

2015 Annual Report



La Plata County
Economic Development

ALLIANCE

Pioneer Spirit. Business Smart.



We, the Alliance, will make La Plata County the premier Rocky Mountain destination to start, own, and grow business, while enjoying a superior quality of life.

The La Plata County Economic Development Alliance is a diverse group of private businesses and public agencies working together towards a common goal: to foster the economic success of our community.

Our mission is to promote the economic development of La Plata County by serving as the gateway for individuals looking to start, grow, or relocate their business to La Plata County, by providing advocacy, relevant information and resources at the local, state and national level.



L to R: Christina Rinderle, Phil Bryson, Brad Blake, and Chris McCroskey discuss the Alliance's strategic goals at the 2015 Board Retreat.

2015 Board of Directors

Emily Meisner	Chair	2016—2018
Chris McCroskey	Vice Chair	2014—2016
Christina Rinderle	Secretary	Durango Appointment
Michael Russell	Treasurer	2014—2016
Brad Tafoya	Private Sector	2014—2016
Mitch Dye	Private Sector	2016—2018
Brad Blake	La Plata County	County Appointment
Matt Salka	Town of Bayfield	Bayfield Appointment
Dan Naiman	Town of Ignacio	Ignacio Appointment

It is with great pride that we share the successes and achievements of the La Plata County Economic Development Alliance.

The Alliance was formed in 2011 as a collaborative partnership among private, public, and non-profit sectors. Since that time the organization has been dedicated to strengthening the economy through the retention, expansion, and recruitment of businesses. Our mission is to help to grow jobs and diversify the economy of La Plata County while allowing for all our citizens to take full advantage of our exceptional quality of life.

Our accomplishments are demonstrated through the many avenues of support we offer our local business community: assistance, events, programs, and advocacy.



Emily Meisner
Alliance Board Chair

Our knowledgeable and capable staff assist companies daily — both local businesses and those looking to move to southwest Colorado.

Staff also works closely with several Alliance committees in the development of programs and events which aim to benefit our investor members and the greater business community. From professional development training for mid-level employees to networking opportunities for area business CEO's and leaders, the Alliance is continually trying out new ideas to help businesses succeed.

Perhaps our most effective achievements stem from our strong advocacy for the local business community. We persistently advocate and uphold the mission and vision of our organization for all of La Plata County and the three very diverse communities situated here; Bayfield, Durango, and Ignacio.



Fort Lewis College President, Dene Thomas and US Congressman Scott Tipton at a quarterly CEO Network meeting.



The Animas River just a few days after the Gold King Mine spill.

The Alliance will continue to tout our pro-business environment and resources, and in doing so we will strive to carry on our incredible relationships with respected business, government, and non-profit partners. Together we will keep La Plata County a desirable place to work and live!

Sincerely,

Emily Meisner

Alliance Board Chair

2015 Accomplishments

At a Glance


20,000+
people reached
through social media

1,100
people attended
Alliance events

4
public partners

135
private sector members

\$490,000
toward
strategic initiatives



80
businesses assisted

10
people helped through
Trailing Spouse Program

4,000
more homes soon to have
access to high speed internet

85%
voter support to opt out of
local internet restrictions

10 new businesses,
24 new jobs, and
\$1.5 million in investment
through
SCAPE Accelerator Program

71
employees helped
in response to Gold King Mine spill
in partnership with
Business Improvement Dist. and Community Foundation

65
investors introduced
to entrepreneurs

2015 Strategic Initiatives

A New Terminal and Improved Air Service

Why a new terminal?

The Airport contributes almost \$286 million to our economy. The current terminal is too small for our 200,000 annual passengers and 15 flights per day. A new terminal will help our region's economic resiliency and enable better service for passengers, airlines, and general aviation.

What has the Alliance achieved:

- Partnered with the Airport on a new, detailed economic impact study by industry and household.
- Fostered regional partnerships across state lines.
- Total amount committed in 2015: \$21,700.



The Durango La Plata County Airport (DRO)

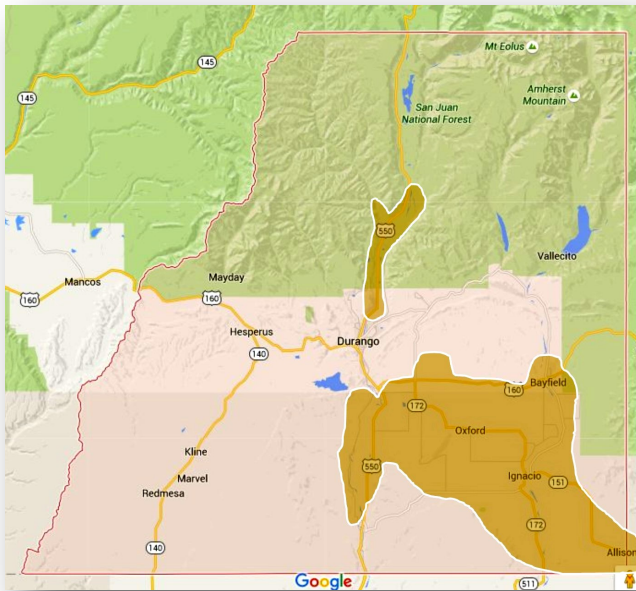
A New Business Park

Why a new Business Park?

Businesses, particularly industrial firms like construction companies and small manufacturers, struggle to find affordable space to buy, lease or build. This hurts the ability of our local firms to grow and create quality jobs for our residents and families.

What has the Alliance done:

- Conducted an economic impact study of Bodo Park on our economy.
- Secured a grant to undertake a feasibility study on the location, size, and implementation steps needed to successfully create a new business park.
- Total amount committed in 2015: \$57,500.



Areas of the county that will receive high speed internet because of Alliance and Region 9 loan assistance.

100% High Speed Internet to Every Home and Business in La Plata County

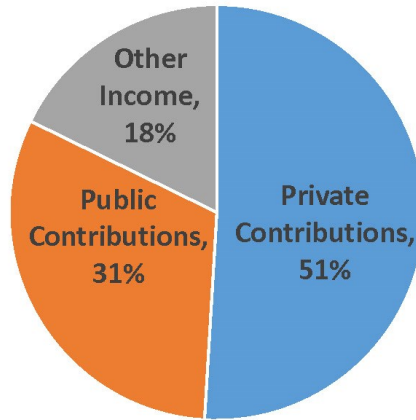
Why High Speed Internet Service?

Homebased workers have increased to 10% of La Plata County's workforce. Affordable, high speed internet is vital for them, our residents, and our increasingly data-driven businesses.

What has the Alliance accomplished:

- Helped pass local legislation to enable communities to partner with private providers to expand internet (SB 152 opt-out elections in November 2015).
- Participated in a loan with Region 9 to expand high speed wireless internet throughout south central La Plata County and the Animas River Valley, which will reach 4,000 homes when complete.
- Partnered with the Southwest Colorado Council of Governments and CDOT to develop a strategy for last mile service and gig fiber communities, as well as better access to grant money for implementation.
- Total amount committed in 2015: \$412,000.

Alliance Operational Financing 2016



Total Revenues Planned: \$343,275

2016 Planned Operating Budget

Income

Private Contributions	\$174,925
Public Contributions	\$107,400
Other Income (Summit, Interest, Programs)	<u>\$60,950</u>
Total Income	<u>\$343,275</u>

Expenses

Payroll	\$191,129
Employee Training	\$2,500
Travel	\$5,000
Office Expenses (Rent, Utilities, Supplies)	\$22,294
Contract Services	\$5,100
Economic Summit	\$30,000
Marketing & Web	\$23,000
Strategic Initiatives	\$25,500
Business Assistance	\$28,700
Meals, Receptions, Board Expenses	\$7,100
Conference Sponsorships	\$3,000
Charges and Fees	\$3,000
Data, Dues, & Subscriptions	<u>\$5,075</u>
Total Expense	<u>\$351,398</u>

Net Income

-\$8,123

2015 Investors

Axis Health System
Bank of the San Juans
Chevron
Coca Cola Distributing
Conoco Phillips
Crossfire, LLC
DoubleTree Hilton Durango
Dgo Chamber of Commerce
Dgo Industrial Dev. Foundation
Dgo School District 9-R

Dgo Slvtn Narrow Gauge Railroad
FastTrack Communication, Inc.
FCI Constructors, Inc.
First Southwest Bank of CO
Fort Lewis College
Glacier Realty, LLC
Integrity Health Plus
Jaynes Construction
Morehart Murphy Regional Auto
On the Edge Productions

Open Sky Wilderness Therapy
Purgatory
Region 9 Economic Dev. District
Southwest Ag, Inc.
SW Colorado Community College
Swan Wealth Advisors
Tafoya Barrett & Associates
Vectra Bank
Zircon Container
Zuke's

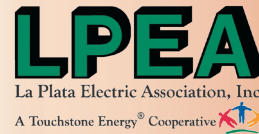
2015 Friends

AlignTec Technologies
Allen & Associates
Animas River Wetlands
Animas Chocolate Company
Athena Communications
Ballantine Communication
Elk Run Builders
Blake Mechanical, Inc.
Blue Lake Ranch
Boys & Girls Club of La Plata County
Canyon Construction
Cardin Communications
Carver Brewing Company
Coldwell Banker Heritage House Realtors
Colorado Lending Source
Community Banks of Colorado
Data Safe Services
Davis Advisory Services
Desert Sun Coffee
Durango Area Association of Realtors
Durango Area Tourism Office
Durango Arts Center
Durango Business Improvement District
Durango Coffee Company
Durango Discovery Museum
Durango Insurance Professionals, Inc.
Durango Land and Homes
Durango Magazine
Durango Network
Durango Orthopedics & Spine Colorado
Durango Space
Ecosphere Environmental Services, Inc.

Edgemont Ranch
Evergreen Education
Express Employment Professionals
Farnsworth Group
Fastenal
FASTSIGNS of Durango
Feeney Architect
FEI Engineers
Four Corners Economic Development
Four Corners Eye Clinic
Four Corners Materials
Four Corners Records Management
Fox Law Group, LLC
Freenotes Harmony Park
Goff Engineering & Surveying
HDS Freight Services
Hey Red Marketing Communications, LLC
Home Builders Association of SW CO
Idea-Loop
Ignacio Chamber of Commerce
Imagenet Consulting
Imagesmith Photo
Information Services
Keller Williams Realty, SW Associates
Konisto Co.
La Plata County Energy Council
Local First
Maria's Bookshop
Montezuma Community Econ. Dev. Assoc.
Moreno Surveying and Geographics, Inc.
Mountain West Insurance
Music in the Mountains, Inc.

Osprey Packs
Oxford Asset Management
P4 Consulting
Patio Restaurant
Payroll Department
Pease Financial Services
Phoenix Recycling LLC
Records and Data Management
Regional Housing Alliance
RoadRunner DS, LLC
Russell Planning & Engineering
Sachs Construction LLC
San Juan College
San Juan Symphony
Seccuro Group/Computer Medics
Serious Texas BBQ II
Ska Brewing Company, Inc.
Southern Ute Community Action Programs, Inc.
Southwest Land Services, Inc.
Steamworks Brewing Co.
Steve Eccher Design & Planning LLC
Stewart Title of Durango
Strater Hotel
Studs Lumber Co.
Tailwind Nutrition
Think Network Technologies
Tile and Light Art of Durango
United Way of Southwest Colorado
Web Services Management
Wells Fargo Bank
Wells Group
WPX Energy

2015 Chairman's Circle Members

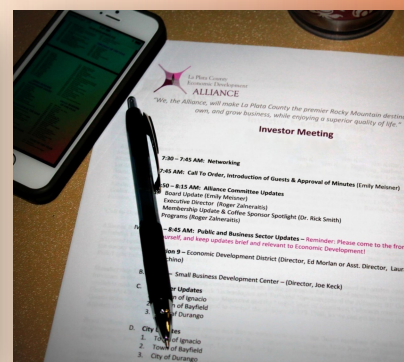


SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE
GROWTH FUND



2015 Government Partners

Town of Bayfield • City of Durango • Town of Ignacio
La Plata County



La Plata County Economic Development Alliance

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