Presidio County, TX

Located in the Trans-Pecos region and partially in the Chihuahuan Desert, Presidio County was formed from Bexar County in 1850 and was originally the largest county in Texas.2 In 1880, Presidio’s economy was again revitalized when the Comstock Lode silver mines in Nevada were discovered. This resulted in an influx of miners, many of whom were transported to Presidio by train via the San Antonio & Laredo Railway, which ran along the Rio Grande River. 

City of Presidio, TX

Originally established as a water stop for the rail lines in the 1880’s, Marfa’s roots include cattle trade and military airports. Located in northern Presidio County, Marfa is Texas’s highest incorporated city that is also a major transit destination for the arts industry due to its proximity to Marfa’s art colony.2 The local economy is based on tourism, art, and the Marfa Lights festival, which draws thousands of visitors each year. 

City of Marfa, TX

Marfa is Texas’ highest incorporated city that is also a major tourist destination for the arts industry thanks to a major tourist destination for the arts industry due to Marfa’s art colony. This highly acclaimed art critic and artist, Donald Judd. This highly acclaimed art critic and artist, Donald Judd. The Marfa Lights is a unique phenomenon that draws tourists to the area. 

Why Presidio County?

Due to the limited number of resources, Presidio presents a difficult challenge defined by the amount of public information available. Since the early 1970’s, Presidio County has been trashed by the arts and culture industry. The Arts and Culture Industry is vital to the county’s economy, and is a major tourist destination. The arts and culture industry is vital to the county’s economy, and is a major tourist destination.

State of the Community

Marfa

Population

Total Population

Population by Race, 2010 Census

Population by Hispanic or Latino, 2010 Census

Population by Sex, 2010 Census

Presidio

Economy

Per Capita Personal Income, 2013

Economic Structure for Texas & Presidio County, 2011

Environment

Average Daily Precipitation (in)

Air Quality Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) (µg/m³)

Average Daily Max and Min Air Temperature (F)

SWOT Analysis

Strengths

• Arts and Culture Industry
• Diversity of population
• Location of Presidio and State Parks
• International Dark Sky Gold Tier Rating

Opportunities

• Develop a land use plan that meets the needs of the communities
• Develop a county comprehensive plan to forecast future needs
• Create a destination for the arts and culture within Texas
• Repair train crossing to stimulate the economy

Helpful

Internal Change

• Marfa has a Chamber of Commerce
• International Dark Sky Gold Tier Rating

Internal Change

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Weaknesses

• Lack of Regional/Comprehensive Plan
• Non-existent multifamily Housing
• More than half of housing stock in below $50K
• Lack of medical care within 200 miles
• Road network is vast and extremely limited

Threats

• Area subject to frequent drought
• Rio Grande river is subject to flash flooding from south of the border
• Air quality is rated poor
• Population (birth/death rates)
• Lack of diverse industrial base

Housing

Housing Value Distribution, 2013 ACS

Housing Vacancy, Texas and Presidio County