

## 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 and here in Bent County we are home to the 75-megawatt capacity Twin Buttes Wind Power Project. It was built to help meet Colorado's demand for clean, renewable energy. The Twin Buttes Wind Power Project uses 50 wind turbines standing 328 feet tall across 9,000 acres of wind swept prairie. However, only 2% of the 9,000 acres of land area is actually used and the rest is used for other purposes such as ranching and grazing. Wind energy is plentiful, renewable and clean. The project also generates local income, boosts the local tax base, and attracts tourists.

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

## 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 has instituted a "Buy Local" campaign and created an email, [ideas@bentcounty.org](mailto:ideas@bentcounty.org), which allows residents to submit ideas and suggestions to help improve the county. The BCDF is a resource for business retention, expansion, recruitment and relocation in Bent County. They have access to resources for industry and infrastructure development in regards to job development such as Colorado Dept of Local Affairs (DOLA), Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OED&IT), and Economic Development Administration (EDA). They can also assist businesses in obtaining financing and business development from the Small Business Administration and the Colorado Enterprise Zone programs.

[www.bentcounty.org](http://www.bentcounty.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](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

719-336-3850 Cell 719-691-1769 Fax 719-336-3835  
P.O. Box 1600 112 West Elm Lamar, Colorado 81052  
Email: [seced@seced.net](mailto:seced@seced.net) Web Site: [www.seced.net](http://www.seced.net)

Watermark photo by Rick Jones



Photo by Mary Root



Photo by Jon DeLorenzo



Photo by Jon DeLorenzo

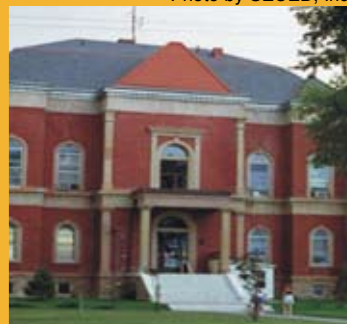
Photo by Rick Jones

Photo by SECED, Inc.

Photo by Rick Jones

Photo by Rick Jones

Photo by SECED, Inc.



# BENT COUNTY

## 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 two correctional facilities located within the county. 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, art galleries, 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 to the towns of Caddoa, Hasty, Las Animas and McClave

- Predominantly rural
- Area 1,541 square miles
- Elevation 3,901 feet
- Population (2007) 5,926 / 4 people per square mile
- Cost of living index 84.9%
- Unemployment rate (2007) 5.2%
- 315 days of sunshine
- Mean temperature of 30° F in winter
- Mean temperature of 80° F in summer
- Precipitation averages 12.8 inches annually
- Low crime rate
- Low mill levies
- Friendly communities
- Median resident age 37.3 years
- Library
- Churches
- 5 Public schools with 11:1 student/teacher ratio
- Mountain time zone
- Assisted living facility
- Nursing care facility
- Day care
- Golf course
- Swimming pool
- Airport

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

## KIT CARSON MUSEUM

### JOHN W. RAWLINGS HERITAGE CENTER

The Kit Carson Museum is presently located at Bent Avenue and 9th Street in Las Animas. The adobe building that houses the museum was built in 1940 to hold German prisoners of war captured in South Africa during WWII. Six buildings in all complete the museum. The main building has fifteen rooms with each room featuring a different subject. There is also the first Las Animas city jail, a one room school, a blacksmith shop, a one room steel jail, a carriage house, the original Bent County jail which saw the first "legal" hanging in Colorado and a stage station. You will have the opportunity to view artifacts depicting the development of Bent County from the days of Kit Carson through WWII. Presently under renovation at the corner of 6th and Bent Avenue is located the John W. Rawlings Heritage Center. The two story sandstone building was originally the 1898 I.O.O.F Hall which shows the return of the area to prosperity following the depression of the early 1890's. The building presently houses the Old Trail Art Gallery which features works of art by local artists and is managed by the Bent County Art Guild. When renovations to the building are completed, the Kit Carson Museum will be relocated to this location.

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

### KIT CARSON CHAPEL

Fort Lyon is located 6 miles east of Las Animas on the south side of Highway 50. New Fort Lyon was originally used as a frontier fort, then later a hospital, home for veterans and now owned by the Colorado Department of Corrections. Located at Fort Lyon along with other buildings from the 1860's, the Kit Carson Memorial Chapel is constructed of thick, native stone with beautiful stained glass windows. Here is where the famous scout, trapper, Indian agent and frontiersman, Kit Carson, died in 1868. While visiting the chapel you can also visit the Fort Lyon National Cemetery.

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

## SANTA FE TRAIL DAYS CELEBRATION

Every year on the last Friday in April, Las Animas begins to hum with the activities of the Santa Fe Trail Days Celebration. The first Santa Fe Trail Day was held in 1934 and is today the oldest high school event in the State of Colorado. The annual event recalls the colorful history of the historic trail. Activities to be enjoyed range from a period costume contest, parade, and square dancing competition to a cowboy show, community dance and art show.

[www.lasanimas.k12.co.us/sftd](http://www.lasanimas.k12.co.us/sftd)

### 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 County finally ending in Santa Fe. As you travel along the byway you can view monuments, actual wagon ruts, rubble from homesteads and historical sites.

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

### 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 Thomas O. Boggs founded Boggsville, the first permanent, non-military, settlement in Southeast Colorado, in 1862. This settlement became the center for trade, agriculture, education, and culture. Several important pioneers built their homes here, including William W. Bent, John W. Prowers, John Hough and Kit Carson, along with their wives. When visiting, you will realize the importance of the women of Boggsville and how they brought elegance and beauty to the settlement. At the height of Boggsville, twenty buildings were in use. You can visit the reconstructed homes of the families of Boggs, Prowers and Carson complete with period items and furnishings.

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

## JOHN MARTIN RESERVOIR

### RECREATION AREA AND STATE PARK

Two miles south of Highway 50 at Hasty, is John Martin Reservoir Recreation Area and State Park. Here were found dinosaur tracks formed in the Dakota Group Dinosaur Freeway as well as the swim tracks attributed to crocodilians. The visitor center is located at the entrance of the park and offers an interactive dinosaur track display with actual tracks from the track site as well as a mural of the dinosaurs. After leaving the visitor center, you can view John Martin Dam and Reservoir. The dam is 2.6 miles in length and 118 feet high. The reservoir is the largest in Southeast Colorado. Here you can enjoy many wind water sports as well as boating, fishing, birding, camping and hiking. There is an abundance of wildlife to observe or photograph. While birding you may view the threatened Piping Plover or the endangered Interior Least Tern. 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 Historic site on the north shore of the reservoir. The trail is about 4.5 miles long and offers an excellent opportunity for wildlife viewing.

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

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

Watermark photo by Jon DeLorenzo

Photo by Rick Jones



Photo by Jon DeLorenzo



Photo by Rick Jones



Photo by Rick Jones



Photo by Jon DeLorenzo



Photo by BCDF



Photo by Pat Palmer



Photo by Jon DeLorenzo

