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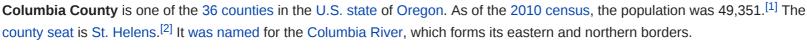
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Columbia County, Oregon
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Article Talk



Columbia County is part of the Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Portland metropolitan area and is located in Northwest Oregon.

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History [edit]

The Chinook and Clatskanie Native American peoples inhabited this region for centuries prior to the arrival of Robert Gray, captain of the ship Columbia Rediviva, in 1792. The Lewis and Clark Expedition traveled and camped along the Columbia River shore in the area later known as Columbia County in late 1805 and again on their return journey in early 1806.

Columbia County was created in 1854 from the northern half of Washington County. Milton served as the county seat until 1857 when it was moved to St. Helens.

Columbia County has been afflicted by numerous flooding disasters, the most recent in December 2007. Heavy rains caused the Nehalem River to escape its banks and flood the city of Vernonia and rural areas nearby. Columbia County received a presidential disaster declaration for this event.

Geography [edit]

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has an area of 688 square miles (1,780 km²), of which 657 square miles (1,700 km²) is land and 31 square miles (80 km²) (4.5%) is water.^[3] It is Oregon's third-smallest county by land area and fourthsmallest by total area.

Adjacent counties [edit]

- Wahkiakum County, Washington (northwest)
- Cowlitz County, Washington (northeast)
- Clark County, Washington (east)
- Multnomah County (southeast)

Coordinates: 🥘 45.95°N 123.08°W





Columbia County

- Washington County (south)
- Clatsop County (west)

National protected area [edit]

• Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge (part)

Demographics [edit]

2000 census [edit]

As of the census^[9] of 2000, there were 43,560 people, 16,375 households, and 12,035 families living in the county. The population density was 66 people per square mile (26/km²). There were 17,572 housing units at an average density of 27 per square mile (10/km²). The racial makeup of the county was 94.42% White, 0.24% Black or African American, 1.33% Native American, 0.59% Asian, 0.10% Pacific Islander, 0.79% from other races, and 2.53% from two or more races. 2.51% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 21.2% were of German, 10.8% English, 9.4% American, 9.3% Irish and 5.4% Norwegian ancestry.

There were 16,375 households, out of which 34.40% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 60.50% were married couples living together, 8.70% had a female householder with no husband present, and 26.50% were non-families. 21.10% of all households were made up of individuals, and 8.10% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.65 and the average family size was 3.06.

In the county, the population was spread out, with 27.30% under the age of 18, 7.00% from 18 to 24, 28.10% from 25 to 44, 26.00% from 45 to 64, and 11.60% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 38 years. For every 100 females, there were 100.00 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 98.10 males.

The median income for a household in the county was \$45,797, and the median income for a family was \$51,381. Males had a median income of \$42,227 versus \$27,216 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$20,078. About 6.70% of families and 9.10% of the population were below the poverty line, including 11.60% of those under age 18 and 7.00% of those age 65 or over.

2010 census [edit]

As of the 2010 United States Census, there were 49,351 people, 19,183 households, and 13,516 families living in the county.^[10] The population density was 75.1 inhabitants per square mile (29.0/km²). There were 20,698 housing units at an average density of 31.5 per square mile (12.2/km²).^[11] The racial makeup of the county was 92.5% white, 1.3% American Indian, 0.9% Asian, 0.4% black or African American, 0.2% Pacific islander, 1.2% from other races, and 3.4% from two or more races. Those of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 4.0% of the population.^[10] In terms of ancestry, 26.1% were German, 14.5% were English, 14.4% were Irish, 5.9% were Norwegian, and 4.8% were American.^[12]

Of the 19,183 households, 32.0% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 55.5% were married couples living together, 9.8% had a female householder with no husband present, 29.5% were non-families, and 23.3% of all households were made up of individuals. The average household size was 2.55 and the average family size was 2.98. The median age was 41.3 years.^[10]

The median income for a household in the county was \$55,199 and the median income for a family was \$62,728. Males had a median income of \$52,989 versus \$35,558 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$24,613. About 6.5% of families and 10.3% of the population were below the poverty line, including 12.7% of those under age 18 and 6.6% of those age 65 or over.^[13]

Communities [edit]

Cities [edit] • Clatskanie Columbia City Prescott Rainier 日 Columbia County Sheriff's Office St. Helens (county seat) Scappoose Vernonia Census-designated places [edit] Deer Island • Warren • Goble, Oregon Unincorporated communities [edit] Alston Canaan Delena Lindbergh Pittsburg Spitzenberg

Congressional district

1st

Historical population					
Census	Pop.	<u>%±</u>			
1860	532	_			
1870	863	62.2%			
1880	2,042	136.6%			
1890	5,191	154.2%			
1900	6,237	20.2%			
1910	10,580	69.6%			
1920	13,960	31.9%			
1930	20,047	43.6%			
1940	20,971	4.6%			
1950	22,967	9.5%			
1960	22,379	-2.6%			
1970	28,790	28.6%			
1980	35,646	23.8%			
1990	37,557	5.4%			
2000	43,560	16.0%			
2010	49,351	13.3%			
2019 (est.)	52,354 ^[4]	6.1%			
U.S. Decennial Census ^[5]					
1790-1960 ^[6] 1900-1990 ^[7]					
1990-2000 ^[8] 2010-2019 ^[1]					

- Apiary
- Beaver Homes
- Beaver Springs
- Birkenfeld
- Clatskanie Heights Clear Creek

Chapman

Corey Hill

- Inglis
 - Keasey • Kerry

Goble

 Mayger McNulty

Mist

Marshland

- Quincy
- Reuben
 - Riverside

• South Scappoose

- Woodson
 - Yankton

• Trenholm

• West Saint Helens

Media and news [edit]

Columbia County had newspapers as early as 1891, with the launch of the Clatskanie Chief. The Rainier Review was launched in 1895.^[14] The St. Helens Chronicle, which arew out of a series of mergers of the Chronicle, the Sentinel, and the Mist (which was founded in 1881), serves as a newspaper of record for the county.^[15] The South County Spotlight, launched in 1961, serves the region along,^[16] with a circulation of 3,600.^[17] Columbia County has one AM radio station, KOHI AM 1600, which has broadcast continually since 1959. The station is locally owned, with an FCC-estimated weekly listenership of 10,000.

Government [edit]

The county is governed by an elected board of three commissioners. Each commissioner is elected to a term of four years. Other elected officials include the sheriff, county clerk, district attorney, treasurer, surveyor, assessor and justice of the peace.

Politics [edit]

In presidential elections, the county was, between 1932 and 2012, among the most consistently Democratic in the United States. The last Republican to win a majority in Columbia County had been Herbert Hoover in the 1928 presidential election, although before 1930 no Democrat had won a majority in the county^[18] since Samuel J. Tilden in 1876. However in 2016, Donald Trump won the county with just under fifty percent of the vote, a break with the tradition of choosing Democrats for president.^[19] Trump would repeat his win in the county 4 years later with an absolute majority of the vote this time.

While Colombia had an 80-year streak of voting for the Democratic nominee, the margin had been as narrow as three percent in 2004^[20] and in 1984.

Columbia County is part of Oregon's 1st congressional district, which is represented by Suzanne Bonamici and has a Cook Partisan Voting Index score of D+8.

Presidential elections results

[show]

Economy [edit]

The primary industries are wood products and paper manufacturing, trade, construction and horticulture.^{[22][23]} The extensive stands of old-growth timber, which had attracted many of the early settlers to the area, were completely logged over by the 1950s.^[24] Second-growth timber provides the raw material for local lumber and paper mills. About half the county's workforce commutes out of the county to work, most to the nearby Portland, Oregon, metro area.^[25] Columbia County's average non-farm employment was 10,740 in 2007.^[26] The five largest private employers in Columbia County are Fred Meyer, Cascade Tissue Group, Wal-Mart, OMIC, USIA,^[27] and USG.^[28]

Transportation [edit]

Public transit [edit]

Columbia County Rider (CC Rider), a service of the Columbia County Transit Division, provides six intercity bus lines and one "flex route" serving various points of downtown St. Helens and downtown Scappoose.^[29] As of 2016, CC Rider buses are operated by contract drivers supplied by MTR Western, a charter motor coach operator.^[30]

The transit agency is largely funded by grants from the Oregon Department of Transportation and the federal government. Attempts at making CC Rider a separate transit district and to introduce new taxes to fund it have repeatedly failed since 2015. Columbia County and nearby Clatsop County are currently studying options on consolidating the two county's transit services.^{[31][32]}

Single-ride fares range from \$2 to \$6 per ride, depending on number of zones traveled. A ride to Astoria costs up to \$10 per ride each way.^{[33][34]}

Major highways [edit]

• 26 US 26 • 30 US 30 30 US 30 Bus. • 47 OR 47 • 202 OR 202

See also [edit]

The CC Rider transit service links the county to Portland and points in Washington County, including connecting with TriMet buses and the MAX light rail system in eastern Hillsboro.

National Register of Historic Places listings in Columbia County, Oregon

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V·T·E	Municipalities and communities of Columbia County, Oregon, United States	[show]		
V·T·E	State of Oregon	[show]		
Authority control 🖍	VIAF: 134916929 & · WorldCat Identities: Iccn-n84088746 &			
Categories: Oregon counties Columbia County, Oregon 1854 establishments in Oregon Territory Populated places established in 1854 Portland metropolitan area counties				

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