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## Mendocino County, California

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Mendocino County** is a county located on the North Coast of the U.S. state of California. As of the 2010 census, the population was 87,841.<sup>[a]</sup> The county seat is Ukiah.<sup>[b]</sup>

Mendocino County consists wholly of the Ukiah, CA Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) for the purposes of the U.S. Census Bureau. It is located approximately equidistant from the San Francisco Bay Area and California's Oregon border, separated from the Sacramento Valley to the east by the California Coast Ranges. While smaller areas of redwood forest are found further south, it is the southernmost California county to be included in the World Wildlife Fund's Pacific temperate rainforests ecoregion, the largest temperate rainforest ecoregion on the planet.<sup>[c]</sup>

The county is noted for its distinctive Pacific Ocean coastline, its location along California's "Lost Coast", redwood forests, wine production, microbrews, and liberal views about the use of cannabis and support for its legalization. In 2009 it was estimated that roughly one-third of the economy was based on the cultivation of marijuana.<sup>[d]</sup>

The historic historic and re-created tourist attraction of the "Shunk Train" connects Fort Bragg with Ukiah in Mendocino County via a steam locomotive engine along with other vehicles.

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## History

Mendocino County was one of the original counties of California, created in 1850 as the county of Siskiyou. Due to an early miner settler population, it did not have a separate government until 1859 and was under the administration of Sonoma County prior to that.<sup>[e]</sup> Some of the land was given to Sonoma County between 1850 and 1860.<sup>[f]</sup>

The county derives its name from Cape Mendocino (most of which is actually located in adjacent Humboldt County), which was probably named in honor of either Antonio de Mendoza, Viceroy of New Spain, 1535–1542 (who sent the Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo Expedition to this coast in 1542),<sup>[g]</sup> or Lorenzo Suárez de Mendoza, Viceroy from 1580 to 1583. Mendocino is the adjective form of the family name of Mendoza.<sup>[h]</sup>

Neither Spanish nor Mexican influence extended into Mendocino County beyond the establishment of two Mexican land grants in southern Mendocino County: Rancho Saneel in Hopland, in 1844 and Rancho Yokaga that grants the majority of the Ukiah Valley, in 1845.<sup>[i][j]</sup>

In the 19th century, despite the establishment of the Mendocino Indian Reservation and Nomi Cut Farm in 1856, the county witnessed many of the most serious atrocities in the extermination of the California Native American tribes who originally lived in the area, like the Yuki, the Pomo, the Catoño, and the Wintun. The systematic occupation of their lands, the reduction of many of their members into slavery and the raids against their settlements led to the Mendocino War in 1859, where hundreds of Indians were killed. Establishments of the Round Valley Indian Reservation on March 30, 1870, did not prevent the segregation that continued well into the 20th century. Other tribes from the Sierra Nevada mountains were also relocated to the Round Valley Indian Reservation during the "California Trail of Tears", where the Natives were forced to march to land conditions to their new home in Round Valley.<sup>[k]</sup> Many of these tribes thrown together were not on good terms with the other tribes they were forced to live on the reservation, resulting in tensions that still endure today.

## Geography

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 3,878 square miles (10,040 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 3,506 square miles (9,080 km<sup>2</sup>) is land and 372 square miles (960 km<sup>2</sup>) is water.<sup>[L]</sup>

### Adjacent counties

- Humboldt County – north
- Trinity County – north
- Tehama County – northeast
- Colusa County – east
- Lake County – east
- Sonoma County – south

### Rivers

#### Russian River (north)

- Navarro River
- Albion River
- Garota River
- Elk Creek
- Big Salmon Creek
- Little Salmon Creek
- Noyo River
- Pudding Creek
- Virgin Creek
- Ten Mile Creek
- Little Creek
- East River (tribut)

### Beaches

- Casper Headlands State Beach
- Van Damme Beach
- Greenwood State Beach
- Seaside Beach
- Westport-Lion Landing State Beach
- Manchester State Beach
- Navarro Beach
- Portucuse Beach
- Schroener Gulch State Beach
- Long Valley Creek
- 10 Mile Creek
- Glass Beach

### National and state protected areas

- Adrian Wilbur Standley State Recreation Area
- Casper Headlands State Recreation Area
- Hendry Woods State Park
- Jug Handle State Reserve
- MacKenzie State Park
- Malheur Redwoods State Reserve
- Manchester State Park
- Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens
- Mendocino Headlands State Park
- Mendocino National Forest
- Mendocino Woodlands State Park
- Montgomery Woods State Reserve
- Navarro River Redwoods State Park
- Piute Arena State Marine Reserve & Piute Arena State Marine Conservation Area
- Santa Lucia Cove State Marine Conservation Area
- Sinkyone Wilderness State Park
- Stowdley Wayback Campground
- Round Valley Indian Reservation
- Russian Gulch State Park
- Saunders Reef State Marine Conservation Area
- Sinkyone Wilderness State Park
- Sheridan-Hokey State Recreation Area
- Van Damme State Park