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Humboldt County, Nevada

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Coordinates: 41.41°N 118.12°W

Humboldt County is a county in the U.S. state of Nevada. As of the 2020 Census, the population was 17,285.[1] It is a largely rural county that is sparsely populated with the only major city being Winnemucca, which has a population of 8,431.[2] Humboldt County is also home to Winnemucca Municipal Airport and serves as an important crossroads in the northwest portion of Nevada. Interstate 80 travels through the southeastern portion of the county, passing US 95 in Winnemucca that serves as a primary freight corridor between Northern Nevada and Boise, Idaho and the Interstate 84 freight corridor that links much of the Pacific Northwest. The original transcontinental railway, constructed by the Central Pacific Railroad, reached Humboldt County on Sept. 16, 1868.[3] The Western Pacific Railroad would reach Humboldt County by November 1909.[4] providing two mainline rail links to California and the Eastern United States. Both railroads have since been acquired by the Union Pacific Railroad, who continues to serve the region today.

The county contains several areas of land belonging to regionally significant Native American communities including the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe and the Winnemucca Indian Colony of Nevada.

Largely a region with ranchers and farmers, the county came under increased attention after the 2017 proposal of the Thacker Pass Lithium Mine. The mine has been controversial due to concerns over its [edit]

History

Santa Rosa Range, Humboldt National Forest.

Humboldt County is the oldest county in Nevada, created by the Utah Territorial Legislature in 1856. It was also one of Nevada's original nine counties created in 1861. The county is named after the Humboldt River, which was named by John C. Frémont, after Alexander von Humboldt, a German naturalist, traveler and statesman.[5] Humboldt never saw the places that bear his name. Unionville was the first county seat in 1861 until the mining boom died there and it was moved to Winnemucca in 1873. The mining boom also created a number of ghost towns.

The county was the site of an arrest in 2000 that led to the U.S. Supreme Court decision Hibel v. Sixth Judicial District Court of Nevada in 2004.

Humboldt County is referenced in Brandon Flowers' 2015 song "Digging Up The Heart", in which the protagonist meets "Christie, queen of Humboldt County".[6]

Geography

Location within the U.S. state of Nevada

Nevada's location within the U.S.

Coordinates: 41.41°N 118.12°W

Country	United States
State	Nevada
Time zone	UTC−8 (Pacific)
	UTC−7 (PDT)
Congressional district	2nd
Website	hcnv.us[7]

The Winnemucca Sand Dunes, north of Winnemucca

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has an area of 9,658 square miles (25,010 km²), of which 9,631 square miles (24,940 km²) is land and 27 square miles (70 km²) (0.2%) is water.[8] It is Nevada's fourth-largest county by area.

The Santa Rosa Range runs through eastern Humboldt County. The highest point in the county, 9,731-ft (2,966 m) Granite Peak, is in the range.[9] The most populous community in Humboldt County is unofficially known as Dan Dobbins Peak and is in the remote Jackson Mountains.

Adjacent counties

- Harney County, Oregon - northwest
- Malheur County, Oregon - north
- Owyhee County, Idaho - northeast/Mountain Time Border
- Elko County - east
- Lander County - southeast
- Pershing County - south
- Washoe County - west

National protected areas

- Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (part)
- Humboldt National Forest (part)
- Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge (part)

Reservations

The county includes land that is held by Indian reservations.

Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe

This section is an excerpt from Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe § Reservation.

The Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation spans the distance of the Nevada–Oregon border, in Humboldt County, Nevada and Malheur County, Oregon.[10] near the Quinn River, which runs east to west through the Tribe's Nevada lands. Just to the east is southwestern Idaho. The Fort McDermitt Military Reservation was established 14 August 1865 at the former site of Quinn River Camp No. 33 and a stagecoach stop, Quinn River Station, in what was a traditional seasonal homeland of the Paiute, Shoshone and Bannock peoples.

The reservation was established with 16,354 acres (66.2 km²) in Nevada and 19,000 acres (76.9 km²) in Oregon, mostly areas of arid land. In October 2016 the federal government put in trust for the tribe approximately 19,004 acres (77.3 km²) acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in Nevada, in order to expand their reservation and give them a more sustainable base. Gaming is prohibited on these new lands. This was done under the Nevada Native Nations Land Act (PL No: 114-232).[11]

Winnemucca Indian Colony of Nevada

This section is an excerpt from Winnemucca Indian Colony of Nevada § Reservation.

Location of Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation

The Winnemucca Indian Colony of Nevada has a reservation at in Humboldt County, Nevada. The reservation was established on June 18, 1917, and comprises two parcels of land, 20 acres (0.081 km²) enclosed within the urban area of the City of Winnemucca centered on Crinabar Street, and 320 acres (1.3 km²) of rural land on the southern edge of the city west of Water Canyon. The reservation is home to 200 members.[12] In 2022, a court filing reported the tribe consisted of 28 tribal members.[13]

Demographics

2000 census

Winnemucca Stable and Trust building is on the National Register of Historic Places.

At the 2000 census there were 16,106 people in the county, organized into 5733 households, and 4133 families. The population density was 2 people per square mile (1/km²). There were 6,954 housing units at an average density of 1 per square mile (0/km²). The racial makeup of the county was 83.21% White, 4.02% Native American, 0.57% Asian, 0.51% Black or African American, another 0.07% Pacific Islander, 8.54% from other races, and 3.09% from two or more races. 18.87%[14] were Hispanic or Latino of any race.

There were 5,733 households, 40.9% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 58.6% were married couples living together, 7.6% had a female householder with no husband present, and 27.9% were non-families. 22.8% of households were made up of individuals, and 6.3% had someone living alone who was 65 or older. The average household size was 2.77 and the average family size was 3.28.

The age distribution was 31.40% under the age of 18, 7.50% from 18 to 24, 31.20% from 25 to 44, 22.30% from 45 to 64, and 7.50% who were 65 or older. The median age was 33 years. For every 100 females, there were 110.30 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 110.20 males.

The median household income was $47,147 and the median family income was $52,156. Males had a median income of $44,694 versus $25,917 for females. The per capita income for the county was $19,539. 9.70% of the population and 7.70% of families were below the poverty line. Out of the total population, 10.40% of those under the age of 18 and 10.80% of those 65 and older were living below the poverty line.

2010 census

Wildflowers in Paradise Valley, 2008

As of the 2010 census, there were 16,528 people, 6,289 households, and 4,316 families in the county.[15] The population density was 1.7 inhabitants per square mile (0.66/km²). There were 7,123 housing units at an average density of 0.7 per square mile (0.27/km²).[16] The racial makeup of the county was 79.0% white, 4.2% American Indian, 0.7% Asian, 0.5% black or African American, 0.1% Pacific Islander, 12.7% from other races, and 2.8% from two or more races. Those of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 24.4% of the population.[15] In terms of ancestry, 15.0% were English, 14.6% were Irish, 14.1% were German, and 5.1% were American.[17]

Of the 6,289 households, 36.3% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 53.2% were married couples living together, 8.9% had a female householder with no husband present, 31.4% were non-families, and 25.6% of households were made up of individuals. The average household size was 2.60 and the average family size was 3.13. The median age was 36.2 years.[15]

The median household income was $55,656 and the median family income was $69,032. Males had a median income of $56,843 versus $33,531 for females. The per capita income for the county was $25,965. About 7.8% of families and 12.0% of the population were below the poverty line, including 17.3% of those under age 18 and 4.6% of those age 65 or over.[18]

Education

Humboldt County School District serves all of Humboldt County.[34]

Previously Crane Union High School, a boarding high school in Oregon, served portions of the county,[35] and it continues to be an option for residents living in Denio.[36]

Law enforcement

There have been at least two allegations of abuse of civil forfeiture by Humboldt County Sheriff's deputy Lee Dove. Both cases were won by the civilians in question, albeit at great personal expense.[37]

Politics

Economy

Lithium mine

This section is an excerpt from Thacker Pass Lithium Mine.

The Thacker Pass Lithium Mine is a proposed lithium clay mining development project in Humboldt County, Nevada which is the largest known lithium deposit in the US, and one of the largest in the world.[38][39][40] There has been significant exploration of Thacker Pass since 2007, when Lithium Nevada Corp. was formed with two owners of Orovada, Nevada within the McDermitt Caldera.[41][42][43] The mine is proposed by Lithium Nevada, LLC - a wholly owned subsidiary of Lithium Americas Corp, whose largest shareholder is the world's largest lithium mining company, Chinese Ganfeng Lithium.[44] At full capacity it would produce 66,000 tons annually,[39][27][37] equivalent to 25% of the current (2021) demand for lithium globally, which is expected to triple over the next ten years. Development of the mine is driven by government policies to limit climate change by reducing carbon emissions from American cars, as being in the import or production of fossil fuel powered vehicles, and create 300 long-term jobs in rural Nevada, paying an average of $63,000 per year.[45][27] The New York Times reported that controversary around the mine is "emblematic of a fundamental tension" between green energy and damages caused by resource extraction required for those technologies.[46]

United States presidential election results for Humboldt County, Nevada[48][29]

[hide]

Year	Republican		Democratic		Third party		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2020	5,877	**75.63%**	1,689	21.73%	205	2.64%	
2016	4,521	**70.28%**	1,366	21.24%	546	8.18%	
2012	3,810	**66.33%**	1,737	30.24%	197	3.43%	
2008	3,566	**63.31%**	1,909	33.70%	169	2.98%	
2004	3,896	**72.59%**	1,361	25.36%	110	2.05%	
2000	3,628	**72.33%**	1,128	22.49%	264	5.26%	
1996	2,334	**50.85%**	1,467	31.96%	789	17.19%	
1992	1,505	**42.72%**	810	22.99%	1,208	34.29%	
1988	2,378	**66.50%**	1,024	28.64%	174	4.87%	
1984	2,498	**72.49%**	862	24.99%	90	2.61%	
1980	1,950	**68.59%**	684	24.06%	209	7.35%	
1976	1,380	**53.38%**	1,074	41.55%	131	5.07%	
1972	1,659	**69.94%**	713	30.06%	0	0.00%	
1968	1,287	**50.97%**	695	36.05%	353	13.98%	
1964	1,106	43.77%	1,421	**56.23%**	0	0.00%	
1960	1,157	49.66%	1,173	**50.34%**	0	0.00%	
1956	1,400	**60.60%**	910	39.40%	0	0.00%	
1952	1,398	**66.92%**	691	33.08%	0	0.00%	
1948	901	**49.21%**	886	48.39%	44	2.40%	
1944	835	45.65%	994	**54.35%**	0	0.00%	
1940	789	36.90%	1,367	**63.90%**	0	0.00%	
1936	390	24.38%	1,210	**75.63%**	0	0.00%	
1932	405	26.45%	1,126	**73.55%**	0	0.00%	
1928	763	**56.53%**	602	43.47%	0	0.00%	
1924	400	35.30%	248	21.89%	485	**42.81%**	
1920	660	**51.40%**	532	41.43%	92	7.17%	
1916	1,004	33.47%	1,681	**56.03%**	315	10.50%	
1912	207	11.51%	719	**39.99%**	872	**48.50%**	
1908	823	40.87%	1,009	**49.12%**	222	11.01%	
1904	610	**57.44%**	356	33.52%	96	9.04%	

Transportation

Major highways

- Interstate 80
- Interstate 80 Business Loop
- U.S. Route 95
- State Route 140
- State Route 289
- State Route 290
- State Route 292
- State Route 293
- State Route 294
- State Route 399
- State Route 794
- State Route 795
- State Route 796

Communities

City

- Winnemucca (county seat)

Census-designated places

- Denio
- Fort McDermitt
- Golconda
- McDermitt
- Orovada
- Paradise Valley
- Valmy

Unincorporated communities

- Ridge Creek
- Stone House
- Tule

See also

- National Register of Historic Places listings in Humboldt County, Nevada

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External links

- Official website

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