

**CROWLEY HERITAGE CENTER AND MUSEUM**

Crowley Heritage Center and Museum is located at the corner of 3rd and Main in the town of Crowley. The building has been restored from the 1914 grade school that was in desperate need of repair to the community center and museum of today. It is one of the oldest, public buildings still standing in Crowley County and is the only one listed on the State and National Historical Site lists. It was even used as a hospital during the 1918 flu epidemic. The museum holds memorabilia and history representing each town, ethnic group, war history, and the stories of many early pioneers. Self guided tours are available with listening stations so you may browse at your own pace. If researching family heritage, one resource provided by the center is the many volumes of the Sugar City Gazette from 1901-1942. Also available are early day volumes of the Ordway New Era and the former Crowley County Leader to help trace your family heritage. The Heritage Center stands firm today as a tribute to those early residents that met and decided to build a school.

[www.crowleyheritagecenter.com](http://www.crowleyheritagecenter.com)

**SCHOOLS**

Crowley County has an excellent education system and provides from preschool to college and post-graduate college courses within a short distance. Young people receive a quality K-12 education provided in a safe learning environment. Class sizes are small, enabling teachers to focus on the specific needs of the students. The schools score at or above the required levels for student achievement in the state testing standards given each year. Eighty percent of the graduates continue on to college with sixty percent of those graduates receiving scholarships. Higher education is located 30 minutes away at Otero Junior College in La Junta, Colorado. OJC offers a two-year curriculum in a variety of fields and select four-year degrees as well as certification in specific fields. 45 minutes away is Colorado State University -Pueblo which offers baccalaureate degrees as well as graduate degrees. Pueblo Community College, also located in Pueblo, offers a variety of trade and two-year programs and limited four-year degrees. Kid's Campus is located in Ordway and offers daycare and pre-school services in a fun, safe environment.

**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](http://www.choosecolorado.com/ez)

**CROWLEY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONTACTS**

Chamber of Commerce 301 Main Street Ordway, CO 81063 (719) 267-3833	Revolving Loan Fund PO Box 1600 Lamar, CO 81052 (719) 336-3850
Crowley County 603 Main, Suite 2 Ordway, CO 81063 (719) 267-4444, EXT. 2	SCEDD 121 West City Center Drive Pueblo, CO 81003 (719) 545-8680

**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.

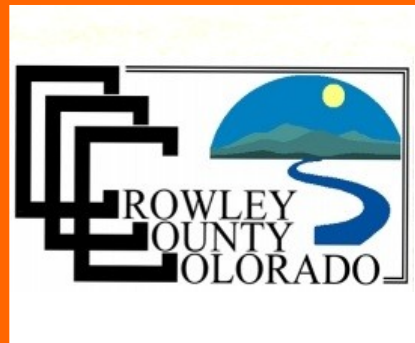
- Promotes economic development through tax credit incentives
- Business loan fund within the 6 county area
- Owner occupied housing rehab - Baca, Kiowa, and Prowers Counties
- Technical assistance
- Regional Transportation Planning Region 2
- Region 6 planning and management agency
- SECOG Southeast 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](mailto:seced@seced.net)

[www.seced.net](http://www.seced.net)





## CROWLEY COUNTY

Established in 1911, Crowley County is located on the high plains of Southeast Colorado. The county was named for John H. Crowley, a senator to the state legislature who was instrumental in the formation of Crowley County. At one time the county was included within the bounds of the Louisiana Purchase. Today the area is rich with recreational activities and rural living, as well as birding trails, excellent schools, and opportunities for new businesses, business expansion, and a great place for relocation. The primary employment for the citizens is found in a 55,000 head capacity cattle feed lot as well as two correctional facilities located within the county. Agriculture, county and city government, education, and healthcare provide the balance of employment. The lakes and reservoirs in the area provide an abundance of area for boating, camping, fishing, and hunting. The museum, festivals, recreation, and local amenities, enhance the attraction of the area as a great place to visit but a better place to live.

Home of the towns of Ordway, Sugar City, Crowley, and Olney Springs

- Ordway, county seat
- Population (2016) 5,480
- Area 802 square miles / 6.8 people per sq. mile
- Average Elevation 4,300 feet
- Predominantly rural
- Mean temperature of 25.5 degrees F in January
- Mean temperature of 74.7 degrees F in July
- Median age 35.5 years
- 11.2 inches average rainfall annually
- 21.46 inches average snowfall annually
- Mild semi-arid climate
- Low cost of living index 90.6% (2016)
- Unemployment rate 2.9% (October 2016)
- Affordable housing
- Nursing home center
- Health care center
- Long term care facility
- 3 Public schools
- 10 churches

[www.colorado.gov/crowleycounty](http://www.colorado.gov/crowleycounty)

## TRANSAMERICA BICYCLE TRAIL PRAIRIE HORIZONS TRAIL

State Highway 196, also known as the All Veterans' Memorial Highway, honoring all veterans of all wars, meanders through Crowley County, connecting the towns of Olney Springs, Ordway, Crowley, and Sugar City. This section of highway is also part of the Prairie Horizons Trail portion of the Trans-America Bicycle Trail. The TransAmerica Trail began in 1973 as a way to celebrate our nation's 200th birthday in 1976. 4,000 riders showed up for the first ride and today, just like back then, it is said that those who ride the trail learn more about this country in the short time during their ride than most people learn in a lifetime. The trail crosses ten states from Virginia to Oregon, twenty-two national forests, and two national parks. The 4,250 mile route (6,840km) avoids urban areas and instead passes through low-traffic, small town, America. While biking the trail, you can enjoy a wide variety of scenery, terrain, climate, and rural hospitality at its best. Be sure to stop in one of our towns and experience our own brand of rural hospitality. In Olney Springs stop and visit the All Veterans' War Memorial.

[www.adventurecycling.org](http://www.adventurecycling.org)

## CROWLEY COUNTY DAYS CELEBRATION

During the last weekend in July, Crowley County Days are in full swing in the county seat of Ordway. The communities of Ordway, Sugar City, Crowley, and Olney Springs gather together for an old-fashioned, family-oriented event that has been celebrated since 1911. During the festivities you can enjoy the 4-H events where the local youth demonstrate their skills, a street dance on Friday night, and a full day of events on Saturday. Saturday's events always begin with a pancake breakfast and a car show, followed by a parade and continues with a day long celebration in the Conestoga Park which is filled with contests, vendors and entertainment. Saturday evening, the day finishes with a dance.

<https://www.colorado.gov.pacific.crowleycounty>

## PRONGHORN TRAIL REGION COLORADO BIRDING TRAIL

Today birding is an ever popular outdoor activity and here in Crowley County, with our fresh air, abundance of natural habitats, diversity of scenery, solitude, and amazing skies, we are fortunate to be home to the Pronghorn Trail Region of the Colorado Birding Trail. Here you will find prairie birding at its best. This trail offers a variety of destinations within the county to view the vast variety of birds offered. Western Crowley County is one of Colorado's best examples of the semi desert shrub land habitat. This area is dominated by the spiny cholla tree cactus and here you might view and observe the Scaled Quail, Curve-billed Thrasher, and/or the Greater Roadrunner. With the abundance of reservoirs, lakes, and ponds you can view Grebes, Waders, migratory songbirds, shorebirds, Bald Eagles, waterfowl, and gulls. During the fall and winter, ducks and geese use Lake Henry and Lake Meredith, near Ordway, as a major stop during the annual migration south. Wildlife, birds, mammals, and reptiles are here to be watched, photographed, studied, and enjoyed.

[www.coloradobirdingtrail.com](http://www.coloradobirdingtrail.com)

## HUNTING

Southeast Colorado is a mecca for hunting opportunities. The farmland and open grassland is excellent for antelope and mule deer and the Arkansas River offers cover for the whitetail deer. Hunting is also available for Canadian Geese, Snow Geese, ducks, ring-necked pheasants, bobwhite quail, dove, scaled quail, cottontail rabbits, and wild turkeys. The opportunity to observe and photograph wildlife is just another plus. Permission to access private property must be obtained.

## TOWN OF ORDWAY SUMMER FESTIVAL

A relatively new event added to attractions of Crowley County is the annual Summer Festival held in the Town of Ordway. The all day event includes: car show, beer garden, live band, pancake breakfast, horseshoe tournament, tug-o-war, wet/dry parade, hotdog eating contest, hoola-hoop contest, Mr./Mrs. Ordway contest, and wheelchair races.

For more information, call (719) 267-3134

## CROWLEY COUNTY RECREATION

Crowley County offers fun in the sun and fun in the water. With two large, no fee lakes, there is plenty of space for boating, fishing, hunting, picnicking, bird watching, skiing, windsurfing, and camping. Located two miles east of Ordway on Highway 96 to County Lane 20, Lake Henry is a fisherman's paradise with catfish, wipers, trout, bass, and perch. Here you will find great fishing from the boat or from the shore plus room for boating, swimming, sailing, and jet skiing. Primitive camping sites and a boat ramp are available. Access to the lake is open year round.

Three miles east of Ordway and one mile south of Highway 96 on County Lane 21 you will find Meredith Reservoir State Wildlife Area, the largest body of water in Crowley County sitting 7 miles long and 3 miles wide. Many of the same amenities are offered here that Lake Henry has to offer as well as a jet ski ramp.

For those more interested in just the peace and quiet of fishing and bird watching, Crowley County offers two reservoirs, Ordway Reservoir and Olney Springs Reservoir. Ordway Reservoir is found two miles north of Ordway off Highway 17 and Olney Springs Reservoir is one mile north of Olney Springs. No boating is allowed on either reservoir but the avid angler will be pleased with the catfish and bass fishing in the summer and the trout fishing in the spring. Both reservoirs are kept well stocked by the Division of Wildlife.

## ANNUAL SEAPLANE SPLASH-IN N 38° 12' 37", W 103° 41' 32"

Lake Meredith, located near Ordway is home to Colorado's first Seaplane Splash-in and was the first location in Colorado to allow the landing of seaplanes. Lake Meredith is now marked a seaplane base but since it is still a "private lake", permission to land there is required. By landing at LHX near La Junta and undergoing the required invasive species examination, permission will be granted for the event. Shuttle service from LHX to Lake Meredith for people who fly in the day of the Splash-in is provided to and from LHX. The day of the fly-in, which is determined on an annual basis, seaplanes can fly to Lake Meredith and Splash-In. Various types of seminars are offered. Other water activities include hovercrafting, boating, fishing, and swimming. Camping at the lake is free but no potable water is accessible. Food and drinks are available and admission is free and open to all.

