

**PRAIRIE HORIZONS TRAIL
TRANSAMERICA BICYCLE TRAIL**

Crossing ten states from Virginia to Oregon is the Trans-America Bicycle Trail. This 4,247 mile route avoids largely urban areas and instead passes through small town America enjoying a wide variety of scenery, terrain, climate, and rural hospitality at its best. The section of the trail that crosses Kiowa County is Highway 96 and was dedicated the Prairie Horizons Trail in 2005. While traveling through Kiowa County be sure to take advantage of the treasure trove of attractions.

- Towner - Towner Bus Tragedy March 1931
- Sheridan Lake - Woelk Museum/Kiowa-Albright Hall
- Chivington - Sand Creek Massacre, NHS
- Eads - Plains Theatre, Crow-Luther Cultural Events Center, Museum, National Park Service, and Kiowa Creek Natural Area including Jackson's Pond
- Haswell - World's Smallest Jail and Deep Space Astronomy Site

KIOWA COUNTY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

KCEDF is dedicated to the managed growth and development of Kiowa County and the welfare of its residents. Their vision statement commits to:

- Improvement of infrastructures and aesthetics of the area
- Development of natural resources while protecting the environment
- Expanding technological capabilities
- Support agricultural backbone while cultivating diversity
- Utilize and enhance recreation areas
- Strengthen commitment to education and healthcare
- Manage growth

KCEDF provides assistance to businesses, organizations, and local government units in order to improve the overall economy of Kiowa County through attraction and expansion of new and existing business and industry. The agency provides a wide range of business development services to local companies and new businesses considering location in our community. The mission statement for KCEDF: To actively promote and manage growth and development for Kiowa County while preserving the unique rural atmosphere and quality of life inherent throughout the history of Kiowa County.

www.kcedfonline.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 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.coloradocoalition.org

**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 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 effort to promote improved air quality and encourage the deployment of electric vehicles across the State of Colorado. In Eads, the charging station is located at 501 East Lowell.

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.



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KIOWA COUNTY

Kiowa County was founded in 1889 and was named after the Kiowa Indians who lived and hunted in Eastern Colorado. It is located in Southeast Colorado right on the Colorado/Kansas border. Eads, the county seat of Kiowa County, sits at the intersection of two major highways, Colorado Highway 96 and U.S. Highway 287, the Ports to Plains Corridor. Most employment for the residents is found in agriculture with other sources of employment including education, government, and healthcare within the hospital, nursing home, or assisted living facilities. 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. The museum, theater, cultural events, 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 Eads, Brandon, Chivington, Arlington, Haswell, Sheridan Lake, and Towner

- Eads, county seat
- Predominantly rural
- Population (2015) 1,394
- Area 1,786 square miles/ less than 1 person per sq. mi.
- Average Elevation 4,300 feet
- January average high 23° F
- July average high 90° F
- Annual precipitation 14 inches
- Annual snowfall 20 inches
- Public schools with low teacher/student ratio
- Median resident age 37.9 years
- Unemployment rate (2015) 2.6%
- 2 Swimming pools
- Library
- Churches
- Low crime rate / Safe communities
- Hospital
- Nursing care facility
- Assisted living facility

www.kiowacounty-colorado.com

SNOW GOOSE TRAIL COLORADO BIRDING TRAIL

Birding is one of the fastest growing outdoor activities in North America. 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 birds and wildlife can be viewed and local historical and archeological sites to visit. In Kiowa County, the Snow Goose Trail portion of the Colorado Birding Trail offers year round birding to be observed, photographed, and enjoyed.

HIGH PLAINS SNOW GOOSE AND BIRDING FESTIVAL

The annual High Plains Snow Goose and Birding Festival offers tours, lectures, and more. During the weekend festival you have the opportunity to learn about hunting, photography, birding, and history as well as browsing the local artisan's booths or warming up with breakfast served at the Eads Community Center after watching the geese fly at sunrise.

www.coloradobirdingtrail.com

TOWNER BUS TRAGEDY

On the morning of March 26, 1931, as the school bus arrived at Pleasant Hill School, the wind began to blow and a light snow fell. The teachers, worried about the impending weather, sent the children back home. The bus was a 1929 Chevy truck with a wooden topper, two wooden benches, missing windows, no heater, no radio. A blizzard descended. The bus became stuck and the engine stalled. Snow and cold blew in the windows. 32 hours after leaving the school, the bus was discovered. 6 lives were lost, 5 children and the bus driver. In 1962, a monument was dedicated at the site where the bus stalled, 17 miles north of Holly and 17 miles south of Towner. A kiosk at the junction of Highway 96 and Kiowa CR 78 describes the tragedy with directions to the site.

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

In 1935, the Works Progress Administration (WPA), was created under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal as a massive employment relief program during the Great Depression. Buildings at Fort Lyon were dismantled and used in the construction of the American Legion Hall in Eads, one of six WPA projects located in Kiowa County.

KIOWA CREEK NATURAL AREA JACKSON'S POND

3/4 mile south of Eads and open year round is Jackson's Pond, an eight acre pond with a picnic shelter, tables, and restrooms that is the centerpiece of the Kiowa Creek Natural Area. The pond is kept well stocked by the Colorado Parks & Wildlife. Two landings have been added and KCEDF has worked to develop the area with maintained roads and a walking trail. No boats or overnight camping is allowed.

PAUL PLISHNER RADIO ASTRONOMY AND SPACE AND SCIENCES CENTER

Located five miles south of Haswell on County Road 20 the Deep Space Exploration Society is in possession of a 60 foot parabolic dish antenna capable of receiving radio signals over a wide range of frequencies from celestial objects or space craft. The dish was donated to the society by Paul Plisher, an early researcher in Radar. The DSES exists to foster the exploration and understanding of space and to expand our knowledge of space.

www.dses.org/facilities

THE GREAT PLAINS RESERVOIRS

Nee Gronda (Big Water) and Nee Noshe (Standing Water) are located twenty-one miles south of Eads, just off Highway 287. These naturally occurring reservoirs formed by depressions within rolling short grass prairie attracted Indians, trappers, and early settlers to the area. More recently some of the lakes store flood water for irrigation. The Great Plains Reservoirs are part of the Queens State Wildlife Area. The wildlife area is made up of 4,426 acres of public access and is an excellent place to hunt, bird watch, boat, and in some cases fish. Boat ramps, primitive camping, and public restrooms are available in some areas. Due to the sale of water rights and transfers of water outside of the Arkansas River basin, only Nee Gronda has enough water to maintain a fishery at this time. Accesses to the lakes are closed from November 1 to the end of waterfowl season.

Further west of the Great Plains Reservoirs, 12 miles south of Haswell on County Road 19 is Adobe Creek Reservoir, also called Blue Lake by the locals. This reservoir features some boating and fishing with primitive camping allowed.

KIOWA COUNTY MUSEUM

Take time to browse the Kiowa County Museum, located at 1313 Maine Street, in Eads. There you can see antique fashions and furniture, photographs, and scrapbooks. Because of the Native American presence in Kiowa County, you can view displays of arrowheads and other artifacts from the eastern plains. Medical and dental equipment, including a treadle operated drill as well as the kitchen from yesteryear is on display. The one display that will touch your heart is the Towner Bus Tragedy also known as the Pleasant Hill School Bus Tragedy.

SAND CREEK MASSACRE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Located in Kiowa County, 10 miles north of Chivington, rests the site of the Sand Creek Massacre, one of our nation's more profound historic events that changed the course of history. Here you can view the location of the attack led on November 29, 1864 by Colonel John Chivington. 675 U.S. soldiers attacked a village of Cheyenne and Arapaho who were camped under the protection of the American Flag. By noon, over 160 Indians were killed; many were women, children, and the elderly. The massacre was declared a national disgrace. In 2000, the site was established as a National Historic Site to preserve the landscape of the massacre, to enhance public understanding, and minimize similar incidents in the future. While visiting the site you can learn about the massacre from an interpretive ranger, picnic in the trees, walk to the top of the Overlook Hill, view rare birds, insects, and flora, and honor the dead by paying respect at the burial area.

www.nps.gov/sand/index.htm

NATION'S SMALLEST JAIL

Built in 1921, Haswell has the distinction of having the Nation's Smallest Jail which could house four prisoners. Admission is free and the white building sits on 3rd Street, 1/2 block west of Main Street.

KIOWA - ALBRIGHT HALL / WOELK MUSEUM

Located in Sheridan Lake is a public playground and picnic area on the grounds of the Kiowa - Albright Hall. This building was originally a schoolhouse and now holds the Sheridan Lake post office, a gym, and a three lane bowling alley. Just across town you can visit the Woelk Museum featuring historic buildings and artifacts depicting life in the 1800's.

