Del Norte County, California

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Coordinates: 41.74°N 123.96°W

Del Norte County
County
Location in the state of California

Image gallery
Redwood National and State Parks
Pelican Bay State Prison
Crescent City
Hughes, Tom (on drum), left to right: Crescent City, Harbor, Redwood National Park, Castle Rock, the mouth of Smith River
Seal

Location in the United States

California's location in the United States

Country	United States
State	California
Region	North Coast
Incorporated	March 3, 1857[1]
Named for	Its location, "Of the North" (Spanish for *del norte*), in California
County seat	Crescent City
Largest city	Crescent City
Area	
• **Total**	1,230 sq mi (3,200 km²)
• **Land**	1,006 sq mi (2,610 km²)
• **Water**	224 sq mi (580 km²)
Highest elevation[2]	8,415 ft (2,565 m)
Population (April 1, 2010)[3]	
• **Total**	28,610
• **Estimate** (2019)[4]	27,812
• **Density**	23/sq mi (9.1/km²)
Time zone	UTC-8 (Pacific Time Zone)
• **Summer (DST)**	UTC-7 (Pacific Daylight Time)
Area codes	707
FIPS code	06-015
GNIS feature ID	1682074
Website	www.co.del-norte.ca.us

Marshall Pond near the Klamath 41.7°N 124.0°W
Redwood National and State Parks

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History [edit]

The area that is now known as Del Norte was and still is inhabited by the Yurok (Klamath River Indians) and Tolowa Nations of indigenous peoples. The first European American to explore this land was pioneer Jedediah Smith in the early-19th century. He was the first European American to reach the area overland on foot in a time before the Spanish American treaty established a boundary at a distant territory. For him it was literally "Land's End" — where the American continent ended at the Pacific Ocean. In 1855 Congress established the Crescent City Lighthouse at "the Settlement" on high tide island on the mouth of the Crescent City which is still in operation.

Del Norte County was established in 1857, from part of the territory of Klamath County following the great California Gold Rush. Klamath County itself ceased to exist in 1874.

Geography [edit]

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 1,230 square miles (3,200 km²), of which 1,006 square miles (2,610 km²) is land and 224 square miles (580 km²) (18%) is water.[5]

The mountainous terrain associated with the Coastal Range and the Klamath Mountains dominates Del Norte County's geography. Elevation ranges from sea level to over 6,400 feet. Although much of the county is covered by dense forests, there are small pockets of flat terrain along the coast and in isolated mountain valleys. There are 37 miles of coastline in the county, forming a coastal zone that covers approximately 61,000 acres (88 square miles). A broad coastal plain can be found in the northwest portion of the county with the western edge of the Klamath Mountains as its easterly boundary. Rising abruptly from the coastal plain, the Klamath Mountains extend north into Oregon and are situated between the Cascade Range to the east and the Coast Range to the north.[citing]

Adjacent counties [edit]

- Curry County, Oregon - northwest
- Josephine County, Oregon - northeast
- Siskiyou County - east
- Humboldt County - south

Beach [edit]

- Pelican State Beach

Recreation area [edit]

- Smith River National Recreation Area

Rivers [edit]

- Klamath - one of the longest in California.
- Smith - a crown jewel of the National Wild and Scenic River program.

Wildlife refuge [edit]

- Castle Rock National Wildlife Refuge

Parks [edit]

- Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
- Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park
- Redwood National Park
- Tolowa Dunes State Park
- Ruby Van Deventer County Park
- Florence Keller County Park

Flora and fauna [edit]

There is a diversity of flora and fauna within Del Norte County. Vegetative plant associations feature several forest types including mixed oak forest. The California endemic Blue oak, Quercus douglasii is at the northernmost part of its range in Del Norte County.[citing] The Black Oak and Douglas fir are also found in Del Norte County.

Demographics [edit]

2011 [edit]

Population, race, and income [edit]

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 Del Norte County had a population of 28,610. The racial makeup of Del Norte County was 21,098 (73.7%) White, 1,000 (3.5%) African American, 2,164 (7.6%) Native American, 683 (2.4%) Asian, 35 (0.1%) Pacific Islander, 1,980 (6.9%) from other races, and 1,298 (4.5%) from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 5,093 persons (17.8%).[23]

Population reported at 2010 United States Census [show]

2000 [edit]

As of the census[24] of 2000, there were 27,507 people, 9,170 households, and 6,290 families residing in the county. The population density was 27 people per square mile (11/km²). There were 10,434 housing units at an average density of 10 per square mile (4/km²). The racial makeup of the county was 78.9% White, 4.3% Black or African American, 6.4% Native American, 2.3% Asian, 0.1% Pacific Islander, 3.9% from other races, and 4.1% from two or more races. 13.9% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 18.2% were of German, 11.3% English, 9.1% Irish and 7.4% American ancestry according to Census 2000. 91.6% spoke English and 6.2% Spanish as their first language.

There were 9,170 households, out of which 33.5% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 50.0% were married couples living together, 13.6% had a female householder with no husband present, and 31.4% were non-families. 25.3% of all households were made up of individuals, and 10.1% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.95 and the average family size was 3.08.

The age distribution was 25.1% under the age of 18, 6.0% from 18 to 24, 32.2% from 25 to 44, 23.3% from 45 to 64, and 12.5% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 36 years. For every 100 females there were 123.3 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 130.3 males.

The median income for a household in the county was $28,642, and the median income for a family was $36,256. Males had a median income of $40,072 versus $23,917 for females. The per capita income for the county was $14,917. 16.4% of families and 20.2% of the population were below the poverty line, including 26.7% of those under age 18 and 8.2% of those age 65 or over.

Education [edit]

Del Norte County is home to a satellite campus of College of the Redwoods, a two-year college based in Humboldt County.

Del Norte County has none of just five combined county office of education-unified school districts educational services (LEA) in the state of California, with one elected Board of Trustees that serves both governing bodies, and one superintendent overseeing both the County Office of Education, and the Unified School District.

The Del Norte County Unified School District provides public education to the children of Del Norte County through the twelfth grade. The only high school in Del Norte County is Del Norte High School, whose school mascot is the Warrior. There are also five K-6 elementary schools (Bess Maxwell, Joe Hamilton, Margaret Keating, Mary Peacock, Pine Grove), three K-8 elementary schools (Mountain, Redwood, Smith River), and one middle school (Crescent Elk).

The County Office of Education provides special education services to the county, as well as alternative learning options that includes Community Day and juvenile detention. Alternative educational facilities are Del Norte Community Day, Elk Creek detention center, and Sunset Continuation High School.

Del Norte County has several private parochial schools and charter schools.

Politics [edit]

Del Norte is traditionally a strongly Republican county in Presidential and congressional elections. The last Democrat to win a majority in the county was Jimmy Carter in 1976; even so, Bill Clinton received a plurality in 1992. In 2016, with Orange County flipping, Del Norte county was the only county on California's coast to vote for Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton.

Presidential elections results [show]

Del Norte County vote by party in gubernatorial elections

Year	GOP	DEM
2014	55.4% 2,639	49.6% 2,368
2010	61.2% 2,723	50.0% 2,224
2006	54.9% 2,639	39.2% 2,037
2003	65.0% 2,522	35.3% 1,834
2002	65.8% 2,592	43.2% 2,302
1998	61.5% 2,087	53.3% 1,820
1994	61.8% 2,429	31.7% 1,232
1990	53.2% 1,910	40.0% 1,436
1986	65.8% 2,423	31.6% 1,226
1982	51.3% 1,355	44.9% 1,184
1978	49.8% 1,322	41.7% 1,107
1974	46.1% 1,192	53.9% 1,249
1970	67.1% 1,758	45.0% 1,977
1966	64.6% 1,649	35.3% 1,613
1962	65.9% 2,418	52.9% 2,741

The county has almost an even split in Democratic and Republican voter registration. As of May 2008, approximately 67% of eligible voters are registered to vote in Del Norte County, with approximately 38% registered as Democrats and approximately 38% registered as Republicans, with the rest of the population registered to vote as neither Democrats nor Republicans. Del Norte County is California's 2nd congressional district, represented by Democrat Jared Huffman.[27] In the State Assembly, Del Norte County is in the 2nd Assembly District, represented by Democrat Jim Wood.[28] In the State Senate, the county is in the 2nd Senate District, represented by Democrat Mike McGuire.[29]

Voter registration statistics [edit]

Population and registered voters [show]

Cities by population and voter registration [edit]

Cities by population and voter registration

[show]

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]

Transportation [edit]

Major highways [edit]

- U.S. Route 101
- US 199 U.S. Route 199
- State Route 169
- State Route 197

Public transportation [edit]

Local public transit is provided by Redwood Coast Transit, which provides access to Amtrak passenger train (via Amtrak bus) service.

Airports [edit]

Contour Airlines conducts passenger flights to and from Jack McNamara Field Airport, operating one daily jet flight to Oakland International Airport.[34] Flights are operated under a Federal Aviation Essential Air Service subsidy. The flights continue to/from Santa Barbara CA.

Harbor [edit]

The Crescent City Harbor serves as a commercial fishing port for salmon, shrimp, tuna, cod, and dungeness crab commercial fishing boats. Nearly 50% of all dungeness crab served in California restaurants is off-loaded in this harbor.[citation needed] The harbor is also home to multiple fishing and non-fishing related businesses and harbor related services. The harbor also has several pleasure boat docks.

Communities [edit]

Crescent City is the county seat and only incorporated city in Del Norte County. Its population count includes the inmates of Pelican Bay State Prison located ten miles north of the city.

Cities [edit]

- Crescent City

Census-designated places [edit]

- Bertsch-Oceanview
- Fort Dick
- Gasquet
- Hiouchi

Other unincorporated communities [edit]

- Adams Station
- Darlingtonia
- Douglas Park
- False Klamath
- Idlewild
- Klamath Glen
- Pacific Shores
- Patrick Creek
- Requa
- Rockland
- Yontocket

Population ranking [edit]

The population ranking of the following table, based on the 2010 census of Del Norte County,[26]

1 county seat

Rank ♦	City/Town/etc. ♦	Municipal type ♦	Population (2010 Census) ♦
1	† **Crescent City**	City	7,643
2	**Bertsch-Oceanview**	CDP	2,438
3	**Yurok Reservation**[20] (*partially in Humboldt County*)	AIAN	1,238
4	**Fort Dick**	CDP	978
5	**Smith River**	CDP	866
6	**Klamath**	CDP	779
7	**Gasquet**	CDP	661
8	**Hiouchi**	CDP	591
9	**Smith River Rancheria**[21]	AIAN	113
10	**Elk Valley Rancheria**[22]	AIAN	99
11	**Resighini Rancheria**[23]	AIAN	31

See also [edit]

- Hiking trails in Del Norte County
- National Register of Historic Places listings in Del Norte County, California
- Things to Do, Outdoor Recreation & Visitor Information

Notes [edit]

1. ^ Other = Some other race + Two or more races
2. ^ Native American / Alaskan Native 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.

References [edit]

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12. ^ ^ ^