

Siskiyou County

Siskiyou County, located at the inner region of Northern California just south of the Oregon border, features spectacular natural beauty and scenic cities and towns. Such towns and cities include Yreka, Mt. Shasta, Weed, Dunsmuir, McCloud and Tulelake, as well as Butte Valley, Scott Valley, Shasta Valley, the Klamath River Corridor, and the river communities of Seiad Valley and Happy Camp. More than 60% of the land within this county is managed by agencies of Federal and State governments, the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Services, and the California Department of Fish and Game. These areas are maintained in various National Forests, Parks, Wilderness Areas, National Grasslands, National Wildlife Refuges and State Wildlife Areas.

Siskiyou County, consisting of 6,287 square miles, is one of the most ecologically diverse regions in the world with the blending of several western mountain ranges providing numerous types of habitat along various elevation levels. Some portions of the county are heavily influenced by volcanic forces. From the volcanic landscape of the Lava Beds National Monument to the deep-forested gorges of the Salmon and Scott Rivers, Siskiyou County is a land uniquely comprised of mountains, forests, volcanic plateaus, valleys, and sparkling lakes and streams. Being the fifth largest county in the state by area, with a population of 44,300 in the year 2000, Siskiyou County is rich in Gold Rush history with a number of communities being founded during this time in California History.

The city of Yreka, with a population of 7,325 as of the year 2000, was established the seat of Siskiyou County in March, 1852. Named after the local mountain range, the true origin of the word Siskiyou is unknown. Some say it is the Chinook Indian word for "bob-tailed horse", while others feel it is named after the French words Six Cailloux, meaning "six-stone" which represent six large stones located in the river where early trappers crossed.

Six major rivers and several streams within Siskiyou County offer an abundance of outdoor activities including rafting, canoeing, kayaking, camping, and fishing. At the southern most region of Siskiyou County, stand the awe inspiring towers of Castle Crags State Park.

Just north of Castle Crags State Park is the majestic Mt. Shasta, California's highest volcano towering at over 14,000 feet. Mount Shasta hosts over 17 various hiking routes. An estimated 15,000 climbers attempt to reach Mt. Shasta's majestic summit annually, while thousands flock to its local ski park every winter.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- As of the year 2000, total populations is 44,300, of which 10,490 are aged 60+ and 3,885 are aged 75+
- Average of 1 ½ seniors per square mile
- The population has seen steady growth within the last decade
- The population increased 0.1 % and has been increasing at an average of 0.2% annually
- 1.3% total growth rate since 1991

TARGETED SENIOR POPULATION

- 75+ 37%
- Low Income 16%
- Minorities 8%

AGRICULTURE

- Hay, Alfalfa
- Nursery Plants, Strawberry
- Potatoes, Irish
- Cattle, Heifers, Steers, Calves, Cows
- Pasture, Irrigated
- Milk, Mark
- Onions
- Wheat

LABOR FORCE

- Total population employment rate in 2000 was 40%
- Total labor force in the year 2000 was 17,830
- Total labor force increased 2.6% and has been increasing at an annual average of 0.1% since 1990
- Despite overall increase, Dunsmuir experienced a 10.5% decrease, as well as Yreka at 8.7%
- The unemployment rate between 1990 and 2002 was lowest for 2001 at 9.4% and the highest was in 1992 at 15.6%
- The unemployment rate for the year 2000 is 9.5%
- The projected unemployment rate for the year 2005 is 9.7%

INCOME

- Total personal income increased 1% in 2001 which brought the average annual income to 3.4% since 1991
- The per capita annual income in the year 2000 was \$22,264
- Poverty rate increased from 14% in 1989 to 18.6% in 1999 (compared to California at a rate of 12.5 in 1989 to 14% in 1999)

HOUSING

- With the number of total housing units in the year 2000 being 21,947, per capita housing is 49% or approximately 1 housing unit per every 2 persons
- Between 1991 and 2002, the total number of housing units increased 0.6%, compared the an average increase of 2.8% annually
- Fair market rent has increase at an annual average of 8.5% since the year 2000

LOW INCOME

- 16% of the 60+ year old population is at 125% or below poverty level. This is comprised of:

88.3%	Non-Minority
1.8%	African American
2.3%	American Indian/Alaskan Native
1.2%	Asian
.6%	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
0	Other
2.0%	Multi-race
3.8%	Hispanic/Latino
- The number of TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families) and CalWORKS (California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids) recipients and the number of households receiving food stamps have been decreasing steadily, reaching low points in 2002
- MediCal expenditures are at their highest, nearing 34 million in 2002
- The highest number of MediCal eligible recipients are Non-minority making up 73% of the population served by the program

CLIMATE

- Average Maximum Temperature – upper 90's
- Average Low Temperature – low 40's
- Average annual precipitation – ranges from 10" to 60"
- Average annual snowfall – ranges from 18" to 100"