

## PIERRE AUGER COSMIC RAY OBSERVATORY

The Pierre Auger Project is a collaboration of 17 countries and more than 350 scientists coming together to study one of the greatest mysteries in science today, ultra-high energy cosmic rays, the universe's highest energy particles. The Auger Observatory is located at two sites: the completed southern hemisphere site is located in Malargue, Argentina and the northern hemisphere site will be located in a region of 4,000 square miles in the counties of Baca, Bent, Kiowa and Prowers. With access to both sites, scientists will be able to "view" the entire universe and to study the entire sky. Lamar Community College in Lamar 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 at the Bent County fairgrounds in Las Animas, with future demonstration tanks to be placed in other locations within the region, encouraging visitors to stop and examine the tanks. By securing this observatory, southeast Colorado will be home to a world-class attraction and a cutting edge research project.

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

## 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".

Photo by Rick Jones

Photo by Barbara Preskorn

Photo by Mary Root

Photo by Rick Jones

Photo by SECED, Inc.

## BACA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION INC.

Baca County Community Foundation, (BCCF) was founded to promote responsible, sustainable development and growth through the expansion and or retention of the county's agricultural business. Bordering Kansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico, Baca County is a farming and ranching community located in the very southeast corner of Colorado. It is rich in history, natural resources and wildlife. Baca County is in an enterprise zone that offers tax credits as well as other assistance in relocation to Southeastern Colorado.

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## 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](http://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
- SECOG 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 Jeff Alexander



Photo by SECED, Inc.



Photo by Oney Jones

# BACA COUNTY

## 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, art galleries, cultural events and local amenities 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 Campo, Pritchett, Springfield, Two Buttes, Vilas and Walsh

- Springfield, county seat
- Predominantly rural
- Population (2007) 4,188
- Area 2,556 square miles / 2 people per square mile
- Elevation 4,295 feet
- Diverse terrain
- Cost of living index 74.8%, among the lowest in the nation
- Unemployment rate (2007) 3.7%
- Median age 42.9 years
- Low crime rate / Safe towns
- Fresh air
- Clean water
- 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
- 4 Senior centers
- 2 Assisted living facilities
- Airport

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

## SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS

Baca County is home to some of the best small schools in the State of Colorado. Here students have the opportunity to get more teacher contact time as the classes are smaller and the schools score among the highest in the state on testing. The local schools work very hard to provide opportunities for students to further their education through internet, televised classes and college classes through local campuses. Schools in Baca County are located in Springfield, Campo, Pritchett, Walsh and Vilas. Vilas also offers an on-line school.

## BACA COUNTY 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, skin care, 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](http://www.sechosp.org)

## MUSEUMS

A museum is a place to acquire, conserve, study and exhibit objects having historical, scientific or artistic value. Baca County is fortunate to have two such places. The Baca County Museum is located in the Baca County Resource Center on Main Street in Springfield, CO. Here you can view historical artifacts and information about Baca County. The community of Vilas also offers a unique small museum that is housed in the historic CF Wheeler Building on the Main Street in Vilas, CO. Call the number on the door for admission.

## 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 Lesser Prairie-Chickens and Cassin's Sparrow as well as a wide diversity of many other birds, mammals and reptiles to be observed, photographed and enjoyed.

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

## SANTA FE TRAIL

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.

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

## 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. 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 Treasure Chest Mall on Main Street in Springfield or at the Forest Service office.

[www.coloradopreservation.org/newdeal](http://www.coloradopreservation.org/newdeal)

## 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. The 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 with the past you will have. 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. Again the question lies as to where the markings came from and what was their significance.

## 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.fed.us/r2/psicc/coma](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/coma)

## BACA COUNTY LAKES AND RESERVOIRS

In Baca County, fishing and hunting are a favorite pastime. Near the small town of Two Buttes you will find Two Buttes Reservoir, probably one of the most interesting and picturesque of all Southeast Colorado Lakes. Camping is permitted but primitive. Boat ramps are available as well as restrooms. Wildlife is abundant and available for hunting, observing or photographing. Just below the dam is the Black Hole. Although very small, it is a very nice camping spot well stocked with fish. Northeast of Springfield, 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. Public access is denied during the migratory hunting season except to retrieve downed waterfowl.

[www.wildlife.state.co.us](http://www.wildlife.state.co.us)

Watermark photo by Jeff Alexander

Photo by SECED, Inc.



Photo by Jeff Alexander



Photo by Gloria Jean



Photo by Doby Green



Photo by BCCF

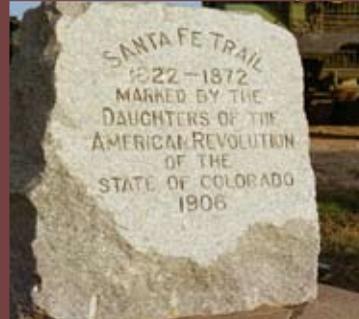


Photo by BCCF



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