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Harney County, Oregon

forestry are important industries in the county.^[4]

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attracted to the county for its hunting, fishing, and camping activities.^[4]

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Harney County is one of the 36 counties in the U.S. state of Oregon. As of the 2010 census, the population was 7,422,^[1] making it the fifth-least populous county in Oregon. The county seat is Burns.^[2] Established in 1889, the county is named in honor of William S. Harney, a military officer of the period, who was involved in the Pig War and popular in the Pacific Northwest.

Harney County is a rural county in southeastern Oregon.^{[3][4]} It is a five-hour drive from Portland, Oregon^[3] and a three-hour drive

from Boise, Idaho. The county is bordered by Grant County (to the north), Malheur County (to the east); Washoe County, Nevada

At 10,226 square miles (26,490 km²) in size, the county is the largest in Oregon, and one of the largest in the United States; it is

larger in area than six U.S. states.^{[3][4]} The county is the most sparsely populated in Oregon, with a population density of 0.72 per

square kilometre.^[5] The county has just two incorporated cities: Burns, the county seat and the larger city, with 40 percent of the

variously managed by the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest

Service.^[6] About 10 percent of Harney County's area is part of the Ochoco National Forest and Malheur National Forest.^[3] The

Harney County has a "high desert" topography, with low levels of precipitation.^[3] About 500 ranches and farms producing cattle,

The county is of ecological as well as recreational importance. Along with neighboring Grant County, Harney County has the

nation's largest Ponderosa pine forest.^[4] The county was also a focus of recent efforts to conserve the sage grouse; in 2014, Harney County ranchers signed 30-year agreements with the federal government to protect the sage grouse.^[3] Visitors are

officers.^{[8][failed verification]} Burns has a separate police department but, as of 2008, did not employ enough officers to provide "24-

dairy products and hay operate within the county; in the county, cattle outnumber people 14-to-1.^[3] Besides ranching and farming,

population, and Hines, with 20 percent of the county's population.^[4] About 75 percent of the county's area is federal land,^[3]

county also contains the Burns Paiute Indian Reservation within and immediately north of the City of Burns; this 760-acres

and Humboldt County, Nevada (to the south); and Lake, Deschutes, and Crook counties (to the west).^[4]

reservation of the Burns Paiute Tribe is a remnant of the former Malheur Indian Reservation.^{[4][6][7]}

According to the website of the Harney County Sheriff's Office, the sheriff has a staff of six law enforcement

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Coordinates: 🥘 43.07°N 118.97°W









Coordinates: 🔍 43°04′N 118°58′W

Country State	United States	
Founded	February 23, 1889	
Seat	Burns	
Largest city	Burns	
Area		
• Total	10,226 sq mi (26,490 km ²)	
• Land	10,133 sq mi (26,240 km ²)	
• Water	93 sq mi (240 km ²) 0.9%%	
Population (2010)		
• Total	7,422	
• Estimate (2019)	7,393	
Density	0.7/sq mi (0.3/km ²)	
Time zone	UTC-8 (Pacific)	
Summer (DST)	UTC-7 (PDT)	
Congressional district	2nd	
Website	www.co.harney.or.us&	

History [edit]

The Native Americans living in this region at the time of the Lewis and Clark Expedition were the Northern Paiute, who fought with the Tenino and Wasco peoples. Peter Skene Ogden was the first known European to explore this area in 1826 when he led a fur brigade for the Hudson's Bay Company.

The Malheur River Indian Reservation was created by executive order on March 14, 1871, and the Northern Paiute within the Oregon state boundaries were settled there. The federal government "discontinued" the reservation after the Bannock War of 1878. Descendants of these people form a federally recognized tribal entity, the Burns Paiute Tribe, which had 341 members in 2008.^[10] Fewer than 35.5% of the tribal members live on the Burns Paiute Indian Colony near Burns.^[10] The tribe formerly earned revenue from a small casino, the Old Camp Casino, before its closure in 2012, and renting out communal tribal lands for grazing rights to local ranchers.

2016 militia occupation [edit]

Main article: Occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

4 Communities 4.1 Cities 4.2 Census-designated place 4.3 Unincorporated communities 4.4 Ghost towns 5 Politics 6 Economy 7 See also

hour" coverage.^[9]

1 History

2 Geography

3 Demographics

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Harney County was carved out of the southern two-thirds of Grant County on February 25, 1889. A fierce political battle, with armed "night riders" who spirited county records from Harney to Burns, ended with Burns as the county seat in 1890.

On January 2, 2016, the headquarters building of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge was seized by armed protesters related to the Bundy standoff.^[11] The group protested the prison sentences of two ranchers convicted of arson in wildfires set in 2001 and 2006, which the ranchers claimed spread from their land into the wildlife reserve.^[12] Militia leaders, including Ammon Bundy and Jon Ritzheimer, were arrested on January 26, 2016, in an event that included the shooting of militant LaVoy Finicum.^[13] The following day, only four militants remained, and they surrendered on February 11, 2016.^[14]

Geography [edit]

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 10,226 square miles (26,490 km²), of which 10,133 square miles (26,240 km²) is land and 93 square miles (240 km²) (0.9%) is water.^[15] It is the largest county in Oregon by area and the tenth-largest county in the United States (excluding boroughs and census areas in Alaska).

Steens Mountain is the county's most prominent geographical feature, rising to 9,700 feet (3,000 m) above sea level and spanning many miles across a region that is otherwise fairly flat. To its southeast is the Alvord Desert—the driest place in Oregon^[16]—and the Trout Creek Mountains, which extend south into Nevada. South of Steens Mountain, the Pueblo Mountains are another remote range in Oregon and Nevada. North of Steens Mountain lies the Harney Basin, which contains Malheur Lake and Harney Lake.

Adjacent counties [edit]

- Crook County northwest
- Grant County north
- Malheur County east/Mountain Time Border
- Humboldt County, Nevada south
- Washoe County, Nevada southwest
- Lake County west
- Deschutes County northwest

Time Zones [edit]

Further information: Time in Oregon

Although the county is officially in the Pacific Time Zone, unincorporated Drewsey, just west of the Malheur County line unofficially observes the Mountain Time Zone.

National protected areas [edit]

- Malheur National Forest (part)
- Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
- Ochoco National Forest (part)

Demographics [edit]

2000 census [edit]

As of the census^[22] of 2000, there were 7,609 people, 3,036 households, and 2,094 families residing in the county. The population density was 1 people per square mile (0/km²). There were 3.533 housing units at an average density of 0 per square mile (0/km²). The racial makeup of the county was 91.93% White, 3.97% Native American, 0.51% Asian, 0.13% Black or African American, 0.07% Pacific Islander, 1.30% from other races, and 2.09% from two or more races. 4.15% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 21.1% were of German, 11.1% American, 10.3% Irish and 9.7% English ancestry.

There is a small, but significant Spanish Basque community.^[23]

Approximately 75% of the population of Harney County lives in the Burns-Hines municipal district. Crane is the only other localised population center, with less than 7% of the population of Harney County. Lawen and Riley have no localised populations. The remaining population of Harney County is dispersed throughout the countryside, mostly dwelling on large ranches.

There were 3,036 households, out of which 29.40% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 58.00% were married couples living together, 6.80% had a female householder with no husband present, and 31.00% were non-families. 25.90% of all households were made up of individuals, and 10.20% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.45 and the average family size was 2.94.

In the county, the population was spread out, with 26.00% under the age of 18, 6.40% from 18 to 24, 26.60% from 25 to 44, 26.10% from 45 to 64, and 15.00% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 40 years. For every 100 females there were 102.90 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 98.20 males.

The median income for a household in the county was \$30,957, and the median income for a family was \$36,917. Males had a median income of \$27,386 versus \$21,773 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$16,159. About 8.60% of families and 11.80% of the population were below the poverty line, including 12.70% of those under age 18 and 13.90% of those age 65 or over.

2010 census [edit]

As of the 2010 United States Census, there were 7,422 people, 3,205 households, and 2,069 families residing in the county.^[24] The population density was 0.7 inhabitants per square mile (0.27/km²). There were 3,835 housing units at an average density of 0.4 per square mile (0.15/km²).^[25] The racial makeup of the county was 91.9% white, 3.1% American Indian, 0.5% Asian, 0.3% black or African American, 1.3% from other races, and 3.0% from two or more races. Those of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 4.0% of the population.^[24] In terms of ancestry, 28.7% were German, 18.6% were English, 15.0% were Irish, 6.7% were Scottish, 5.1% were Dutch, and 4.5% were American.^[26]

Of the 3,205 households, 26.4% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 52.0% were married couples living together, 8.8% had a female householder with no husband present, 35.4% were non-families, and 30.0% of all households were made up of individuals. The average household size was 2.28 and the average family size was 2.81. The median age was 45.2 years.^[24]

The median income for a household in the county was \$39,036 and the median income for a family was \$46,626. Males had a median income of \$40,218 versus \$31,046 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$20,849. About 14.1% of families and 18.5% of the population were below the poverty line, including 27.5% of those under age 18 and 9.2% of those age 65 or over.^[27]



Sign welcoming drivers to Harney County



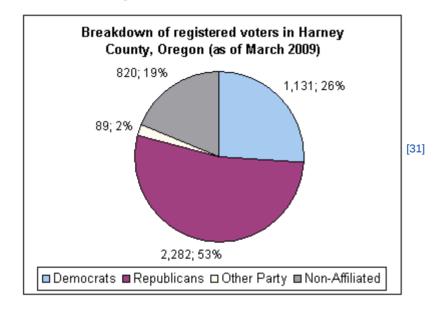
6 Harney County has a population of less than 8,000 occupying a land area about two-thirds the size of Denmark, shown in this overlay.

Historical population					
Census	Pop.	<u>%±</u>			
1890	2,559	_			
1900	2,598	1.5%			
1910	4,059	56.2%			
1920	3,992	-1.7%			
1930	5,920 48.3				
1940	5,374	-9.2%			
1950	6,113	13.8%			
1960	6,744	10.3%			
1970	7,215	7.0%			
1980	8,314	15.2%			
1990	7,060	-15.1%			
2000	7,609	7.8%			
2010	7,422	-2.5%			
2019 (est.)	7,393 ^[17]	-0.4%			
U.S. Decennial Census ^[18] 1790-1960 ^[19] 1900-1990 ^[20] 1990-2000 ^[21] 2010-2019 ^[1]					

Communities [ed	it]				
Cities [edit]					
• Burns (county seat)					
Hines					
Census-designated	d place [edit]				
• Crane					
Unincorporated co	mmunities [edit]				
• Buchanan	Dunnean	Harney	Riley	Venator	
Denio	Fields	 Indian Village 	Suntex	Voltage	
 Diamond 	 Frenchglen 	Lawen	Trout Creek	Wagontire	
Drewsey	Frost Mill	New Princeton	• Van	Whitehorse Ranch	
Ghost towns [edit]]				
Andrews					
 Blitzen 					
Narrows					

Politics [edit]

Like all counties in eastern Oregon, the majority of registered voters who are part of a political party in Harney County are members of the Republican Party. In the 2008 presidential election 70.45% of Harney County voters voted for Republican John McCain, while 25.79% voted for Democrat Barack Obama and 3.73% of voters either voted for a Third Party candidate or wrote in a candidate.^[28] These numbers show a slight shift towards the Democratic candidate when compared to the 2004 presidential election, in which 76% of Harney Country voters voted for George W. Bush, while 22.7% voted for John Kerry, and 1.3% of voters either voted for a Third Party candidate or wrote in a candidate.^[29] In 1992, the incumbent, George H.W. Bush won with 40.84% of the vote, over Ross Perot, who finished second with 30.37%, and Bill Clinton, who finished third with 28.86%.^[30]



Presidential elections results

[show]

Economy [edit]

Three industries have traditionally provided the county's economic base: ranching, sheep raising, and timber. The railroad, which extended into the area in 1883, served as a catalyst to the cattle industry but later contributed to its decline. By bringing farmers and sheep men to the area, it created increased competition for productive land. Harvesting and breeding of wild horses was lucrative for a period. Harney County shares the largest Ponderosa Pine forest in the nation with Grant County. Its abundance of game, numerous campsites and excellent fishing have stimulated fast-growing recreational activities.

Although county lands were open to homesteading from 1862 to 1934, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management still owns more than 3 million acres (12,000 km²), or 62%, of the lands within the county boundaries. Facilitated on the national level by the Carey act of 1894, arid land in Harney County was donated to the state for irrigation and settlement, but all water development efforts failed.

Eventually all land claims filed under the reclamation legislation were abandoned or nullified. Malheur National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1908 and expanded in 1936. The refuge now includes 159,872 acres (646.98 km²). Borax has been mined in the Steens area, and uranium has been found on its south side.

See also [edit]

National Register of Historic Places listings in Harney County, Oregon

Oregon portal

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External links [edit]

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V·T·E State of Oregon	[show]
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