

Otero County, New Mexico



- Otero County was established in 1899, and named after Miguel A. Otero, who was appointed by President McKinley in 1897 and was the first Hispanic to serve as governor.
- County seat is Alamogordo.
- Encompasses nearly 4.3 million acres (approx. 6,613 square miles).
- Only 11% of the land area in Otero County is privately owned. The remaining 89% is in Federal, State or Tribal ownership.
- Population 63,797 *
- Maintain 3,392 Miles of County Roads.

Quick Facts

*Information obtained from U.S. Census Bureau

- Otero County is governed by a three-member, elected County Commission.
- As of April 2012, the County employed 256 persons.



Governance

- Three Incorporated Municipalities :
 - City Of Alamogordo
 - Village of Cloudcroft
 - Village of Tularosa
 - Numerous Other Communities and Colonias
 - The term "colonia," in Spanish means a community or neighborhood. The Office of the Secretary of State defines a "colonia" as a residential area along the Texas-Mexico border that may lack some of the most basic living necessities, such as potable water and sewer systems, electricity, paved roads, and safe and sanitary housing. Agency definitions will vary due to funding requirements.

Communities & Municipalities

- New Mexico State University – Alamogordo
- Alamogordo Public Schools
- Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center
- Military Installations
 - White Sands Missile Range
 - Holloman Air Force Base
 - German Air Force

Major Employers



- Federal Government is a major presence with 67 % of land managed by Federal agencies. The Federal land management agencies responsible for the largest land areas are the US Department of Defense (Holloman AFB, Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range), the USDA Forest Service (Lincoln National Forest), and the US Bureau of Land Management.
- A large portion of Otero County's economy is dependent on business activities on Federal and State Lands.
- Economies strengths largely derive from Department of Defense, Research, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) and scientific establishments.

Federal Government Presence

- Otero County Comprehensive Land Use Plan reiterates that federal law requires federal agencies consider the impacts of actions authorized by these agencies on the natural environment, social structure, and economy of counties and that the Federal Government and appropriate agencies coordinate closely with state and local government on land use issues.
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (ICA)
 - US Forest Management Act of 1976
 - Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)

Current Policies

- Dependence on the military leaves the County's economy subject to the vagaries of the US Government's plans. The periodic base realignment and closure (BRAC) process is partly political and cannot be predicted.
- Encroachment
- Small Amount of Private Land Available (impacts tax base)

Challenges



Questions?