



Ferry County, Washington

41 languages

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Ferry County is a county located on the northern border of the U.S. state of Washington. As of the 2020 census, the population was 7,178,^[1] making it the fourth-least populous county in Washington.^[2] The county seat and largest city is Republic.^[3] The county was created out of Stevens County in February 1899^[4] and is named for Elisha P. Ferry, the state's first governor.^[5]

History

During the time of Washington Territory, the Territorial Legislature created *Stevens County* in 1863, containing all the land from the Columbia River to the Cascades north of the Wenatchee River from Walla Walla County.^[6] On January 20, 1864, the original Spokane County was dissolved and merged with the unorganized Stevens County.^[7] The western section of Stevens County was separated on February 18, 1866, and named Ferry County, in recognition of the Territory's last governor and the State's first governor, Elisha P. Ferry.

The town of Republic is the county's seat of government, as well as the largest town. It was founded at the end of the nineteenth century by gold prospectors and was incorporated in 1900. The original election precinct of Republic was created on April 6, 1898.^[8] Following the 1922 primary elections, a group of citizens called for an investigation into possible election irregularities. The group claimed that two of that year's voting precincts had been formed unlawfully in conjunction with misconduct in six precincts by election officers and the canvassing board. As a result of the actions, the validity of two candidates were called in question. Demands were made that Thomas F. Barker, seeking reelection as sheriff, and John W. McCool, seeking the County Treasurer seat, be barred from the ballot. Barker was notably facing charges at the federal level at that time from allegations of conspiring and abetting bootleggers.^[9]

The original county courthouse, made of wood, burned in 1934. Its replacement, made of concrete and stucco, was under consideration beginning in 2018 for historical preservation.^[10]

Economy

Ferry County reaches to Canada on the north, and to the Columbia River on the east. Its southern portion is in the boundary of the Colville Indian Reservation, controlled by the Colville Confederated Tribes, and its northern portion is largely occupied by Colville National Forest. As a result, only eighteen percent of the total county area is taxable-use ground.^[11] The county's economy is largely based on timber-extraction and mining.

Ferry County's topography and climate make it an ideal recreation destination, so tourism has become a significant portion of the county's economy. Washington State Highway 20, designated a National Scenic Highway, crosses the county east-west, and has the state's highest navigable pass (5,575 feet above sea level).

The county seat, Republic, is the site of the *Stonerose Interpretive Center and Fossil Site*, which exhibits and explains Eocene-era fossils from an ancient lake bed north of Republic.^[12]

Geography

According to the *United States Census Bureau*, the county has a total area of 2,267 square miles (5,850 km²), of which 2,203 square miles (5,710 km²) is land and 54 square miles (140 km²) (2.4%) is water.^[13] Most of the county is covered by the rugged *Kettle River Range*, which extends from the Canada-US border to its southernmost perimeter bounded by the Columbia River and Lake Roosevelt. Only a narrow north-south strip running the length of the county on the west between the San Dui River and the Okanogan County line is covered by the Okanogan Highlands. Except for the town of Republic, the county is sparsely populated.

Geographic features

- Kettle River Range
- Copper Butte, highest point: 7,140 feet (2,176 m)
- Sherman Peak, 7,101 feet (2,137 m)
- Bald Mountain, 6,940 feet (2,115 m)
- Scar Mountain, 7,046 feet (2,148 m)
- White Mountain, 6,923 feet (2,110 m)
- Wapatoose Mountain, 7,018 feet (2,139 m)
- Columbia Mountain, 6,762 feet (2,067 m)
- Melngirt Mountain, 6,660 feet (2,030 m)
- King Mountain, 6,634 feet (2,022 m)
- Edds Mountain, 6,540 feet (1,993 m)
- Sherman Pass, 5,575 feet (1,699 m), highest mountain pass open all year in the state
- Okanogan Highland

Major rivers and lakes

- Columbia River
- Kettle River
- Sampol River
- Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake, called Lake Roosevelt
- Cutew Lake
- Swan Lake
- Ferry Lake
- Fain Lake
- Long Lake

Adjacent counties

- Kootenay Boundary Regional District, British Columbia, north
- Stevens County, east
- Lincoln County, southwest
- Okanogan County, west

National protected areas

- Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (part)
- Colville National Forest (part)
- Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area (part)

Demographics

2010 census

As of the 2010 census, there were 7,551 people, 3,190 households, and 2,070 families living in the county.^[14] The population density was 3.4 inhabitants per square mile (1.3/km²). There were 4,403 housing units at an average density of 2.0 per square mile (0.77/km²).^[15] The racial makeup of the county was 76.3% white, 16.7% American Indian, 0.7% Asian, 0.3% black or African American, 0.1% Pacific islander, 1.2% from other races, and 4.8% from two or more races. Those of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 3.4% of the population.^[17] In terms of ancestry, 23.0% were German, 18.0% were English, 12.3% were Irish, and 3.7% were American.^[18]

Of the 3,190 households, 23.9% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 49.2% were married couples living together, 9.2% had a female householder with no husband present, 35.1% were non-families, and 28.5% of all households were made up of individuals. The average household size was 2.29 and the average family size was 2.75. The median age was 47.3 years.^[19]

The median income for a household in the county was \$35,485 and the median income for a family was \$43,576. Males had a median income of \$41,795 versus \$30,972 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$18,021. About 13.8% of families and 30.8% of the population were below the poverty line, including 24.3% of those under age 18 and 12.4% of those age 65 or over.^[20]

2000 census

As of the 2000 census, there were 7,260 people, 2,823 households, and 1,987 families living in the county. The population density was 3 inhabitants per square mile (1.2/km²). There were 3,775 housing units at an average density of 2 units per square mile (0.77 units/km²). The racial makeup of the county was 75.46% white, 0.21% Black or African American, 18.28% Native American, 0.29% Asian, 0.00% Pacific Islander, 2.23% from other races, and 3.46% from two or more races. 2.82% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 14.1% were of German, 9.5% United States or American, 9.1% Irish, and 7.6% English ancestry. 96.7% spoke English and 1.9% Spanish as their first language.

Ferry County

County



Ferry County Courthouse in Republic



Location within the U.S. state of Washington



Washington's location within the U.S.

Coordinates: 48°28′N 118°31′W﻿ / ﻿48.47°N 118.51°W﻿ / 48.47; -118.51

Country	 United States
State	 Washington
Founded	February 21, 1899
Named for	Elisha P. Ferry
Seat	Republic
Largest city	Republic
Area	
• Total	2,267 sq mi (5,850 km ²)
• Land	2,203 sq mi (5,710 km ²)
• Water	54 sq mi (140 km ²) 2.4%
Population (2020)	
• Total	7,178
• Estimate (2022)	7,448 ▲
• Density	3.5/sq mi (1.4/km ²)
Time zone	UTC−8 (Pacific)
• Summer (DST)	UTC−7 (EDT)
Congressional district	5th
Website	www.ferry-county.com ⓘ



There were 2,823 households, out of which 30.10% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 54.70% were **married couples** living together, 10.20% had a female householder with no husband present, and 29.60% were non-families. 24.80% of all households were made up of individuals, and 9.10% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.49 and the average family size was 2.95.

In the county, the population was spread out, with 26.90% under the age of 18, 7.60% from 18 to 24, 23.40% from 25 to 44, 29.50% from 45 to 64, and 12.60% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 40 years. For every 100 females there were 107.70 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 105.20 males.

The median income for a household in the county was \$30,388, and the median income for a family was \$35,691. Males had a median income of \$32,103 versus \$23,371 for females. The *per capita* income for the county was \$15,019. About 13.30% of families and 19.00% of the population were below the *poverty line*, including 20.40% of those under age 18 and 10.30% of those age 65 or over.^[21]

Government [edit]

County law enforcement [edit]

County-wide law enforcement is provided by the Ferry County Sheriff Office which is headquartered in Republic. Henry Weisman was the county's first sheriff, appointed by the county commissioners following the county's 1890 organization, with a mandate to serve until the first general election in 1900. The county's first elected sheriff was A.E. Stewart.^[24] The sheriff in 2016 was Ray Maysumber.^[25]

Communities [edit]

- Republic (county seat)

Census-designated places [edit]

- Barney's Junction
- Barstow
- Boysds
- Curfew
- Curlew Lake
- Damville
- Inchelium
- Keller
- Laurier
- Mako
- Orient
- Pine Grove
- Tobity
- Twin Lakes

Other unincorporated communities [edit]

- Covada
- Coldstone
- Harfer
- Impach
- Karamin
- Kewa
- Melcor
- Toroda
- West Fork

Notable people [edit]

- Alex N. Dragnich (1912-2009) - political scientist
- Stella Leach (1918-2010) - nurse and activist

See also [edit]

- Arrowgate Hotel
- Ferry County Courusel
- National Register of Historic Places listings in Ferry County, Washington
- List of law enforcement agencies in Washington (state)

References [edit]

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- ↑ Garrett, Henry (1905). *The Origin of Certain Place Names in the United States*. Gov. Print. Off. pp. 125*o*.
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- ↑ Hanson, James (September 5, 2022). "After slump, Ferry County attempts to regain lost population in 2020 census". *The Spokesman-Review*. Retrieved May 27, 2023.
- ↑ Leig, David. "Dime Lady's Miss of U.S. Presidential Election". *uselectiondata.org*. Retrieved April 6, 2018.
- ↑ The leading "other" candidate, Progressive Theodore Roosevelt, received 286 votes, while Socialist candidate Eugene Debs received 269 votes, Prohibition candidate Eugene Chaffin received 13 votes, and Socialist Labor candidate Arthur Nomin received 9 votes.
- ↑ An *Illustrated History of Stevens, Ferry, Okanogan and Chelan Counties, State of Washington*, Western Historical Publishing Company, 1904, p. 446.
- ↑ Jackson, Steve (June 23, 2016). "New Civilian Reservation Fireworks Ban in Response to Wildfire Hazard". *KPSTV-TV*. Retrieved December 23, 2016.

Further reading [edit]

- An illustrated history of Stevens, Ferry, Okanogan and Chelan counties, State of Washington. Western Historical Pub. Co. 1904. Available online through the Washington State Library's Classics in Washington History collection.

External links [edit]

- Ferry County, Washington at HistoryLink.org
- Official website of Ferry County Government.
- SummitPost.org, Kettle River Range (Washington State)
- Ferry County, Washington at Curlew
- Sheriff's office official website.

Places adjacent to Ferry County, Washington	[show]
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