

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

TO: Dolores County Commissioners

FROM: Daniel Fernandez, Director
Dolores County Extension

DATE: June 3, 2009

SUBJECT: May Activity Report

Cross County Effort:

Regular meetings were held with the El Pomar Foundation and the Montezuma Land Conservancy, the SBDC, Region 9 and Montezuma Water this past month. We continue to deal with a significant number of regional fruit tree questions on a daily basis including 2 pruning workshops; one in Pagosa and the other at the Hesperus Experiment Station. My weekly radio show on KSJD in Cortez continues.

The Fruit Tree Research and Demonstration Project installed the irrigation system, sprayed for weeds and completed 2 rounds of chemical thinning - we have a significant crop developing. All the newly planted super high density demonstration trees have survived and progressing well.

The Economic Development Corporation's (DCDC) Dick and Adelene Weber Business Park tenant, San Juan BioEnergy's plant is improving every week. Financially, they have their head above water, the plant is starting to manufacture vegetable oil more efficiently and initial indications are that we will have a good season with our growers. We have had several meetings this month with growers and DOW dealing with wildlife and seed issues. On the employment front, we still have the #1 unemployment ranking in the State at 14.9%.

DCDC continues to monitor the local economic development situation in the county with the possible expansion of our TV Channel in the Cortez market via the internet. The Motel is now under new management. Our cable system has shut down, but DCDC, the Town and CSUE are looking at how to manage this system ourselves. The current operator will give us the entire system free of charge.

We accepted a \$337,000 grant from the Department of Local Affairs for our road project but we had to have a 1 for 1 dollar match. We continue initial work on 2 projects now; the funding and construction of a new Senior Citizens/Community Center in Dove Creek which we hope to possibly use Stimulus Money to get this moving. Also, the Youth Build project involving grant funded youth apprenticeship (the Feds should notify us in June). DCTV is going digital soon as will all of our 7 rebroadcast channels.

Our 4-H program is in process and all projects are doing well.

Office visitors and phone contacts were normal for the month. Moisture for the month was well above normal 1.34 inches with normal being 0.94 inches. For the year, we have had 2.78 inches which is 49% of normal.

CONTACTS

(ALL CONTACTS ARE LOGGED WITH
NAMES AND CONTACT PURPOSE)

PHONE	375
OFFICE VISITORS	199
AREA SITE VISITS	28
MEETINGS	15
MEETING PARTICIPANTS	503
WORKSHOPS	5
NEWSLETTERS/NEWSPAPER ARTICLES	12
SLIDE PRESENTATIONS & MISC.	3