

**PLOVER 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, paleontological, and archeological sites. The section of the trail crossing in Bent County is the Plover Trail and not only offers a wide diversity of Plovers, but also of other birds, mammals, wildlife, and reptiles to be observed, photographed, and enjoyed. Bent County has 373 documented species of birds.

www.coloradobirdingtrail.com

WIND POWER PROJECTS

Wind Power is becoming the fastest growing renewable energy source. In Bent County, we are home to the 75-megawatt capacity Twin Buttes Wind Power Project, built to help meet Colorado's demand for clean, renewable energy. The Twin Buttes project uses 50 plus wind turbines standing 328 feet tall across 9,000 acres of wind swept prairie. Wind energy is plentiful, renewable, and clean. The project generates local income, boosts the local tax base, and attracts tourists.

**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 the four counties of 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 effort to promote improved air quality and encourage the deployment of electric vehicles across the State of Colorado. The charging station in Las Animas is located at 522 Carson Avenue.

www.chargepoint.com

**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

**BENT COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**

Bent County Development Foundation (BCDF) was founded in 1989 to promote the economic activity of the local community; and to help improve the standard of living for both current and future residents. To further the goals, BCDF is a resource for business retention, access to resources for industry, and infrastructure development in regards to job development from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), Colorado Office of Economic Development, and International Trade (OEDIT), and Economic Development Administration (EDA). They can also assist businesses in obtaining financing and business development.

www.bentcounty.org

**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
719-336-3850 Cell 719-688-0799 Fax 719-336-3835
PO Box 1600 112 West Elm Lamar, CO 81052
Email: seced@seced.net

www.seced.net



BENT COUNTY

Bent County is located in the Arkansas River Valley on the banks of the Arkansas and Purgatoire Rivers and the plains of Southeast Colorado. In 1870 the county of Bent was formed and named after William Bent, an early trapper, trader, and pioneer. 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. Most employment for the citizens is found in the area of agriculture as well as the Bent County Correctional Facility. County and city government, health care, schools, and cottage industries provide the balance of employment. The many lakes provide an abundance of locations for water sports, camping, fishing, and hunting. The museums and cultural events enhance the attraction of the area as a great place to visit but a better place to live.

Home of the towns of Las Animas, McClave, Hasty, and Caddoa

- Las Animas, County Seat
- 2016 Small Community Award by (EDCC)
- Predominantly rural
- Population (2015) 5,841
- Area 1,541 square miles/3.75 people per sq. mile
- Average Elevation 3,900 feet average
- 300+ days of sunshine
- Quality assisted living, nursing home, and day care
- Excellent schools with low teacher/student ratio
- Access to college
- Unemployment rate (2015) 2.6%
- Swimming pool
- Library
- Churches
- Friendly communities
- Hospital
- Golf course
- Senior center
- Fairgrounds
- Wind resources

www.bentcounty.net

FORT LYON

SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY

The Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community is located on the historic Fort Lyon campus seven miles east of Las Animas. Fort Lyon, originally named Fort Wise, was constructed in 1860 as an Army post several miles east of its current location. In 1861 the name was changed to Fort Lyon after General Nathaniel Lyon, the first Union general to die in battle in the Civil War. The Fort was moved to its current location in 1865. It continued to be used by the Army until the Department of the Navy assumed ownership in 1906 for use as a tuberculosis sanatorium. The Navy occupied the site until 1922 when the Veterans Administration took it over. The VA originally carried on the work with tuberculosis, but soon changed its mission to that of a neuro-psych hospital. It continued that mission until the VA transferred ownership of the facility to the State of Colorado in 2001. The Colorado Department of Corrections utilized the site as a Correctional Facility until 2011; and in 2013 the Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community was established. The Residential Community, a program of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing, provides recovery oriented transitional housing to as many as 250 homeless persons from across the state of Colorado.

www.coloradocoalition.org

FORT LYON NATIONAL CEMETARY AND KIT CARSON MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Fort Lyon, CO is located on Highway 50, seven miles east of Las Animas, CO. Located at Fort Lyon, you can visit the Kit Carson Memorial Chapel, constructed of thick, native stone with beautiful stained glass windows that depict the heritage of pioneer life. The chapel is a lasting memorial to Christopher (Kit) Carson and is constructed of material from the actual building where Kit Carson, the famous scout, trapper, Indian agent, and frontiersman died after a brief illness on May 23, 1868.

After visiting the chapel take time to visit the Fort Lyon National Cemetery. Records indicate the first veteran interred at Fort Lyon was Youayoshi Hosi, a Japanese-American from Pennsylvania who served during the Spanish American War. The cemetery was transferred to the National Cemetery System in September 1973 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2017. Visit daily from sunrise to sunset.

JOHN W. RAWLINGS HERITAGE CENTER

The John W. Rawlings Heritage Center is located at 560 Bent Avenue in Las Animas. The two story sandstone building was originally the 1898 IOOF Hall which shows the return of the area to prosperity following the depression of the early 1890's. The building presently houses artifacts and information that were affiliated with the Kit Carson Museum. The museum is a place where history and culture come together. The facility serves as the headquarters of the Bent County Historical Society where historical artifacts are displayed, preserved, documented, and interpreted from the days of Kit Carson through the present. For additional information call (719)336-6066.

BOGGSVILLE

Two miles south of Las Animas, on Colorado Highway 101, is located the National Historic Site, Boggsville. Once a major stop on the Santa Fe Trail, this is where, in about 1862, Thomas O. Boggs, along with his wife Rumalda Luna Bent, (step-daughter to Charles Bent), L. A. Allen, and Charles Ritc founded Boggsville. Boggsville was the first permanent, non-military settlement in Southeast Colorado. This settlement became the center for trade, agriculture, education, and culture as well as the first county seat of Bent County. Although in the height of its existence there were more than twenty structures located at Boggsville, only three have been reconstructed to date complete with period items and furnishings. Visitors to Boggsville will realize the importance of the women and how they brought not only elegance and beauty to the settlement, but it was their claims to the land that made the settlement possible through the Vigil-St Vrain land grant and the Sand Creek claims.

BENT'S NEW FORT

When Bent's Old Fort was destroyed in 1853, William Bent moved east about 30 miles and built a new trading post on a bluff overlooking the Arkansas River. The stone walls stood 16 feet high and surrounded a large courtyard with many rooms and a 55-foot long warehouse. Unlike Bent's Old Fort, it had no bastions but it did retain the cannons of the earlier fort which were mounted on the corners of the roof. The trading post was not a success but it did play a pivotal role in shaping the American West. The site includes ruins of the foundation, a walking trail, and interpretive exhibits.

www.legendsofamerica.com

SANTA FE TRAIL SCENIC BYWAY

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. Today, the highway route that roughly follows the Santa Fe Trail's path through Colorado and into northern New Mexico is called the Santa Fe Trail Scenic Byway, Mountain Branch. The byway, which is 188 miles long, begins on Highway 50 at the eastern Colorado border and continues west through Prowers, Bent, and Otero Counties ending in Santa Fe, New Mexico. As you travel the byway you can view monuments, actual wagon ruts, rubble of homesteads, and historical sites.

www.santafetrailscenicandhistoricbyway.org

JOHN MARTIN RESERVOIR

RECREATION AREA AND STATE PARK

John Martin Reservoir is located approximately 17 miles east of Las Animas. It is one of the largest reservoirs in the state and is a recreational haven in Southeast Colorado known for its fishing and water sport activities. The park offers full service camping, boating, picnicking, hiking, fishing, wildlife, and bird watching. The park is home to Bald Eagles during the winter months and the sand and gravel shores are among the few remaining nesting areas in the State of Colorado for the threatened Piping Plover and the endangered Interior Least Tern. The visitors center is located at the entrance of the park and offers an interactive dinosaur track display with actual tracks from the track site discovered in 2004. The dam is 2.6 miles in length and 118 feet high. Construction on the concrete and earthen dam was completed in October 1948 at a cost of \$15 million. For the hiking enthusiasts, the Red Shin Hiking Trail begins at the stilling basin below the dam and winds through the park to the Santa Fe Trail marker on the north shore of the reservoir passing historic canals, Native American rock art, and the Prowers-Hudnall Ranch.

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

