

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

In 1935, the Works Progress Administration (WPA), later called the Work Projects Administration, was created under Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. This was a massive employment relief program created to provide jobs and income to the unemployed during the Great Depression. The philosophy was to put the unemployed back to work in jobs which would serve the public and save the skills and self-esteem of the workers. In 1939, the program was renamed the Work Projects Administration. All across Southeast Colorado, these hand-built projects are visible and in use even today. In Baca County, you can take a self-guided tour of the county's WPA sites with a brochure you can pick up at the Town of Springfield office. Some of the projects you can see are the many stone bridges and culverts; the City Park in Springfield; the Konantz School east of Walsh; Two Buttes Gymnasium; Campo School; Pritchett School bus barn; and Vilas School to name a few. Other locations can be found in the Self-Guided Tour brochure.

www.history.com/topics/works-progress-administration

SCHOOLS

Baca County is home to some great small schools. Here students have the opportunity to get more teacher contact time as the classes are smaller. The local schools work very hard to provide opportunities for students to further their education through internet, televised classes, and college courses through local community college campuses. Schools in Baca County are located in Springfield, Walsh, Campo, Pritchett,

HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Southeast Colorado Hospital District is a 23-bed critical access hospital providing acute, emergency, skilled swing bed, and respite care. Specialty clinics in cardiology, urology, gynecology, neurology, podiatry, pulmonology, dermatology, mammography, and surgery are offered at least once a month. Other health care facilities in Baca County include: Alzheimer unit, chemotherapy, clinics, EMS, home health agency, hospice, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, two nursing homes, chiropractic, and dental facilities.

www.sechosp.org

SOUTHEAST COLORADO

ENHANCED RURAL ENTERPRISE ZONE

The Colorado Enterprise Zone (EZ) Program is designed to promote a business-friendly environment in economically distressed areas by offering state income tax credits that incentivize businesses to locate and develop in and non-profit organizations to assist with the needs of these communities. The Enhanced Rural Enterprise Zone (EREZ) program provides greater financial incentives to businesses to promote and encourage new job creation in designated rural Enterprise Zone counties.

1. 3% Investment Tax Credit of equipment purchases
2. 1.5% Commercial Vehicle Investment Tax Credit of commercial vehicle purchases
3. New Employee Tax Credit \$1,100 per net new job; additional \$2,000 per new job located in EREZ
4. Agricultural Processor New Employee Credit \$500 per new job; additional \$500 per new job located EREZ
5. 12% Job Training Tax Credit of qualified expenses
6. Employer Sponsored Health Insurance Credit \$1,000 per covered employee
7. R&D Tax Credit 3% of increased R&D expenditures
8. Vacant Building rehab Tax Credit 25% of rehab
9. Contribution Tax Credit 25% cash - 12.5% in-kind contributions to EZ projects
10. Manufacturing/Mining Expanded Sales and Use Tax Exemption
11. Local incentive flexibility possible if located in EZ

www.choosecolorado.com/ez

CHARGEPOINT ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGE STATIONS (EVSE)

SECED, Inc. in conjunction with a grant from the Colorado Energy Office (CLEER) has worked to install four dual charge EVSE units in four Southeast Colorado counties; Baca (Springfield), Bent (Las Animas), Kiowa (Eads), and Prowers (Lamar). We take pride in preserving and promoting clean air and would like to join Colorado's efforts to promote improved air quality and encourage the deployment of electric vehicles across the State of Colorado. The charging station in Springfield is located at 179 East 8th Avenue.

www.chargepoint.com

SOUTHEAST COLORADO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT, INC. (SECED, Inc.)

Created in 1986 by the counties of Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero, and Prowers, SECED administers programs in cooperation with our 31 members, comprised of local governments.

SECED provides incentives and develops promotional activities that will market and advertise the advantages of locating a business in the Southeast Colorado area, create a positive identity, encourage retention and expansion of existing business, promote redevelopment, expand the region's tourism industry, attract new businesses, and generally enhance the economic growth of the area.

- Promotes economic development through tax credit incentives
- Business loan fund within the 6 county area
- Owner occupied housing rehab - Baca, Kiowa, and Prowers Counties
- Technical assistance
- Regional Transportation Planning Region 2
- Region 6 planning and management agency
- SECOG Southeast Council of Governments
- Opportunity Zone Designation (2019)

The vision of SECED is to challenge our citizens to continually reach for superior social and economic characteristics, utilize natural resources to the fullest potential in cooperation with a multi-agricultural economy, and assert a vigorous campaign for aesthetic improvements to enhance business recruitment and retention.



Southeast Colorado Enterprise Zone Administrator
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www.seced.net



BACA COUNTY

Baca County is located on the Great Plains in the extreme Southeast corner of Colorado, bordering Kansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. Founded in 1889 it was named in honor of Felipe Baca, an early pioneer and Colorado territorial legislator. Today the area is rich with recreational activities, historical sites, and western traditions as well as birding trails, excellent schools, and opportunities for business expansion and relocation. With mild winters and hot summers, the semi-arid climate is excellent for ranching and farming. Most employment for the citizens is found in the area of agriculture followed by county and city government, health care, schools, services for tourists, and cottage industries. The county is a wildlife paradise rich with deer, elk, big horn sheep, antelope, bobcats, and over 400 species of birds. The museums, cultural events, recreation, and local amenities enhance the attraction of the area as a great place to visit but a better place to live.

Home to the towns of Campo, Pritchett, Springfield, Two Buttes, Vilas, and Walsh

- Springfield, county seat
- Population (2015) 3,622
- Area 2,556 square miles / 1.5 people per sq. mile
- Average Elevation 4,295 feet
- Diverse terrain
- Cost of living index 83.05%,
- Unemployment rate (2014) 2.7%
- Low crime rate / safe towns
- Historical and agricultural heritage
- Diverse business base
- Semi-arid climate
- Average annual precipitation 14 inches
- 5 Public schools
- Multiple churches
- Affordable housing
- Hospital
- Nursing care facility
- 2 Assisted living facilities
- 4 Senior Centers
- Airport

www.bacacountyco.gov

BACA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Baca County Economic Development promotes responsible, sustainable development and growth through the expansion and/or retention of the county's business and agricultural sectors. Baca County is a farming and ranching community located in the very southeast corner of Colorado, bordered by Kansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. The town of Springfield sits on U. S. Hwy 287 also known as the Ports to Plains Corridor, connecting Mexico to Canada. This central location between those two points is ideal for manufacturers, warehouses, and trucking terminals with quick highway access. We see upwards of 10,000 trucks per day through the middle of Springfield, Colorado. Additionally, we are gigabit fiber equipped in town and have room for renewable energy projects to grow. Baca County sits in the Southeast Enterprise Zone that offers tax credits as well as other types of assistance in relocation, expansion, or new business startups to Baca County. Call for more information (719)353-2244.

www.bacacountyeconomicdevelopment.com

WIND POWER PROJECTS

Wind power is becoming the fastest growing renewable energy source. Here in Southeast Colorado, we are home to plenty of the necessary natural resource - wind. Wind energy is plentiful, renewable, and clean. Baca County has some of the best wind resources consistent with utility-scale production. Wind power can provide jobs, both short-term and permanent, property tax payments to local governments, and can conserve water and pay royalties to rural landowners. Given its abundance of this natural resource, Baca County is actively seeking production projects while keeping Southeast Colorado and Baca County "Clean and Green".

HUNTING and FISHING

Wildlife is abundant and available for observing or photographing. In Baca County, fishing and hunting are a favorite pastime and we host over 10,000 hunters every year.

<http://cpw.state.co.us>

POOLS AND PARKS

The towns of Springfield and Walsh have beautiful public outdoor pools. The town of Campo has an indoor pool. Town parks have large grass areas, covered pavilions, picnic tables, and playgrounds.

COMANCHE TRAIL REGION COLORADO BIRDING TRAIL

Birding is becoming one of the fastest growing outdoor activities in North America. Here, in Southeast Colorado, with our fresh air, abundance of natural habitats, diversity of scenery, solitude, and amazing skies, we are fortunate to be home to five of the fourteen trails which make up the Colorado Birding Trail. The trail connects outdoor recreation sites where visitors can view birds and wildlife, as well as experience the local historical and archeological sites. The section of the trail located in Baca County is the Comanche Trail. It offers Cassin's Sparrow and Lesser Prairie Chickens as well as a wide diversity of many other birds, mammals, and reptiles to be observed, photographed, and enjoyed.

www.coloradobirdingtrail.com

SANTA FE TRAIL CIMARRON ROUTE

In 1821, the Santa Fe Trail trade route that connected Franklin, Missouri and Santa Fe, New Mexico was first used by William Becknell when he organized a trading party and hauled goods to Santa Fe to trade and sell. Later it was used as an international commercial highway, a military route, and finally a route to help open the region to economic development and settlement. By 1880, with the coming of the railroad, the importance of the Santa Fe Trail was diminished. As you travel along the trail you can view monuments, actual wagon ruts, rubble from homesteads, and historical sites. The Cimarron Route of the Santa Fe Trail crossed 14 miles of Baca County in the Carrizo Unit of the Comanche National Grasslands, a preserved short-grass prairie.

MUSEUMS

Baca County is fortunate to have three museums. The Baca County Museum is currently located in the Baca County Resource Center on Main Street in Springfield. Here you can view historical artifacts and information about Baca County. Plans are to add a Dustbowl Cultural Center in Springfield and all museum items will be moved to the Cultural Center. The community of Vilas offers a small but unique museum that is housed in the historic CF Wheeler Building on Main Street in Vilas. Call the number on the door for admission. Two Buttes has an incredible collection at the Dr. Verity Museum.

PICTURE CANYON

35 miles southwest of Springfield on the Colorado/Oklahoma border you will find a little heaven on earth, Picture Canyon with its fascinating array of "Rock Art". Picture Canyon is easily accessible and provides camping, a four mile hiking loop, bike riding, horseback riding, and exploring. Rock Art is the images left for centuries by prehistoric people by either pecking into the rock surface, which is called a petroglyph or painting on the rock surface, which is called a pictograph. In Picture Canyon you will see black and red pictographs and animal and human petroglyphs. Although the meaning of the designs is still in question, the enjoyment of the experience is the connection you will have with the past. Other natural attractions are the Balanced Rock and Crack Cave. Within Crack Cave are markings that were carved in the rock faces more than 1,000 years ago. For 8-12 minutes the markings are illuminated by the sun's rays at dawn over the eastern canyon wall only during spring and autumn equinox.

CARRIZO CANYON

30 miles southwest of Springfield is another Baca County wonder, Carrizo Canyon. Hidden in the middle of cattle country and a favorite site for birders you will again find "Rock Art". Here the images left by ancient people on the canyon walls are primarily animals. This location offers a ½ mile loop trail hike with picnic tables and a restroom.

www.fs.usda.gov

BACA COUNTY LAKES AND RESERVOIRS

Near the small town of Two Buttes is located Two Buttes Reservoir, probably one of the most interesting and picturesque of all Southeast Colorado lakes. Camping is permitted but primitive. A boat ramp is available as well as a restroom. Swimming and fishing are also very popular. Just below the dam is the Black Hole. Although small, it is a very nice camping spot and the red rock canyon walls are beautiful. Southeast of Two Buttes, Turks Pond also offers warm water fishing. Only boats powered by hand, wind, or electric motor are allowed. Camping is primitive with access to a boat ramp and restroom.

<http://cpw.state.co.us>

