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Piute County, Utah

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Coordinates: 38°34′N 112°13′W﻿ / ﻿38.34°N 112.13°W﻿ / 38.34; -112.13

Piute County (/ɪˈpaɪjuːt/ *PY-yooʔ*) is a county in south-central Utah, United States. As of the 2020 United States Census, the population was 1,438,^[1] making it the second-least populous county in Utah.^[2] The county seat is Junction,^[3] and the largest town is Circleville.

History

Paiute County^[4] was formed on January 16, 1865, with areas annexed from **Beaver County**. It was named for the **Paiute** tribe of **Native Americans**.^[5] Its defined boundaries were altered by adjustments between adjoining counties in 1866, in 1880, in 1892, and in 1931. It has retained its current configuration since 1931.^[6]

By the 1860s, mining prospectors were pushing into central and southern Utah Territory, and several mining towns, such as Bullion and Webster, appeared. Mining activity had slowed by the 1900s, but gold mining (from lodes in Tushar Mountains) had produced 240,000 ounces of gold from 1868 through 1959.^[7] As the nation entered **The Great War**, a mine on the east Tushar Mountains producing potash and alumina became a national center of attention, both because of the strategic value of these products, and because of persistent rumors of sabotage attempts and spying. The town of **Alunite** flourished (1915-1930), then died as the war effort wound down. Today it is abandoned.

Geography

The **Sevier River** flows northward through the west-central part of Piute County, joined at Kingston, by the East Branch of the Sevier. Immediately north of Kingston, it is dammed to form **Piute Reservoir**. Two mountain ridges lie north–south across the county. The eastern ridge runs through the east-central part of the county, and the western ridge (**Tushar Mountains**) runs along the county's west border, its crestline defining the county line. Otter Creek flows southward through the east part of the county; it is dammed to form **Otter Creek Reservoir** in the SE part of the county. Along the way it is fed by Greenwich Creek and Box Creek, draining the east face of the eastern ridge.^[8] The eastern part of the county generally slopes to the south while the west-central part of the county slopes to the north. The county's highest point is **Delano Peak** on the Tushar Range, at 12,174 ft (3,711 m) ASL. The highest point on the eastern ridge is a crest near the county's north border, at 9,893 ft (3,015 m) ASL.^[9] The county has a total area of 766 square miles (1,980 km²), of which 758 square miles (1,960 km²) is land and 7.9 square miles (20 km²) (1.0% is water.^[10] It is the fifth-smallest county in Utah by total area.

Adjacent counties

- Sevier County** (north)
- Wayne County** (east)
- Garfield County** (south)
- Beaver County** (west)

Protected areas

- Dixie National Forest** (part)
- Fishermans Bench Recreation Site
- Fishlake National Forest** (part)
- Otter Creek State Park
- Piute State Park**

Lakes

- Barney Lake
- Big Flat Reservoir
- Burnt Flat Reservoir
- Butte Reservoir
- Chicken Spring
- Clause Pond
- Dead Horse Reservoir
- Death Hollow Reservoir
- Dog Lake
- Dry Lake (southeast of **Marysvale**)
- Dry Lake (east of Piute Reservoir)
- Dry Wash Pond
- Durkee Reservoir
- Fish Lake Reservoir
- Forshea Reservoir
- Forshea Spring
- Forshea Spring Reservoir
- Hell Hole Reservoir
- Hidden Lake
- Little Meadows
- Little Park
- Lower Box Creek Reservoir^[8]
- Manning Meadows Reservoir
- Middle Spring Lake
- Mud Lake
- Nicks Pond
- Otter Creek Reservoir**
- Parker Lake
- Pine Point Reservoir
- Pole Canyon Reservoir
- Piute Reservoir**
- Rock Canyon Reservoir
- Rock Spring
- Rocky Ford Reservoir
- Smiths Reservoir
- Taylor Pond
- Tuft Reservoir
- Upper Box Creek Reservoir^[8]
- Voyles Pond
- West Cedar Grove Reservoir
- Willis Reservoir
- Willis Reservoir
- Willow Spring
- Willow Springs
- Windy Ridge Reservoir
- Wood Pond

Demographics

Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
1870	82	—
1880	1,651	1,913.4%
1890	2,842	72.1%
1900	1,954	−31.2%
1910	1,734	−11.3%
1920	2,770	59.7%
1930	1,956	−29.4%
1940	2,203	12.6%
1950	1,911	−13.3%
1960	1,436	−24.9%
1970	1,164	−18.9%
1980	1,329	14.2%
1990	1,277	−3.9%
2000	1,435	12.4%
2010	1,556	8.4%
2020	1,438	−7.6%
<div> <div><div></div><div>US Decennial Census^[11]</div></div> </div> 1790–1960 ^[12] 1900–1990 ^[13] 1990–2000 ^[14] 2010–2020 ^[16]		

2020 census

According to the 2020 United States census^[17] and 2020 American Community Survey,^[18] there were 1,438 people in Piute County with a population density of 1.9 people per square mile (0.7/km²). Among non-Hispanic or Latino people, the racial makeup was 1,276 (88.7%) White, 0 (0.0%) African American, 4 (0.3%) Native American, 0 (0.0%) Asian, 0 (0.0%) Pacific Islander, 1 (0.1%) from other races, and 33 (2.3%) from two or more races. 124 (8.6%) people were Hispanic or Latino.

There were 715 (49.72%) males and 723 (50.28%) females, and the population distribution by age was 346 (24.1%) under the age of 18, 705 (49.0%) from 18 to 64, and 387 (26.9%) who were at least 65 years old. The median age was 44.7 years.

There were 536 households in Piute County with an average size of 2.68 of which 397 (74.1%) were families and 139 (25.9%) were non-families. Among all families, 331 (61.8%) were **married couples**, 36 (6.7%) were male householders with no spouse, and 30 (5.6%) were female householders with no spouse. Among all non-families, 118 (22.0%) were a single person living alone and 21 (3.9%) were two or more people living together. 165 (30.8%) of all households had children under the age of 18. 445 (83.0%) of households were **owner-occupied** while 91 (17.0%) were **renter-occupied**.

The median income for a Piute County household was \$29,125 and the median family income was \$42,500, with a **per-capita income** of \$18,148. The median income for males that were **full-time employees** was \$46,652 and for females \$31,600. 19.1% of the population and 12.9% of families were below the **poverty line**.

In terms of education attainment, out of the 1,328 people in Piute County 25 years or older, 97 (7.3%) had **not completed high school**, 405 (30.5%) had a **high school diploma** or equivalency, 539 (40.6%) had some college or **associate degree**, 218 (16.4%) had a **bachelor's degree**, and 69 (5.2%) had a **graduate** or **professional degree**.

Politics and government

Piute County is a traditional Republican stronghold. In no national election since 1940 has the county selected the Democratic Party candidate (as of 2024).

State elected offices

Position	District	Name	Affiliation	First elected
 Senate	24	Derrin Owens	Republican	2020 ^[19]
 House of Representatives	73	Phil Lyman	Republican	2018 ^[20]
 Board of Education	14	Mark Huntsman	Nonpartisan	2014 ^[21]

Communities

[edit]

Towns

- Circleville**
- Junction** (county seat)
- Kingston**
- Marysvale**

Unincorporated communities

- Angle**^[8]
- Greenwich**
- Thompsonville**

Former communities

- Alunite**^[8]
- Bullion Falls**^[8]
- Kimberly**
- Virginia**
- Webster**

Education

The school district of the county is **Piute School District**.^[24]

See also

- List of counties in Utah
- National Register of Historic Places listings in Piute County, Utah

References

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- ↑ Daggett County at the NE state corner, has the least county population (as of 2020 census).
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- ↑ Van Cott, John W. (1990). *Utah Place Names*. Salt Lake City UT: University of Utah Press. p. 297. ISBN 0-87480-345-4.
- ↑ "[Newberry Library]]. Individual County Chronologies - Piute County UT (accessed March 25, 2019)" . Archived from the original on March 6, 2016. Retrieved March 25, 2019.
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- ↑ 2020 Population and Housing State Data | Utah
- ↑ United States Census Bureau. "2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC)" . Retrieved November 3, 2024.
- ↑ United States Census Bureau. "American Community Survey 5-Year Data (2009-2022)" . Retrieved November 3, 2024.
- ↑ "Senator Owens Utah Senate". *senate.utah.gov*. Retrieved November 16, 2021.
- ↑ "Rep. Lyman, Phil" . *Utah House of Representatives*. Retrieved November 15, 2021.
- ↑ "Mark Huntsman" . *www.schools.utah.gov*. Retrieved November 15, 2021.
- ↑ Leip, David. "Atlas of US Presidential Elections" . *uselectionatlas.org*. Retrieved March 31, 2018.
- ↑ The leading "other" candidate, **Progressive Theodore Roosevelt**, received 146 votes, while Socialist candidate Eugene Debs received 110 votes.
- ↑ "2020 CENSUS - SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENCE MAP: Piute County, UT" (PDF). U.S. Census Bureau. Retrieved September 28, 2024. – Text list

External links

- Official website

Wikimedia Commons has media related to **Piute County, Utah**.

 V·T·E	Places adjacent to Piute County, Utah	[show]
 V·T·E	Municipalities and communities of Piute County, Utah, United States	[show]
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	Authority control databases 	[show]

Categories: Utah counties | Piute County, Utah | 1865 establishments in Utah Territory | Populated places established in 1865