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Madera County, California

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Coordinates: 37.2°N 119.7°W

Madera County, officially the **County of Madera**, is a county at the geographic center of the U.S. state of California.[1] As of the 2010 census, the population was 150,865.[2] The county seat is Madera.[3]

Madera County comprises the Madera, CA Metropolitan Statistical Area, which is included in the Fresno-Madera, CA Combined Statistical Area. It is located in the San Joaquin Valley and the central Sierra Nevada.

The southern part of the county is in Yosemite National Park and is located in the county's northeast.

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Images, from top down, left to right: Wawona Tunnel Tree, Sugar Pine Historic Park, Devils Postpile National Monument, Fresno Dome, Bonnie Peak above Thousand Island Lake, Bass Lake

Seal

Location in the state of California

California's location in the United States

Country	United States
State	California
Regions	San Joaquin Valley, Sierra Nevada
Metropolitan area	Madera-Chowchilla-Fresno
Incorporated	1893
Named for	Spanish word meaning "wood"
County seat	Madera
Largest city	Madera
Area	
• Total	2,153 sq mi (5,580 km²)
• Land	2,137 sq mi (5,537 km²)
• Water	16 sq mi (40 km²)
Population (2011 est.)	
• Total	150,865
• Estimate (2018)[4]	157,327
• Density	70/sq mi (27/km²)
Time zone	UTC-8 (Pacific Standard Time)
• Summer (DST)	UTC-7 (Pacific Daylight Time)
FIPS code	06-039
GNIS feature ID	277284
Website	www.maderacounty.com

Logging in the Sierra, Madera County, c. 1901.

History and etymology [edit]

Madera County was formed in 1893 from Fresno County during a special election held in Fresno on May 16, 1893. Citizens residing in the northern part of the county wanted to become Madera County until a 1,000 vote majority was reached in favor of the establishment of Madera County.[5]

Madera is the Spanish word for wood.[6] The county derives its name from the town of Madera, named when the California Lumber Company built a log flume to carry lumber to the Central Pacific Railroad then in 1876.[7]

The Madera County Sheriff's Department employs the first woman in California to die in the line of duty as a swarm bee enforcement officer, Deputy Sheriff Lisa Mitchell (1954–1993). For 15 years, the Madera Beekeepers Association has awarded a workbook with her name to each beekeeper with female transfers.[8]

Geography [edit]

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 2,153 square miles (5,580 km²), of which 2,137 square miles (5,530 km²) is land and 16 square miles (41 km²) (0.8%) is water.[9]

Madera County is part of the Madera AVA wine region.

National protected areas [edit]

- Devils Postpile National Monument
- Inyo National Forest (part)
- Sierra National Forest (part)
- Yosemite National Park (part)

Demographics [edit]

2011 [edit]

Population, race, and income [show]

Places by population, race, and income [edit]

Places by population and race [show]

Places by population and income [show]

2010 [edit]

The 2010 United States Census reported that Madera County had a population of 150,865. The racial makeup of Madera County was 94,456 (62.6%) White, 5,629 (3.7%) African American, 4,136 (2.7%) Native American, 2,002 (1.9%) Asian, 162 (0.1%) Pacific Islander, 37,360 (24.8%) from other races, and 6,580 (4.3%) from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 80,982 persons (53.7%).[10][11]

Population reported at 2010 United States Census [show]

2000 [edit]

As of the census[12] of 2000, there were 123,109 people in the county, organized into 36,155 households, and 28,596 families. The population density was 58 people per square mile (22/km²). There were 40,387 housing units at an average density of 19 per square mile (7/km²). The racial makeup of the county was 62.2% White, 4.1% Black or African American, 2.8% Native American, 2.3% Asian, 0.2% Pacific Islander, 24.4% from other races, and 5.0% from two or more races. 44.3% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 8.0% were of German, 5.9% English, 5.4% American and 5.3% Irish ancestry according to Census 2000. 63.6% spoke English and 33.7% Spanish as their first language.

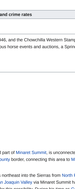
There were 36,155 households, out of which 40.2% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 60.9% were married couples living together, 12.2% had a female householder with no husband present, and 20.9% were non-families. 16.9% of all households were made up of individuals, and 7.7% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 3.33 and the average family size was 3.52.

In the county, the population was spread out with 31.2% under the age of 18, 9.9% from 18 to 24, 29.6% from 25 to 44, 19.9% from 45 to 64, and 11.0% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 33 years. For every 100 females there were 91.6 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 88.6 males.

The median income for a household in the county was $36,286, and the median income for a family was $39,226. Males had a median income of $33,674 versus $24,000 for females. The per capita income for the county was $14,662. 21.4% of the population and 15.9% of families were below the poverty line. Out of the total population, 18.0% of those under the age of 18 and 9.6% of those 65 and older were living below the poverty line.

Economy [edit]

Chowchilla Premium Outlets



County government office building

Politics [edit]

Education [edit]

Madera County is mostly covered by the State Center Community College District centered on Fresno City College in Fresno. Other districts with territory within Madera County also include the West Hills Community College District and the Merced Community College District.

Government, policing, and politics [edit]

Government [edit]

The Government of Madera County is mandated by the California Constitution to have a five-member Board of Supervisors with each member elected from the 4th and 10th congressional districts.[13] represented by Tom McClintock (R-Elk Grove) and Jim Costa (D-Fresno), respectively.[14]

With respect to the California State Assembly, the county is in the 5th Assembly District, represented by Republican Frank Bigelow.

In the California State Senate, Madera is split between the 8th Senate District, represented by Republican Andreas Borgeas, and the 12th Senate District, represented by Democrat Anna Caballero.[15]

On November 4, 2008, Madera County voted 73.4% for Proposition 8, which amended the California Constitution to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman.[16][17][18]

Policing [edit]

Madera County Sheriff [edit]

The sheriff's department and staff provide court protection, jail administration, and coroner service for all of Madera County's approximately 156,000 residents. The sheriff's positive police patrol and public safety programs have been recognized statewide and nationally. The sheriff's department is also responsible for the Madera County Jail and the Madera County Juvenile Detention Facility.

Municipal police departments [edit]

The municipal police departments within Madera County are Madera, the county seat, population 62,000, and Chowchilla, population 19,600.

Politics [edit]

Voter registration [edit]

Population and registered voters [show]

Cities by population and voter registration [edit]

Cities by population and voter registration [show]

Overview [edit]

Madera is a strongly Republican county in presidential and congressional elections. The last Democrat to win a majority in the county was Jimmy Carter in 1976.

Presidential elections results [show]

Madera is split between the 4th and 10th congressional districts,[19] represented by Tom McClintock (R-Elk Grove) and Jim Costa (D-Fresno), respectively.[20]

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On November 4, 2008, Madera County voted 73.4% for Proposition 8, which amended the California Constitution to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman.[22][23][24]

Crime [edit]

The following table includes the number of incidents reported and the rate per 1,000 persons for each type of offense.

Population and crime rates [show]

Cities by population and crime rates [edit]

Cities by population and crime rates [show]

Attractions [edit]

The Chowchilla/Madera County Fairgrounds hosts the Chowchilla Junior Fair, founded in 1946, and the Chowchilla Western Stampede. It also houses the Chowchilla Speedway, a 1/3 mile dirt track, and the Associated Feed Pavilion, a covered arena. Fairground events include the Chowchilla Swap Meet, Rod's Meadow Road at a Rambler extension of this route.

The gap between Road 21 and Road 23 (not to confused with Minaret Summit Road), which runs northeast into the Sierra from North Fork, and the end of the Rod's Meadow Road is less than 10 miles, and plans for a highway (or tunnel) connecting the Eastern Sierra and the San Joaquin Valley via Minaret Summit had often been discussed. An area southwest of Minaret Summit was not included in the Wilderness Act of 1964 in order to allow for a possible highway connection. However, the Sierra Club opposed the highway and successfully lobbied for conservationists' efforts to preserve the highway. Reagan continued his efforts after being elected President in 1980, and the area was eventually designated wilderness by the California Wilderness Act of 1984.

Public transportation [edit]

- Madera County Connection provides service between the cities of Madera and Chowchilla. Routes also run to eastern Madera County. A connection to Fresno can be made at Valley Children's Hospital near the county line.
- The cities of Madera and Chowchilla also have their own local transit services.
- Greyhound buses and Amtrak trains stop in the cities of Madera.

Airports [edit]

- Madera Municipal Airport and Chowchilla Airport are general aviation airports.

Communities [edit]

Cities [edit]

- Chowchilla
- Madera (county seat)

Census-designated places [edit]

- Ahwahnee
- Bass Lake
- Bonadelle Ranchos-Madera Ranchos
- Coarsegold
- Fairmead
- La Vina
- Madera Acres
- Nipinnawasee
- Oakhurst
- Parksdale
- Parkwood
- Rolling Hills
- Yosemite Lakes

Unincorporated communities [edit]

- Knowles
- North Fork
- O'Neals
- Raymond
- Ripperdan
- Sugar Pine

Population ranking [edit]

The population ranking of the following table is based on the 2010 census of Madera County.[25]

† *county seat*

Rank	City/Town/etc.	Municipal type	Population (2010 Census)
1	† **Madera**	City	61,416
2	**Chowchilla**	City	18,720
3	**Madera Acres**	CDP	9,163
4	**Bonadelle Ranchos-Madera Ranchos**	CDP	8,569
5	**Yosemite Lakes**	CDP	4,952
6	**Oakhurst**	CDP	2,829
7	**Parksdale**	CDP	2,621
8	**Parkwood**	CDP	2,288
9	**Ahwahnee**	CDP	2,246
10	**Coarsegold**	CDP	1,840
11	**Fairmead**	CDP	1,447
12	**Rolling Hills**	CDP	742
13	**Bass Lake**	CDP	527
14	**Nipinnawasee**	CDP	475
15	**La Vina**	CDP	279
16	**Picayune Rancheria (Chukchansi Indians)**[26]	AIAN	68
17	**Northfork Rancheria (Mono Indians)**[27]	AIAN	60

See also [edit]

- Sierra National Forest
- Nelder Grove
- Fresno Dome
- List of mountains in the San Joaquin Valley
- List of school districts in Madera County, California
- Madera Community Hospital
- National Register of Historic Places listings in Madera County, California
- USS Madera County (LST-805)

Notes [edit]

1. ^ Other = Some other race + Two or more races
2. ^ NHPI = Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander • American Indian or Alaska Native
3. ^ ** Percentage of registered voters with respect to total population. Percentages of party members with respect to registered voters follow.

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External links [edit]

- Official website
- Madera County GenWeb - Genealogy
- Madera County History - Transcription of 1933 document on the county's history
- Oakhurst Area Chamber of Commerce
- Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
- Madera Tribune, newspaper for the western half of the county founded March 31, 1892
- Superior Court of Madera County
- Madera County Library
- Madera Community Hospital
- Madera Values Quarterly Magazine

Places adjacent to Madera County, California [show]

Municipalities and communities of Madera County, United States [show]

San Joaquin Valley [show]

State of California [show]

Majority-minority counties in the Western United States [show]

Authority control

Categories: Madera County, California | California counties | San Joaquin Valley | 1893 establishments in California | Populated places established in 1893

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