

CROWLEY HERITAGE CENTER AND MUSEUM

Crowley Heritage Center and Museum has been restored from the 1914 grade school that was in desperate need of repair to the building that houses the community center and museum today. It is one of the oldest buildings in Crowley County and is the only one listed on the State and National Historical Site lists. The Museum holds memorabilia and history representing each town, each 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. Abstracts and copies of old periodicals are also available for research and viewing. The museum is a historical work in progress.

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 driving 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 which 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.

www.crowleycounty.net

Photo by Rick Jones



Photo by Judy Geringer



CROWLEY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONTACTS

Chamber of Commerce
301 Main Street
Ordway, CO 81063
(719)267-3833

Crowley County Economic Development Co., Inc.
603 Main, Suite 2
Ordway, CO 81063
(719)267-4444, Ext. 2

Revolving Loan Fund
P.O. Box 1600
Lamar, CO 81052
(719)336-3850

SCEDD Development Company
SBA Loans
1104 North Main St.
Pueblo, CO 81003
(719)545-8680

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

Photo by SECED, Inc.



Photo by Rick Jones



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 Web Site: www.seced.net

Photo by SECED, Inc.



Watermark photo by Pat Johnson



Photo by Ethan Jones



Photo by Jon DeLorenzo



Photo by Rick Jones

CROWLEY COUNTY

CROWLEY COUNTY

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

- Ordway, county seat
- Population (2007) 7,189
- 8 people per square mile
- Area 802 square miles
- Elevation 4,300 feet
- Median age 36.6 years
- Predominantly rural
- Rolling grasslands and fertile river bottoms
- 300 days of sunshine
- Mean temperature of 25.5° F in January
- Mean temperature of 74.7° F in July
- 11.2 inches average rainfall annually
- 21.46 inches average snowfall annually
- Mild semi-arid climate
- Low cost of living index 77.2% (2008)
- Unemployment rate (September 2007) 6.8%
- Low crime rate
- Low property taxes
- Affordable housing
- Friendly, safe communities
- Nursing home center
- Health care center
- Long term care facility
- Fitness center
- 3 Public schools 13:1 teacher / student ratio
- State approved Preschool
- Library
- 6 Churches
- 5 Organizations

Crowley County is located on the high plains of Southeast Colorado and was established in 1911. 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 business expansion and relocation. 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 areas for boating, camping, fishing and hunting. The museum, fiestas and fair help to round out the balance and attraction of the area as a great place to visit but a better place to live.

www.crowleycounty.net

CROWLEY COUNTY DAYS CELEBRATION

Every year during the last weekend in July, Crowley County Days are in full swing in Ordway. The communities of Ordway, Sugar City, Crowley and Olney Springs come together for an old fashioned family event that has been celebrated since 1911. During the festivities you can enjoy the 4-H show, the rodeo and street dance followed by the community breakfast, fun and games in Conestoga Park, and the parade, barbeque, and mud races.

www.exploresoutheastcolorado.com

PRONGHORN 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 traveling through Crowley County is The Pronghorn Trail, prairie birding at its best. You will have the opportunity to observe migrating water fowl, such as Canadian and Snow Geese, Bald Eagles and SandHill Cranes during the winter, White Pelicans during the summer and hawks, owls and Golden Eagles throughout the year. Wildlife, birds, mammals and reptiles are here to be observed, photographed and enjoyed.

www.coloradobirdingtrail.com

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 trail was established during the bicentennial by the Adventure Cycling Association. The 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.

www.adventurecycling.org

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, is Lake Henry. Here you will find great fishing from the boat or from the shore plus room for boating, swimming, sailing and jet skis. 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 Lane 21 you can find Meredith Reservoir State Wildlife Area, the largest body of water in Crowley County sitting 4 miles long and 2 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 quite 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 71 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 and there is no fee to use either.

HUNTING

Southeast Colorado is a mecca for hunting opportunities and depending on the season, is within minutes of where ever you happen to be in Crowley County. 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. NOTE: Permission to access private property must be obtained.

Watermark photo by Eli Jones

Photo by Rick Jones

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