



Tribal Gaming Impact Study

Sponsored by:

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Archuleta County

La Plata County

The State of Colorado Division of Gaming

**Deloitte &
Touche**

555 17th Street, Suite 3600
Denver, CO 80202

Final Report
February 29, 2000



State of Colorado
Division of Gaming
Tribal Gaming Impact Studies

February 29, 2000

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Dear Gentlemen:

Deloitte & Touche LLP ("Deloitte & Touche") is pleased to submit this Tribal Gaming Impact Study of the Sky Ute Gaming Facility to the State of Colorado, Archuleta County, La Plata County and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (collectively referred to as the "Sponsors"). This report presents an analysis of the economic and social impacts of the existing casino facility, known as the Sky Ute Casino. This report was assembled solely to assist the Sponsors in evaluating the effects of the existing facility.

This report provides an orderly presentation of the information available at the time that the study was conducted. The information analyzed was provided by gaming facility visitors, facility employees, Archuleta and La Plata County employees, Tribal management, State of Colorado departments and agencies, local governmental agencies, and other industry sources that are customarily relied upon within the field. The study has made numerous assumptions and identified conditions in those areas where

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data was not available in order to accurately estimate the various impacts generated from the facility. These assumptions and conditions are appropriate to the current operation of the facility. We believe the findings and conclusions drawn in this report are appropriate for planning and decision-making purposes as they pertain to the social and economic impacts generated by the Sky Ute Casino.

We have not examined, compiled, or performed agreed-upon procedures on the financial projections presented within, as defined by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA"), and we therefore express no assurance of any kind on them. Further, there will usually be differences between the projected results and the actual results, because events and circumstances frequently do not occur as expected, and those differences may be material. This work is intended only for the use of the Sponsors in their determination of the economic and social impacts associated with the existence and operation of the Sky Ute Casino. This document is not intended for, nor should not be relied upon by, any other parties.

This report is not suitable for financing purposes, and, therefore, should not be used or referenced in any financing documents such as an official statement or prospectus, nor should it be used for any other purpose without the prior written approval of Deloitte & Touche.

As the gaming facility continues to operate, circumstances may change and unanticipated events may arise, requiring appropriate revisions to this report. However, Deloitte & Touche has no responsibility to update this report for events and circumstances occurring after the date of this report.

It has been our pleasure to serve the Sponsors in this effort. If we can be of further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Stew Rog at (973) 683-6821 or Mr. Robert Schein at (303) 312-4081.

Very truly yours,

Deloitte & Touche LLP

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I. Executive Summary

In March of 1999, Deloitte & Touche LLP was engaged by the State of Colorado to conduct an Economic and Social Impact Analysis of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Gaming Operation. This study was to be conducted for the mutual benefit of the State of Colorado, Archuleta County, La Plata County, and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (collectively referred to as the "Sponsors"). This study has its origins in the amended Tribal-State Compact, entered into by the State and the Tribe in June of 1995. The Compact called for an assessment of the positive and negative economic and social impacts of Tribal Gaming.

As stated in the State's Request for Proposal (RFP) document for this study, the purpose of this analysis was "to document the positive and negative impacts of the Tribe's gaming operation on the Reservation and surrounding communities." From our conversations with the Sponsors, it became clear that an additional objective of this study was to provide all parties with information to address the fiscal issues related to the economic and social impacts of the Tribe's gaming operation. The State of Colorado provides Impact Aid funds to counties that have been adversely impacted by the presence of gaming operations. Since 1993, La Plata County has received nearly \$1.7 million in funds from this program, while Archuleta County has received approximately \$25,000. There is some disagreement as to the overall fiscal impact of the gaming operation on the two counties, and therefore the appropriateness of Impact Aid funding. As such, quantification of the impacts of the gaming operation, particularly with respect to financial and fiscal implications, became an important objective of our work.



I. Executive Summary - Economic Impact

Calculation Overview

Four key areas of economic impact were estimated. These areas include:

- Economic Output (Total dollars spent and respent as a result of the initial direct spending)
- Employment (Jobs created from direct and indirect spending)
- Personal Income (Earnings generated from the economic output)
- Fiscal Impact (Tax impacts generated from spending and employee earnings)

Sources Used In Economic Impact Calculations

These four key areas were analyzed using the following data sources:

- Construction budgets (Tribal)
 - Completed projects
 - Anticipated projects
- Casino expenditures
 - Historic payroll data
 - Historic spending data on goods & services
- Out-of-facility patron expenditures (on the way to and from the Casino) from patron surveys
 - Commercial Lodging
 - Food & Beverage
 - Attractions/Recreation
 - Retail
 - Gas, Tolls, and Parking
 - Other
- Additional research as necessary

I. Executive Summary - Economic Impact

The results of the calculations are presented over a period of twelve years. The Sky Ute Lodge & Casino was completed in September of 1993. Therefore, the first year analyzed and shown in the following charts is 1994. (Construction impacts were calculated in 1993. However, operating budgets employment information, and revenue generation figures used to estimate Casino attendance were not available prior to 1994. Therefore, 1994 is the first year in-facility and out-of-facility impacts were calculated.) Economic impact estimates are included through the year 2005. Estimates between the years 1994 to 1999 are based on actual Casino expenditures. Estimates beginning in 2000 are based upon available data on future spending projections as well as market and spending trends identified from the years prior to 1999.

Attendance Scenarios

Three different attendance scenarios were included to estimate the impacts generated from out-of-facility spending (impacts generated from construction and Casino expenditures are not affected by the various attendance scenarios). Out-of-facility visitor spending is driven by the total number of patrons traveling to the Casino. However, the Sky Ute Lodge & Casino does not track or maintain visitation data. Therefore, three attendance scenarios were developed to provide a range of impact estimates based on possible annual attendance figures. These attendance estimates were based upon Casino records of total gaming revenue (assuming that the weeks with the highest total revenue were also the weeks with the largest number of visitors). Casino management reviewed the attendance estimates to confirm their accuracy. These three scenarios are classified and designated as:

- Low (the lowest attendance estimates)
- Mid
- High (the highest attendance estimates)

I. Executive Summary - Economic Impact

Total Economic Output in Colorado

The total economic output in the year 2000 is estimated to range from \$15.2 million to \$17.9 million between the low and high scenarios. The average economic output over the past five years has ranged from \$16.8 million to \$19.3 million annually. This is estimated to change to an average of between \$15.8 million and \$18.7 million annually over the next five years.

Low Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Colorado Output from Construction	3,360,450	164,174	4,859,678	684,822	40,293	0	7,893,371	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado Output from Facility expenditures		7,193,946	9,413,629	12,378,908	11,765,168	11,723,691	12,153,906	12,271,752	12,367,351	12,465,330	12,565,759	12,668,712	12,788,951
Colorado Output from Out-of-Facility expenditures		2,302,503	2,373,714	2,447,128	2,665,588	2,748,029	2,833,019	2,918,010	3,005,550	3,095,717	3,188,588	3,284,246	3,382,773
TOTALS	3,360,450	9,660,623	16,647,021	15,510,858	14,471,048	14,471,720	22,880,297	15,189,761	15,372,901	15,561,046	15,754,347	15,952,958	16,171,724

Mid Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Colorado Output from Construction	3,360,450	164,174	4,859,678	684,822	40,293	0	7,893,371	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado Output from Facility expenditures		7,193,946	9,413,629	12,378,908	11,765,168	11,723,691	12,153,906	12,271,752	12,367,351	12,465,330	12,565,759	12,668,712	12,788,951
Colorado Output from Out-of-Facility expenditures		3,496,393	3,604,529	3,716,009	3,830,937	3,949,420	4,071,567	4,193,714	4,319,525	4,449,111	4,582,584	4,720,062	4,861,664
TOTALS	3,360,450	10,854,513	17,877,836	16,779,739	15,636,398	15,673,111	24,118,844	16,465,466	16,686,876	16,914,441	17,148,344	17,388,774	17,650,615

High Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Colorado Output from Construction	3,360,450	164,174	4,859,678	684,822	40,293	0	7,893,371	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado Output from Facility expenditures		7,193,946	9,413,629	12,378,908	11,765,168	11,723,691	12,153,906	12,271,752	12,367,351	12,465,330	12,565,759	12,668,712	12,788,951
Colorado Output from Out-of-Facility expenditures		4,690,283	4,835,344	4,984,890	5,139,062	5,298,002	5,461,858	5,625,714	5,794,485	5,968,320	6,147,369	6,331,790	6,521,744
TOTALS	3,360,450	12,048,403	19,108,650	18,048,621	16,944,523	17,021,693	25,509,135	17,897,465	18,161,836	18,433,649	18,713,128	19,000,502	19,310,695



I. Executive Summary - Economic Impact

Total Economic Output in La Plata County

The total economic output in the year 2000 is estimated to range from \$11.9 million to \$14.1 million between the low and high scenarios.

The average economic output over the past five years has ranged from \$13.0 million to \$15.0 million annually. This is estimated to change to an average of between \$12.3 million and \$14.8 million annually over the next five years.

Low Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
La Plata County Output from Construction	2,290,094	111,882	3,311,795	466,695	27,459	0	5,379,209	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Plata County Output from Facility expenditures		5,708,169	7,525,792	9,829,955	9,365,000	9,378,401	9,711,709	9,793,214	9,859,879	9,928,137	9,998,036	10,069,623	10,152,751
La Plata County Output from Out-of-Facility expenditures		1,781,030	1,836,113	1,892,901	1,951,444	2,011,798	2,074,018	2,136,239	2,200,326	2,266,336	2,334,326	2,404,356	2,476,486
TOTALS	2,290,094	7,601,081	12,673,700	12,189,551	11,343,903	11,390,199	17,164,936	11,929,453	12,060,205	12,194,473	12,332,362	12,473,979	12,629,237

Mid Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
La Plata County Output from Construction	2,290,094	111,882	3,311,795	466,695	27,459	0	5,379,209	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Plata County Output from Facility expenditures		5,708,169	7,525,792	9,829,955	9,365,000	9,378,401	9,711,709	9,793,214	9,859,879	9,928,137	9,998,036	10,069,623	10,152,751
La Plata County Output from Out-of-Facility expenditures		2,704,527	2,788,172	2,874,404	2,963,304	3,054,952	3,149,435	3,243,918	3,341,236	3,441,473	3,544,717	3,651,059	3,760,590
TOTALS	2,290,094	8,524,578	13,625,759	13,171,055	12,355,762	12,433,353	18,240,353	13,037,132	13,201,115	13,369,610	13,542,753	13,720,682	13,913,341

High Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
La Plata County Output from Construction	2,290,094	111,882	3,311,795	466,695	27,459	0	5,379,209	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Plata County Output from Facility expenditures		5,708,169	7,525,792	9,829,955	9,365,000	9,378,401	9,711,709	9,793,214	9,859,879	9,928,137	9,998,036	10,069,623	10,152,751
La Plata County Output from Out-of-Facility expenditures		3,628,024	3,740,231	3,855,908	3,975,163	4,098,107	4,224,852	4,351,598	4,482,146	4,616,610	4,755,108	4,897,762	5,044,694
TOTALS	2,290,094	9,448,075	14,577,818	14,152,559	13,367,622	13,476,508	19,315,770	14,144,812	14,342,024	14,544,747	14,753,144	14,967,385	15,197,445

I. Executive Summary - Economic Impact

Total Economic Output in Archuleta County

The total economic output in the year 2000 is estimated to range from \$285,000 to \$480,000 between the low and high scenarios.

The average economic output over the past five years has ranged from \$345,000 to \$525,000 annually. This is estimated to change to an average of between \$310,000 and \$525,000 annually over the next five years.

Low Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Archuleta County Output from Construction	102,669	5,016	148,473	20,923	1,231	0	241,159	0	0	0	0	0	0
Archuleta County Output from Facility expenditures		60,472	70,729	102,912	94,470	87,219	92,036	94,815	96,988	99,225	101,529	103,900	106,740
Archuleta County Output from Out-of-Facility expenditures		157,917	162,801	167,836	173,027	178,379	183,896	189,412	195,095	200,948	206,976	213,185	219,581
TOTALS	102,669	223,405	382,003	291,671	266,728	265,598	517,090	284,227	292,083	300,173	308,505	317,085	326,321

Mid Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Archuleta County Output from Construction	102,669	5,016	148,473	20,923	1,231	0	241,159	0	0	0	0	0	0
Archuleta County Output from Facility expenditures		60,472	70,729	102,912	94,470	87,219	92,036	94,815	96,988	99,225	101,529	103,900	106,740
Archuleta County Output from Out-of-Facility expenditures		239,800	247,217	254,863	262,745	270,871	279,249	287,626	296,255	305,143	314,297	323,726	333,438
TOTALS	102,669	305,288	466,419	378,698	356,446	358,090	612,443	382,441	393,243	404,368	415,826	427,625	440,178

High Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Archuleta County Output from Construction	102,669	5,016	148,473	20,923	1,231	0	241,159	0	0	0	0	0	0
Archuleta County Output from Facility expenditures		60,472	70,729	102,912	94,470	87,219	92,036	94,815	96,988	99,225	101,529	103,900	106,740
Archuleta County Output from Out-of-Facility expenditures		321,683	331,632	341,889	352,463	363,364	374,602	385,840	397,415	409,338	421,618	434,266	447,294
TOTALS	102,669	387,172	550,834	465,724	448,164	450,583	707,796	480,655	494,404	508,563	523,146	538,166	554,035

I. Executive Summary - Economic Impact

Total Employment in Colorado

The total number of jobs sustained in 2000 is estimated to range from 265 to 314 between the low and high scenarios. The total number of jobs estimated are not new jobs but sustained jobs based on the Casino operation. *(These estimates do not include individuals employed at the Casino. The individuals employed directly at the Casino are shown in the Employee Profile section)*

The Sky Ute Lodge & Casino Operation has been responsible for sustaining an annual average of between 275 and 320 jobs in the Colorado economy over the past five years. This is estimated to change to an annual average of between 275 and 328 jobs over the next five years.

Low Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Colorado Jobs from Construction	36	2	52	7	0	0	85	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado Jobs from Facility expenditures		125	164	216	205	204	212	214	216	217	219	220	222
Colorado Jobs from Out-of-Facility expenditures		41	42	43	47	49	50	52	53	55	56	58	60
TOTALS	36	168	258	267	253	253	346	265	269	272	275	278	282

Mid Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Colorado Jobs from Construction	36	2	52	7	0	0	85	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado Jobs from Facility expenditures		125	164	216	205	204	212	214	216	217	219	220	222
Colorado Jobs from Out-of-Facility expenditures		62	64	66	68	70	72	74	77	79	81	84	86
TOTALS	36	189	280	289	274	274	369	288	292	296	300	304	309

High Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Colorado Jobs from Construction	36	2	52	7	0	0	85	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado Jobs from Facility expenditures		125	164	216	205	204	212	214	216	217	219	220	222
Colorado Jobs from Out-of-Facility expenditures		83	86	89	91	94	97	100	103	106	109	112	116
TOTALS	36	211	302	312	297	298	393	314	318	323	328	333	338

I. Executive Summary - Economic Impact

Total Employment in La Plata County

The total number of jobs sustained in the year 2000 is estimated to range from 220 to 264 between the low and high scenarios. The total number of jobs estimated are not new jobs but sustained jobs based on the Casino operation. *(These estimates do not include individuals employed at the Casino. The individuals employed directly at the Casino are shown in the Employee Profile section)*

The Sky Ute Lodge & Casino Operation has been responsible for sustaining an annual average of between 222 and 263 jobs annually in the La Plata County economy over the past five years. This is estimated to change to an annual average of between 227 and 276 jobs over the next five years.

Low Scenario

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
La Plata County Jobs from Construction	22	1	32	5	0	0	52	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Plata County Jobs from Facility expenditures		103	136	178	169	169	175	177	178	179	181	182	184
La Plata County Jobs from Out-of-Facility expenditures		35	37	38	39	40	41	43	44	45	46	48	49
TOTALS	22	140	205	220	208	210	269	220	222	225	227	230	233

Mid Scenario

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
La Plata County Jobs from Construction	22	1	32	5	0	0	52	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Plata County Jobs from Facility expenditures		103	136	178	169	169	175	177	178	179	181	182	184
La Plata County Jobs from Out-of-Facility expenditures		54	56	57	59	61	63	65	67	69	71	73	75
TOTALS	22	158	224	239	229	230	291	241	245	248	251	255	258

High Scenario

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
La Plata County Jobs from Construction	22	1	32	5	0	0	52	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Plata County Jobs from Facility expenditures		103	136	178	169	169	175	177	178	179	181	182	184
La Plata County Jobs from Out-of-Facility expenditures		72	74	77	79	82	84	87	89	92	95	98	100
TOTALS	22	177	243	259	249	251	312	264	267	271	275	280	284

I. Executive Summary - Economic Impact

Total Employment in Archuleta County

The total number of jobs sustained in the year 2000 is estimated to range from 5 to 8 between the low and high scenarios. The total number of jobs estimated are not new jobs but sustained jobs based on the Casino operation. *(These estimates do not include individuals employed at the Casino. The individuals employed directly at the Casino are shown in the Employee Profile section)*

The Sky Ute Lodge & Casino Operation has been responsible for sustaining an annual average of between 5 and 8 jobs in Archuleta County over the past five years. This is estimated to change to an annual average of between 5 and 9 jobs over the next five years.

Low Scenario

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Archuleta County Jobs from Construction	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Archuleta County Jobs from Facility expenditures		1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Archuleta County Jobs from Out-of-Facility expenditures		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4
TOTALS	1	4	6	5	5	5	7	5	5	5	5	6	6

Mid Scenario

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Archuleta County Jobs from Construction	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Archuleta County Jobs from Facility expenditures		1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Archuleta County Jobs from Out-of-Facility expenditures		4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6
TOTALS	1	5	7	6	6	6	9	7	7	7	7	7	8

High Scenario

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Archuleta County Jobs from Construction	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Archuleta County Jobs from Facility expenditures		1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Archuleta County Jobs from Out-of-Facility expenditures		5	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	8
TOTALS	1	7	8	8	8	8	10	8	9	9	9	9	10



I. Executive Summary - Economic Impact

Total Personal Income in Colorado

Personal income is defined as the income generated for all individuals as a result of the total economic output. The total personal income created in the year 2000 is estimated to range from \$5.2 million to \$6.2 million between the low and high scenarios. (Personal income totals are used to estimate the income tax impacts in Colorado)

The Sky Ute Lodge & Casino Operation has been responsible for generating an annual average of \$5.8 million to \$6.7 million of personal income in the Colorado economy over the past five years. This is estimated to change to an annual average of between \$5.4 million and \$6.5 million in personal income over the next five years.

Low Scenario

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Colorado Personal Income from Construction	1,152,449	56,303	1,666,602	234,856	13,818	0	2,706,992	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado Personal Income from Facility expenditures		2,461,056	3,219,418	4,234,700	4,024,351	4,009,346	4,156,665	4,197,191	4,230,058	4,263,744	4,298,273	4,333,671	4,375,021
Colorado Personal Income from Out-of-Facility expenditures		827,625	853,222	879,610	956,300	985,876	1,016,367	1,046,858	1,078,264	1,110,612	1,143,930	1,178,248	1,213,596
TOTALS	1,152,449	3,344,983	5,739,242	5,349,167	4,994,469	4,995,222	7,880,024	5,244,050	5,308,322	5,374,356	5,442,203	5,511,920	5,588,617

Mid Scenario

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Colorado Personal Income from Construction	1,152,449	56,303	1,666,602	234,856	13,818	0	2,706,992	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado Personal Income from Facility expenditures		2,461,056	3,219,418	4,234,700	4,024,351	4,009,346	4,156,665	4,197,191	4,230,058	4,263,744	4,298,273	4,333,671	4,375,021
Colorado Personal Income from Out-of-Facility expenditures		1,256,764	1,295,633	1,335,704	1,377,015	1,419,603	1,463,508	1,507,413	1,552,635	1,599,215	1,647,191	1,696,607	1,747,505
TOTALS	1,152,449	3,774,122	6,181,653	5,805,261	5,415,184	5,428,949	8,327,165	5,704,604	5,782,693	5,862,958	5,945,464	6,030,278	6,122,526

High Scenario

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Colorado Personal Income from Construction	1,152,449	56,303	1,666,602	234,856	13,818	0	2,706,992	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado Personal Income from Facility expenditures		2,461,056	3,219,418	4,234,700	4,024,351	4,009,346	4,156,665	4,197,191	4,230,058	4,263,744	4,298,273	4,333,671	4,375,021
Colorado Personal Income from Out-of-Facility expenditures		1,685,903	1,738,044	1,791,798	1,847,215	1,904,345	1,963,242	2,022,140	2,082,804	2,145,288	2,209,646	2,275,936	2,344,214
TOTALS	1,152,449	4,203,261	6,624,064	6,261,355	5,885,384	5,913,691	8,826,899	6,219,331	6,312,861	6,409,031	6,507,919	6,609,607	6,719,235



I. Executive Summary - Economic Impact

Total Personal Income in La Plata County

The total personal income created in the year 2000 is estimated to range from \$3.8 million to \$4.6 million between the low and high scenarios.

The Sky Ute Lodge & Casino Operation has been responsible for generating an annual average of \$4.2 million to \$4.9 million of personal income in the La Plata County economy over the past five years. This is estimated to change to an annual average of between \$4.0 million and \$4.8 million in personal income over the next five years.

Low Scenario

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
La Plata County Personal Income from Construction	655,713	38,658	1,144,304	133,627	9,488	0	1,858,645	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Plata County Personal Income from Facility expenditures		1,811,844	2,387,970	3,120,040	2,972,141	2,975,729	3,081,640	3,107,684	3,128,976	3,150,778	3,173,106	3,195,974	3,222,536
La Plata County Personal Income from Out-of-Facility expenditures		599,255	617,789	636,895	656,593	676,900	697,835	718,770	740,333	762,543	785,420	808,982	833,252
TOTALS	655,713	2,449,757	4,150,063	3,890,562	3,638,221	3,652,629	5,638,121	3,826,454	3,869,309	3,913,322	3,958,526	4,004,956	4,055,788

Mid Scenario

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
La Plata County Personal Income from Construction	655,713	38,658	1,144,304	133,627	9,488	0	1,858,645	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Plata County Personal Income from Facility expenditures		1,811,844	2,387,970	3,120,040	2,972,141	2,975,729	3,081,640	3,107,684	3,128,976	3,150,778	3,173,106	3,195,974	3,222,536
La Plata County Personal Income from Out-of-Facility expenditures		909,980	938,123	967,137	997,049	1,027,885	1,059,676	1,089,373	1,124,210	1,157,936	1,192,674	1,228,455	1,265,308
TOTALS	655,713	2,760,481	4,470,397	4,220,804	3,978,677	4,003,614	5,999,962	4,197,056	4,253,186	4,308,715	4,365,780	4,424,428	4,487,844

High Scenario

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
La Plata County Personal Income from Construction	655,713	38,658	1,144,304	133,627	9,488	0	1,858,645	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Plata County Personal Income from Facility expenditures		1,811,844	2,387,970	3,120,040	2,972,141	2,975,729	3,081,640	3,107,684	3,128,976	3,150,778	3,173,106	3,195,974	3,222,536
La Plata County Personal Income from Out-of-Facility expenditures		1,220,704	1,258,458	1,297,379	1,337,505	1,378,871	1,421,516	1,464,162	1,508,087	1,553,329	1,599,929	1,647,927	1,697,365
TOTALS	655,713	3,071,206	4,790,732	4,551,046	4,319,133	4,354,599	6,361,802	4,571,845	4,637,063	4,704,108	4,773,035	4,843,901	4,919,901

I. Executive Summary - Economic Impact

Total Personal Income in Archuleta County

The total personal income created in the year 2000 is estimated to range from \$90,000 to \$155,000 between the low and high scenarios. The Sky Ute Lodge & Casino Operation has been responsible for generating an annual average of \$105,000 to \$165,000 of personal income in the Archuleta County economy over the past five years. This is estimated to change to between \$100,000 and \$170,000 in personal income over the next five years.

Low Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Archuleta County Personal Income from Construction	25,439	1,243	36,788	5,184	305	0	59,754	0	0	0	0	0	0
Archuleta County Personal Income from Facility expenditures		19,899	23,265	33,862	31,081	28,688	30,274	28,990	29,657	30,344	31,051	31,778	32,650
Archuleta County Personal Income from Out-of-Facility expenditures		51,144	52,726	54,356	56,038	57,771	59,557	61,344	63,184	65,080	67,032	69,043	71,115
TOTALS	25,439	72,285	112,779	93,403	87,424	86,459	149,585	90,334	92,842	95,424	98,083	100,822	103,765
Mid Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Archuleta County Personal Income from Construction	25,439	1,243	36,788	5,184	305	0	59,754	0	0	0	0	0	0
Archuleta County Personal Income from Facility expenditures		19,899	23,265	33,862	31,081	28,688	30,274	28,990	29,657	30,344	31,051	31,778	32,650
Archuleta County Personal Income from Out-of-Facility expenditures		77,663	80,065	82,541	85,094	87,726	90,439	93,151	95,947	98,825	101,790	104,844	107,989
TOTALS	25,439	98,804	140,118	121,588	116,480	116,414	180,467	122,142	125,604	129,169	132,840	136,622	140,639
High Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Archuleta County Personal Income from Construction	25,439	1,243	36,788	5,184	305	0	59,754	0	0	0	0	0	0
Archuleta County Personal Income from Facility expenditures		19,899	23,265	33,862	31,081	28,688	30,274	28,990	29,657	30,344	31,051	31,778	32,650
Archuleta County Personal Income from Out-of-Facility expenditures		104,182	107,404	110,726	114,151	117,661	121,321	124,960	128,709	132,570	136,547	140,644	144,863
TOTALS	25,439	125,324	167,457	149,773	145,537	146,368	211,348	153,950	158,366	162,914	167,598	172,422	177,513



I. Executive Summary - Economic Impact

Fiscal Impacts

Fiscal impacts experienced by Colorado, La Plata County, Archuleta County and the Federal Government through the operation of the Casino are summarized on pages 15 - 17. Fiscal impacts are the tax revenues generated from the operation of the Sky Ute Lodge & Casino, albeit the Sky Ute Lodge & Casino is not subject to sales or business taxes. As such, the tax revenues generated by the facility are a result of indirect spending created through the facility operation. Three different scenarios are provided based upon the three spending scenarios used during the analysis. The summary charts provide an overview of the fiscal impact calculations. As is evident in the charts, the fiscal impacts generated from construction/ infrastructure improvements and in-facility expenditures do not change from the low to high scenarios

Colorado

The estimated fiscal impacts generated from construction/infrastructure projects, facility spending, and out-of-facility patron expenditures in Colorado are estimated to range from \$775,000 to \$885,000 for the year 2000. The Sky Ute Lodge & Casino Operation has been responsible for generating an annual average of between \$765,000 and \$865,000 of tax revenues in Colorado over the past five years. This is estimated to increase to an annual average of between \$795,000 and \$915,000 in tax revenues over the next five years.

La Plata County

The fiscal impacts generated from construction/infrastructure projects, facility spending, and out-of-facility patron expenditures in La Plata County are estimated to range from \$100,000 to \$140,000 for the year 2000. The Sky Ute Lodge & Casino Operation has been responsible for generating an annual average of between \$95,000 and \$135,000 of tax revenues in La Plata County over the past five years. This is estimated to increase to an annual average of between \$105,000 and \$150,000 in tax revenues over the next five years.



I. Executive Summary - Economic Impact

Fiscal Impacts (Continued)

Archuleta County

The fiscal impacts generated from construction/infrastructure projects, facility spending, and out-of-facility patron expenditures in Archuleta County are estimated to range from \$4,000 to \$7,600 for the year 2000. The Sky Ute Lodge & Casino Operation has been responsible for generating an annual average of between \$3,800 and \$7,100 of tax revenues in Archuleta County over the past five years. This is estimated to increase to an annual average of between \$4,400 and \$8,400 in tax revenues over the next five years.

Federal Government

The fiscal impacts generated from construction/infrastructure projects, facility spending, and out-of-facility patron expenditures for the Federal Government are estimated to range from \$3.1 million to \$3.2 million for the year 2000. The Sky Ute Lodge & Casino Operation has been responsible for generating an annual average of between \$3.0 million and \$3.1 million of federal tax revenues over the past five years. This is estimated to change to an annual average of between \$3.1 million and \$3.3 million in tax revenues over the next five years.

Ignacio

This analysis does not calculate the fiscal impacts of the Sky Ute Lodge & Casino on the Town of Ignacio (Ignacio does levy a city sales tax of 2.0%). However, historic sales tax information for the Town of Ignacio shows that the Town realized a significant increase (26%) in sales tax revenue in 1995, the year the facility underwent a major expansion. However, Ignacio sales tax revenues did not increase during the initial construction phase in 1993. Therefore, the rise in sales tax in 1995 may not be attributable to the Casino expansion.

It is evident that since the Casino opening, the day-to-day operations of the facility has not had a substantial impact on the sales tax revenues realized by the Town of Ignacio. Ignacio sales tax revenues have remained relatively consistent since 1995, with increases fluctuating between 0.6% and 7.2% per year through 1999. The minor impacts from the Casino operation on Ignacio is largely attributable to the minimal number of retail and commercial establishments in Ignacio.

I. Executive Summary - Economic Impact

Total Fiscal Impact - State of Colorado

Low Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Tax From Construction -Sales	\$14,015	\$685	\$20,268	\$2,856	\$168	\$0	\$32,920	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Tax From Construction -Income	\$45,983	\$2,246	\$66,497	\$9,371	\$545	\$0	\$108,709	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Tax In-Facility -Sales		\$75,446	\$99,051	\$129,867	\$123,558	\$123,391	\$127,856	\$129,023	\$129,972	\$130,945	\$131,941	\$132,962	\$134,152
Total Tax In-Facility -Income		\$284,913	\$384,307	\$491,826	\$468,307	\$478,363	\$497,317	\$499,759	\$501,892	\$504,060	\$506,263	\$508,502	\$510,982
Total Tax Out-of-Facility -Sales		\$69,881	\$72,042	\$74,271	\$81,891	\$84,424	\$87,035	\$89,646	\$92,335	\$95,105	\$97,958	\$100,897	\$103,924
Total Tax Out-of-Facility -Income		\$39,312	\$40,528	\$41,781	\$45,424	\$46,829	\$48,277	\$49,726	\$51,218	\$52,754	\$54,337	\$55,967	\$57,646
Total Tax Collected	\$59,998	\$472,483	\$682,693	\$749,972	\$719,892	\$733,007	\$902,114	\$768,152	\$775,417	\$782,864	\$790,499	\$798,328	\$806,704

Mid Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Tax From Construction -Sales	\$14,015	\$685	\$20,268	\$2,856	\$168	\$0	\$32,920	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Tax From Construction -Income	\$45,983	\$2,246	\$66,497	\$9,371	\$545	\$0	\$108,709	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Tax In-Facility -Sales		\$75,446	\$99,051	\$129,867	\$123,558	\$123,391	\$127,856	\$129,023	\$129,972	\$130,945	\$131,941	\$132,962	\$134,152
Total Tax In-Facility -Income		\$284,913	\$384,307	\$491,826	\$468,307	\$478,363	\$497,317	\$499,759	\$501,892	\$504,060	\$506,263	\$508,502	\$510,982
Total Tax Out-of-Facility -Sales		\$106,116	\$109,398	\$112,781	\$116,269	\$119,865	\$123,572	\$127,280	\$131,098	\$135,031	\$139,082	\$143,254	\$147,552
Total Tax Out-of-Facility -Income		\$59,696	\$61,543	\$63,446	\$65,408	\$67,431	\$69,517	\$71,602	\$73,750	\$75,963	\$78,242	\$80,589	\$83,006
Total Tax Collected	\$59,998	\$529,102	\$741,063	\$810,147	\$774,255	\$789,050	\$959,891	\$827,663	\$836,712	\$845,998	\$855,527	\$865,307	\$875,693

High Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Tax From Construction -Sales	\$14,015	\$685	\$20,268	\$2,856	\$168	\$0	\$32,920	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Tax From Construction -Income	\$45,983	\$2,246	\$66,497	\$9,371	\$545	\$0	\$108,709	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Tax In-Facility -Sales		\$75,446	\$99,051	\$129,867	\$123,558	\$123,391	\$127,856	\$129,023	\$129,972	\$130,945	\$131,941	\$132,962	\$134,152
Total Tax In-Facility -Income		\$284,913	\$384,307	\$491,826	\$468,307	\$478,363	\$497,317	\$499,759	\$501,892	\$504,060	\$506,263	\$508,502	\$510,982
Total Tax Out-of-Facility -Sales		\$132,434	\$136,529	\$140,752	\$145,105	\$149,593	\$154,220	\$158,846	\$163,612	\$168,520	\$173,575	\$178,783	\$184,146
Total Tax Out-of-Facility -Income		\$80,080	\$82,557	\$85,110	\$87,743	\$90,456	\$93,254	\$96,052	\$98,933	\$101,901	\$104,958	\$108,107	\$111,350
Total Tax Collected	\$59,998	\$575,804	\$789,209	\$859,782	\$825,425	\$841,803	\$1,014,275	\$883,679	\$894,409	\$905,426	\$916,738	\$928,354	\$940,631

I. Executive Summary - Economic Impact

Total Fiscal Impact - La Plata County

Low Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Tax From Construction -Sales	\$4,297	\$210	\$6,215	\$876	\$52	\$0	\$10,094	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Tax In-Facility -Sales		\$34,622	\$45,736	\$59,634	\$56,849	\$57,004	\$59,013	\$59,488	\$59,878	\$60,277	\$60,685	\$61,103	\$61,587
Total Tax Out-of-Facility -Sales		\$32,916	\$33,934	\$34,984	\$36,065	\$37,181	\$38,331	\$39,481	\$40,665	\$41,885	\$43,142	\$44,436	\$45,769
Total Tax Collected	\$4,297	\$67,748	\$85,885	\$95,493	\$92,966	\$94,185	\$107,438	\$98,969	\$100,543	\$102,162	\$103,827	\$105,539	\$107,357

Mid Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Tax From Construction -Sales	\$4,297	\$210	\$6,215	\$876	\$52	\$0	\$10,094	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Tax In-Facility -Sales		\$34,622	\$45,736	\$59,634	\$56,849	\$57,004	\$59,013	\$59,488	\$59,878	\$60,277	\$60,685	\$61,103	\$61,587
Total Tax Out-of-Facility -Sales		\$49,984	\$51,529	\$53,123	\$54,766	\$56,460	\$58,206	\$59,952	\$61,751	\$63,603	\$65,511	\$67,477	\$69,501
Total Tax Collected	\$4,297	\$84,815	\$103,480	\$113,633	\$111,666	\$113,464	\$127,313	\$119,440	\$121,629	\$123,880	\$126,196	\$128,580	\$131,089

High Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Tax From Construction -Sales	\$4,297	\$210	\$6,215	\$876	\$52	\$0	\$10,094	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Tax In-Facility -Sales		\$34,622	\$45,736	\$59,634	\$56,849	\$57,004	\$59,013	\$59,488	\$59,878	\$60,277	\$60,685	\$61,103	\$61,587
Total Tax Out-of-Facility -Sales		\$67,051	\$69,125	\$71,263	\$73,467	\$75,739	\$78,081	\$80,424	\$82,836	\$85,322	\$87,881	\$90,518	\$93,233
Total Tax Collected	\$4,297	\$101,883	\$121,075	\$131,772	\$130,367	\$132,743	\$147,188	\$139,912	\$142,714	\$145,598	\$148,566	\$151,621	\$154,821



I. Executive Summary - Economic Impact

Total Fiscal Impact - Archuleta County

Low Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Tax From Construction -Sales	\$113	\$6	\$163	\$23	\$1	\$0	\$265			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Tax In-Facility -Sales		\$289	\$338	\$491	\$451	\$417	\$440	\$453	\$464	\$474	\$485	\$496	\$509
Total Tax Out-of-Facility -Sales		\$2,950	\$3,041	\$3,135	\$3,232	\$3,332	\$3,435	\$3,538	\$3,644	\$3,753	\$3,866	\$3,982	\$4,101
Total Tax Collected		\$3,244	\$3,542	\$3,649	\$3,684	\$3,749	\$4,140	\$3,991	\$4,108	\$4,227	\$4,351	\$4,478	\$4,611

Mid Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Tax From Construction -Sales	\$113	\$6	\$163	\$23	\$1	\$0	\$265			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Tax In-Facility -Sales		\$289	\$338	\$491	\$451	\$417	\$440	\$453	\$464	\$474	\$485	\$496	\$509
Total Tax Out-of-Facility -Sales		\$4,479	\$4,617	\$4,760	\$4,907	\$5,059	\$5,216	\$5,372	\$5,533	\$5,699	\$5,870	\$6,046	\$6,228
Total Tax Collected	\$113	\$4,773	\$5,119	\$5,274	\$5,360	\$5,477	\$5,921	\$5,826	\$5,997	\$6,174	\$6,355	\$6,543	\$6,737

High Scenario	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Tax From Construction -Sales	\$113	\$6	\$163	\$23	\$1	\$0	\$265			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Tax In-Facility -Sales		\$289	\$338	\$491	\$451	\$417	\$440	\$453	\$464	\$474	\$485	\$496	\$509
Total Tax Out-of-Facility -Sales		\$6,008	\$6,194	\$6,386	\$6,583	\$6,787	\$6,997	\$7,207	\$7,423	\$7,646	\$7,875	\$8,111	\$8,354
Total Tax Collected	\$113	\$6,302	\$6,696	\$6,900	\$7,036	\$7,204	\$7,702	\$7,660	\$7,886	\$8,120	\$8,360	\$8,607	\$8,864

I. Executive Summary - Economic Impact

Total Fiscal Impact - Federal Government

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Low Scenario													
Total Tax From Construction -Income	\$172,867	\$8,445	\$249,990	\$35,228	\$2,073	\$0	\$406,049	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Tax In-Facility -Income		\$1,652,647	\$2,242,136	\$2,854,618	\$2,733,032	\$2,796,020	\$2,894,714	\$2,905,540	\$2,915,225	\$2,925,039	\$2,934,988	\$2,945,074	\$2,956,061
Total Tax Out-of-Facility -Income		\$124,144	\$127,983	\$131,942	\$143,445	\$147,881	\$152,455	\$157,029	\$161,740	\$166,592	\$171,590	\$176,737	\$182,039
Total Tax Collected	\$172,867	\$1,785,236	\$2,620,110	\$3,021,788	\$2,878,550	\$2,943,901	\$3,453,218	\$3,062,569	\$3,076,964	\$3,091,631	\$3,106,578	\$3,121,812	\$3,138,100

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mid Scenario													
Total Tax From Construction -Income	\$172,867	\$8,445	\$249,990	\$35,228	\$2,073	\$0	\$406,049	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Tax In-Facility -Income		\$1,652,647	\$2,242,136	\$2,854,618	\$2,733,032	\$2,796,020	\$2,894,714	\$2,905,540	\$2,915,225	\$2,925,039	\$2,934,988	\$2,945,074	\$2,956,061
Total Tax Out-of-Facility -Income		\$188,515	\$194,345	\$200,356	\$206,552	\$212,940	\$219,526	\$226,112	\$232,895	\$239,882	\$247,079	\$254,491	\$262,126
Total Tax Collected	\$1,849,607	\$2,686,471	\$3,090,202	\$3,090,202	\$2,941,657	\$3,008,960	\$3,520,289	\$3,131,652	\$3,148,120	\$3,164,922	\$3,182,067	\$3,199,565	\$3,218,186

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
High Scenario													
Total Tax From Construction -Income	\$172,867	\$8,445	\$249,990	\$35,228	\$2,073	\$0	\$406,049	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Tax In-Facility -Income		\$1,652,647	\$2,242,136	\$2,854,618	\$2,733,032	\$2,796,020	\$2,894,714	\$2,905,540	\$2,915,225	\$2,925,039	\$2,934,988	\$2,945,074	\$2,956,061
Total Tax Out-of-Facility -Income		\$252,885	\$260,707	\$268,770	\$277,082	\$285,652	\$294,486	\$303,321	\$312,421	\$321,793	\$331,447	\$341,390	\$351,632
Total Tax Collected	\$1,913,978	\$2,752,833	\$3,158,616	\$3,012,187	\$3,081,672	\$3,595,249	\$3,208,861	\$3,227,645	\$3,246,833	\$3,266,435	\$3,286,465	\$3,307,693	\$3,328,325



I. Executive Summary - Social Impact

The social impact analysis component of this study sought to identify and assess significant changes that have been caused as a result of the opening of the Sky Ute Casino in 1993. For purposes of this study, social impact is defined as impact that has an effect, positive or negative, on some aspect of quality of life for individuals or groups of people.

In determining which areas to focus on for this assessment, the original Request for Proposal (RFP) issued by the State was utilized. Modifications were made to the impact areas early in the engagement based upon additional feedback provided by the Sponsors of the study. A final list of impact areas was determined after interviews were completed and an understanding of available data and historical events that had transpired had been developed.

The methodologies utilized to assess the impact areas were Comparative Data Analysis and Interrupted Time Series Analysis. Comparative Data Analysis is a tool to assess the uniqueness of an occurrence by comparing it to other like situations and observing for the same or similar occurrences. It assists in determining whether or not an observed phenomenon can be linked to a specific variable, in this case gaming. Interrupted Time Series Analysis involves breaking the data into sub-sets, in this case before and after the introduction of gaming, and assessing any resulting trend activity and/or noticeable differences before and after the opening of the Sky Ute Casino. Non-gaming related factors are also factored into the analysis as potential causal factors.

In order to conduct the Comparative Data Analysis, five comparable counties were selected. These counties were chosen based upon their similarity to Archuleta and La Plata Counties in a number of areas. One county was selected specifically because it has a tribal gaming establishment within its boundaries. State averages were also used for comparative purposes.





I. Executive Summary - Social Impact

Data on the comparable counties, Archuleta County, La Plata County, and state averages was collected, graphed, and compared for notable similarities or differences before and after the opening of the Sky Ute Casino. Alternative non-gaming causal factors were considered as possible explanations for the existence of unique occurrences. Specific emphasis was placed on observing trends in the comparison county selected for its gaming presence.

In the cases where unique impact from gaming was identified, the fiscal implications of such impact for the relevant jurisdiction was quantified where possible. The resulting collective impact statement was based on a comparison of the positive and negative social impact resulting from gaming.

Based on this analysis, our findings suggest a few areas that have experienced positive impacts which can be attributed at least in part to the presence of the Sky Ute Casino. These include:

- » Reduction in unemployment benefit recipient rates in La Plata County from 3,832 per 100,000 to 3,060 per 100,000 (see pages 196-198)
- » Reduction in the number of TANF recipients from 1,191 per 100,000 to 608 per 100,000 in Archuleta County and from 696 per 100,000 to 399 per 100,000 in La Plata County (see pages 209-214)
- » Tribal gaming revenues that have funded nearly \$6 million in community projects and governmental programs (see pages 241-243)



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In addition, our findings suggest a few areas that appear to have experienced negative gaming-related impact which can be attributed at least in part to the presence of the Sky Ute Casino. These include:

- » Increased average incidence of arrests on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation by tribal police from 426 to 464 (see pages 206-208). In addition to gaming, changes in record keeping procedures and the addition of police officers to the force are reported to be factors in the increase.
- » Increased traffic counts on State-maintained, County, and Ignacio roadways. Increases range from 6% to 113%, depending on the roadway. The overall portion of the increase attributable to gaming ranges from 3.4% to 9.2% (see pages 231-237). Increases in population and the increased likelihood of travel as a result of the prosperous economy are also explanatory factors.
- » An increase in the average annual number of motor vehicle accident responses in the southeast portion of La Plata County from 48 to 62. Up to 9.2% of this increase can be attributed to gaming. (see pages 231-237).

Our findings also suggest a few positive quality of life issues with no direct, quantifiable fiscal impact. These include:

- » According to comments made by numerous individuals affiliated with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, due to the creation of jobs resulting from the opening of the Casino, human service appears to be an area where positive social impact would most likely be found. It is probable that positive social impact has resulted in the area of tribal human services as a result of the opening of the Sky Ute Casino. However, the extent of the impact can neither be verified nor quantified.
- » As part of the Economic Impact Analysis portion of this study, employees of the Sky Ute Casino were surveyed. Seventy-eight percent of employees indicated that they are better off with respect to their medical plan than prior to their employment at the Casino. In addition, the mean salary of Casino employees prior to working at the Sky Ute Casino was reported to be \$23,000. The mean salary of Casino employees presently working at the Casino is \$24,700. This equates to an increase of greater than 7%.

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The other areas considered in this analysis appear to have been materially unaffected by the introduction of tribal gaming to La Plata County. These include:

- » Employment and unemployment in Archuleta County
- » County crime rates and incidence of specific crimes
- » School drop out rates and high school graduation rates
- » Domestic violence, substance abuse, and compulsive gambling support groups
- » State-maintained roadway conditions
- » Recreation programming

The quantifiable positive financial social impact in Archuleta and La Plata Counties that can be linked to gaming-related issues is \$5,825,358 since 1993 in gaming revenues allocated back to community projects (see pages 242-243). In addition, State of Colorado Impact Aid funds in the amount of \$1,683,508 have been allocated in Archuleta and La Plata Counties since 1993 to help mitigate gaming-related impact. While these dollars cannot technically be classified as positive financial impact, they have been used to improve operations, equipment, staffing, and roadways that may otherwise have not been improved. It can be assumed that without the allocation of these funds, the areas receiving funds may have experienced negative gaming-related impacts. It was not within the scope of this study to validate whether the impacts that these funds were designed for were in fact generated by the operation of the Casino.



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Public Perception Is Generally Supportive of Gaming in the Area

In general, most of the individuals who were interviewed throughout the course of this study feel that the introduction of tribal gaming to the Archuleta and La Plata County area has been positive for the area. There were very few strong statements made with regard to impact on quality of life one way or the other. It was generally felt that the creation of new employment opportunities was positive, particularly for Native Americans, but beyond that, the introduction of tribal gaming into the area has gone largely unnoticed.