- Four Corners Film Office
- S. Ute Head start Infrastructure Project
- Region 9 EDD
- Southwest Small Business Development Center
- Manna Soup Kitchen
- Southwest Colorado Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs

**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*
- 2015 – *Southwest Colorado Indicator Reports on Housing, Economic Diversity & Livable Wages*

**Loans** – In the past 27 years, Region 9 has provided loans to businesses totaling **\$12,829,119** and resulting in **836** jobs in La Plata County (through June 2015). There were 24 inquiries to Region 9 from businesses located in just the unincorporated areas of the County. In the entire La Plata geographic area, there were 12 new loans and 10 loans paid off. Current loans in the County unincorporated area include the list below and activities in each municipality are also provided.

#### **County Loans**

Bent River Leather Co	\$ 50,000
Echo Jar dba Sit Ins	\$ 50,000
Gardenhart Landscaping & Design	\$ 35,000
San Juan Waterworks	\$ 100,000
Task Masters of SW Colorado	\$ 120,000
Hermosa Iron Works	\$ 233,733
Monarch Energy	\$ 25,000

#### **Town of Bayfield**

##### **Bayfield Loans**

One inquiry came to Region 9 from a Bayfield business in 2015.

Current Region 9 loans in Bayfield include:

Bottom Shelf Brewery	\$154,500
Elk Point Lodge	\$ 30,000

#### **Town of Ignacio**

##### **Ignacio Loans**

One inquiry came through Region 9 and 3 Ignacio business paid off in 2015. Current loans include:

Walker Holding Company	\$ 180,247
Johnny Valdez	\$ 40,000

### City of Durango

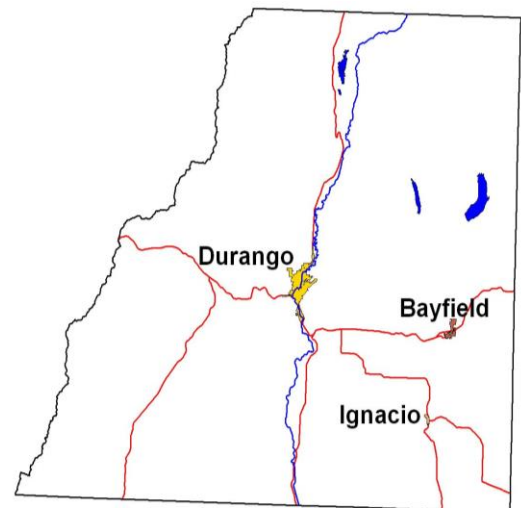
#### Technical Assistance Activities

- Conducted presentations on loan programs to Bank of Colorado, Community Bank of the Rockies and Vectra Bank.
- Office of Economic Development & International Trade, Executive Director, toured SCAPE and Rocky Mt Chocolate Factory during summer visit to area.

#### Durango Loans

Nineteen inquires came to Region 9 from Durango based businesses. Current loans include:

Align Tec Incorp.	\$125,000
Animas High School	\$200,000
Baby Basecamp	\$ 80,000
Band Wagon Music	\$ 25,000
Bo Deans Towing	\$106,822
Branding Promotions	\$ 30,000
Chinook	\$200,000
Chip Peddler	\$ 57,633
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 Party Rental	\$ 52,940
Durango Urgent Care	\$250,000
Fire on Earth, LLC	\$ 25,000
Hollywood Finishes	\$ 31,111
Kirsch Chiropractic PC	\$ 96,750
Lesley Ponce	\$ 25,000
Milestones Pediatric Therapy	\$ 10,000
Native Roots Garden Center	\$125,000
Pathways LLC	\$ 10,000
Tegre Corporation	\$250,000
The Bookcase and Barber	\$ 25,000
Ultrasteam Prof. Cleaning	\$115,942
Sticks and Stones Handmade	\$ 30,000



2014 Population - Bayfield 2,530 - Durango 17,818 - Ignacio 719