

PRAIRIE HORIZONS TRAIL TRANSAMERICA BICYCLE TRAIL

Crossing ten states from Virginia to Oregon is the transcontinental bicycle touring route called the TransAmerica 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 110 mile section of the trail that crosses Kiowa and Crowley County is Highway 96 and was dedicated the Prairie Horizons Trail in 2005. While traveling through Haswell, be sure and visit the world's smallest jail. Once an actual functioning jail, the 14 by 16 foot building was built in 1921.

www.adventurecycling.org

PIERRE AUGER COSMIC RAY OBSERVATORY

The Pierre Auger Project is a collaboration of 17 countries and more than 350 scientists with the completed Southern Hemisphere site located in Malargue, Argentina and the Northern Hemisphere site to be located in Southeast Colorado. The northern site is proposed to be located in a region of 4,000 square miles in Baca, Bent, Kiowa and Prowers Counties. When the northern site is completed, scientists will be able to study the entire sky. They will be able to study the universe's highest energy particles, cosmic rays, one of the greatest mysteries in science today. Lamar Community College was chosen as the Education and Outreach Host Institute for the Observatory. It will host the future administration and scientific headquarters facility on its campus as well as a permanent visitor center. One demonstration tank is located on the LCC campus and a second tank was placed at the Bent County fairgrounds. By securing this observatory, Southeast Colorado will be home to a world class attraction and a cutting edge research project.

www.auger.com

JACKSON'S POND

Located ½ mile south of Eads, Jackson's Pond is the centerpiece of the Kiowa Creek Natural Area. The pond is kept well stocked by the Division of Wildlife with fish such as bass, trout and catfish. Two landings have been added to the pond. Near the pond, there is a covered picnic table and restrooms are available. KCEDF has worked to develop the area with maintained county roads as well as a cultivated, maintained, walking trail. A Kids Fishing Day is held at the pond the first weekend of May and the pond is available year round.

Photo by KCDEF

Photo by Barbara Preskorn

Photo by Rick Jones

Photo by Rick Jones

Photo by SECED, Inc.

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 towns and county
- 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, Colorado.

www.kcedfonline.org

SOUTHEAST COLORADO ENHANCED ENTERPRISE ZONE

An enterprise zone is an economically distressed area of Colorado in which special tax incentives are offered to businesses that expand or locate in the zone. The purpose of the tax incentives is to create new jobs and investments in the zone. The enterprise zone program provides the following incentives for businesses located in designated enterprise zones, as well as for taxpayers making donations to qualified non-profit projects in enterprise zones.

1. Three percent investment tax credit
2. \$500 job tax credit (New)
3. Double job tax credit for agricultural processing
4. \$200 job tax credit for employer health insurance
5. Research and Development tax credit
6. Credit to rehabilitate vacant buildings
7. Credit for contributions to zones
8. Ten percent job training credit
9. Exemption from state sales and use tax for manufacturing and mining equipment
10. Local government tax incentives

www.seced.net

SOUTHEAST COLORADO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Created in 1986 by the counties of Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa and Prowers, SECED administers programs in cooperation with our 24 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 our 5 county area
- Owner occupied housing rehab within Baca, Kiowa and Prowers county
- Technical assistance
- Regional Transportation Planning representing Region 2
- Region 6 planning and management agency
- SECOC Southeast Council of Governments
- Santa Fe Trail Film Commission
- Pierre Auger Cosmic Ray Project Facilitator

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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Watermark Photo by Sandy Jones



Photo by Sandy Jones



Photo by Sandy Jones



Photo by Sandy Jones

KIOWA COUNTY

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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 trade corridor route. 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 facility. 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, art gallery and cultural events help to round out the balance and attraction of the area as a great place to visit but a better place to live.

Home of the towns of Arlington, Brandon, Chivington, Eads, Haswell, Sheridan Lake and Towner

- Eads, county seat
- Predominantly rural
- Population (2007) 1,469 / 1 person per square mile
- Area 1771 square miles
- Elevation 4,300 feet
- January average high 23° F
- July average high 90° F
- Annual precipitation 14 inches
- Annual snowfall 20 inches
- Excellent schools
- 2 Public schools with low teacher/student ratio
- Median resident age 37.9 years
- Low cost of living index (2008) 77.1%
- Unemployment rate (2005) 4.5%
- Bowling alley
- Swimming pool
- Library
- Churches
- Low crime rate / Safe communities
- Hospital
- Nursing care facility
- Assisted living facility

www.kcedfonline.org

SNOW GOOSE 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. Here in Kiowa County, you will find the Snow Goose Trail portion of the Colorado Birding Trail. The lakes and man-made reservoirs of this area attract many species of water birds as well as many other species of birds and wildlife which can also be observed, photographed and enjoyed.

www.coloradobirdingtrail.com

HIGH PLAINS SNOW GOOSE AND BIRDING FESTIVAL

Every February, the High Plains Snow Goose and Birding Festival co-hosted by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Lamar Chamber of Commerce, Lamar Community College, Kiowa County and Southeast Colorado Regional Heritage Taskforce offers tours, lectures, field trips, films, demonstrations and much more. During the weekend festival you will have the opportunity to learn about hunting, photography, birding and history as well as browsing the local artisan's booths or warming up with a hearty breakfast served at the Eads Community Center after watching the geese flying at sunrise.

www.highplainssnowgoose.com

WORKS PROJECTS ASSOCIATION

In 1935, Franklin D. Roosevelt created the WPA, 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. Several old buildings at Fort Lyon were dismantled and used in the construction of the American Legion Hall as well as several other WPA projects across Southeast Colorado, many which are still visible and in use even today.

www.coloradopreservation.org/newdeal

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. Here you can view the location of the attack led on November 19, 1864 by Colonel John Chivington. 675 U.S. soldiers attacked a village of Cheyenne and Arapahos 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.

www.nps.gov/sand

THE GREAT PLAINS RESERVOIRS

Nee Gronda (Big Water), Neesopah (Black Water), Neeskah (Queen), Neenoshe (Standing Water)

Located nine miles south of Eads, just off Highway 287, you can find more square miles of water surface than anywhere else in Colorado. These naturally occurring reservoirs attracted Indians, trappers and settlers and hold Indian names. Here you will find well stocked, warm water lakes, picnic and camping areas, tree lined shores and public restrooms. Avid fishermen can expect some of the best fishing on the plains catching bass, bullhead, channel cat, walleye and wiper. Swimming, sail boating, wind surfing, skiing, wildlife and bird watching, as well as hunting, can also be enjoyed. Further west, 11 miles south of Haswell, is Adobe Creek Reservoir, also called Blue Lake by the locals. This reservoir features boating and fishing with camping allowed, however, as there are no campgrounds or hook ups available, the camping is primitive.

www.kiowacountycolo.com

KIOWA COUNTY MUSEUM

Take time to browse the Kiowa County Museum, located on Maine Street, in Eads and see the antique fashions and furniture, photographs and scrapbooks. Because of the Native American presence in Kiowa County, you can view displays of arrowheads. 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. In March of 1931, 20 children were sent home on the bus due to impending bad weather. The bus was a 1929 Chevy truck with a homemade wooden topper, two wooden benches and no heater. When the bus became stuck the bus driver attempted to walk for help. Six lives were lost and the headlines spread across the nation.

www.kiowacountycolo.com

WOELK PARK

East of Eads, in the small town of Sheridan Lake, you can visit Woelk Park. This small park, developed by a private citizen, features several historic buildings and artifacts depicting life on the prairie in the 1800's. Nearby 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. Admission is free at Woelk Park.

www.kiowacountycolo.com

ARTIST OF THE PLAINS ART GALLERY

The Artist of the Plains Art Gallery is located on the north end of Eads on Highway 287. It offers quality, original works of art created by local artists. This gallery was started by four women wanting to paint in 1996. Five years later the small group grew in members to form the Artists of the Plains Art Club. From here grants were received, the building was rented, then later purchased, and the Artists of the Plains Art Gallery began. The gallery, staffed by volunteers, also includes a gift shop and a snack shop, all under one roof.

(719)688-5583 or (719)436-5583

Watermark photo by Perry Middleton

Photo by Rick Jones



Photo by KCDEF



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