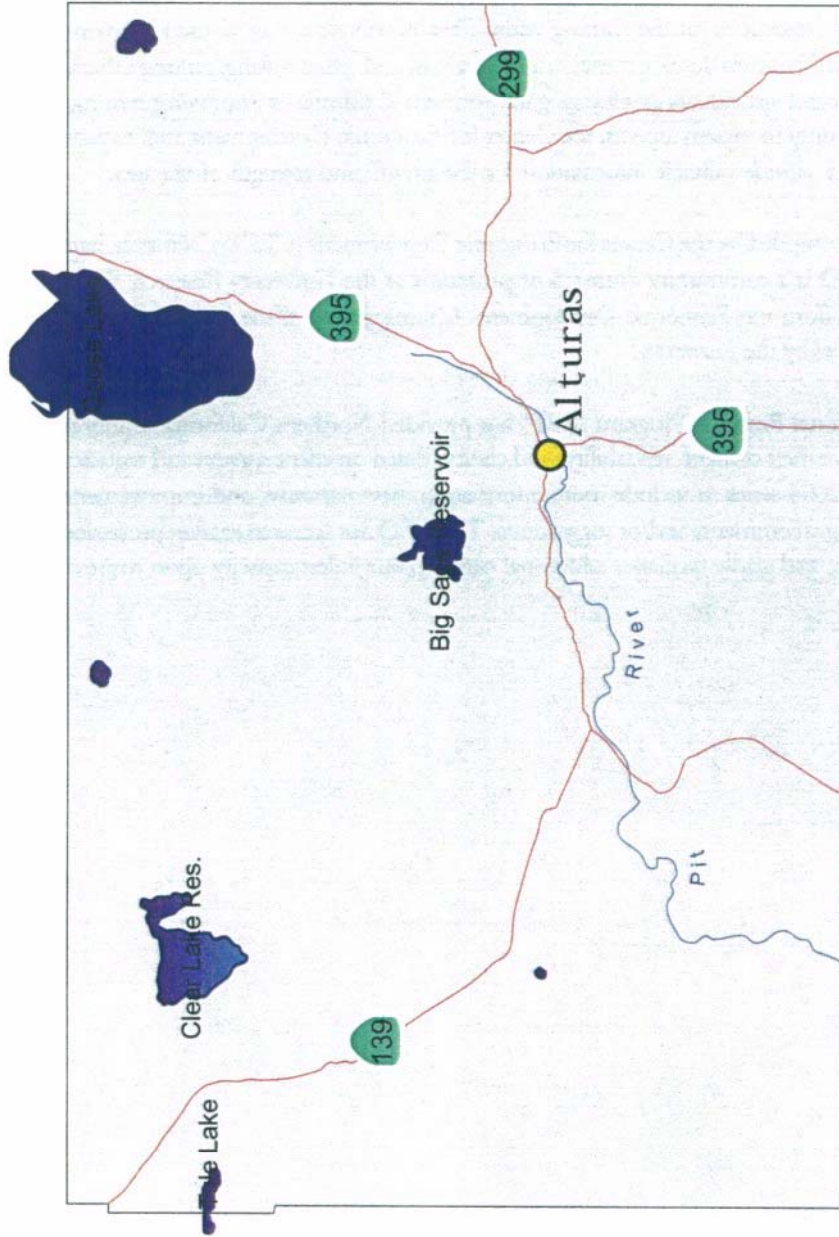


# Modoc County



## Modoc County

Modoc County, with a population of 10,562, encompasses the extreme northeast between Shasta Cascade Range and the Great Basin region of California. The county is comprised of 3,944 square miles of unspoiled, unpolluted, and uncrowded high desert splendor. With elevations ranging from 4,000 to 10,000 feet, 90 percent of the county is comprised of national forests, refuges and wilderness areas. Modoc County is bordered on the north by the state of Oregon, on the east by the state of Nevada, on the south by Lassen and Shasta Counties and on the west by the Siskiyou County. Originally a part of Siskiyou County, Modoc County, with its rich Indian lore, scenic beauty and abundant resources, became its own entity in 1874.

Modoc County was named by the Modoc Indians meaning "The Smiles of God" because of their intense love for the land which is comprised of rugged lava plateaus, fertile valleys and majestic mountains. Comprised of 70 percent public owned forest and wilderness, Modoc County's high desert climate provides warm dry summers, perfect for the outdoor enthusiast to enjoy camping, fishing, cross-country skiing and other outdoor activities. With more than 250 miles of trout streams and over 4,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, Modoc County is a dream come true for hunters and fishermen.

Alturas, with a population of 2,804 in 2008, is the largest city in Modoc County. At an elevation of 4,446 ft., this city serves as the seat of Modoc County. Alturas (Spanish for "Valley on Top of a Mountain") is located in the broad valley of the Pit River in the center of the county at the junction of Highways 395 and 299. Formed by the erosion and rebuilding of the volcanic flows of the Modoc Plateau, the valley is set on a prehistoric lake bed. The city is bordered on the south by the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge, the location of the natural preservation of wetlands. Marshes, forests, plains and lakes found in this area provide habitat for many types of wildlife.

East of Alturas, one the most beautiful mountain ranges, the Warner Mountains, can be found. The Warner Mountains, often referred to as "Where the West Still Lives," encompasses a major portion of Modoc National Forest. At over 70,000 acres, this area offers an abundance of wildlife and excellent recreational opportunities. Other areas of the county include the Surprise Valley, Jess Valley and Fandango Pass, all of which are considered to be the best ranching valleys in Northern California.

Picturesque and unspoiled Big Valley, tucked between high mountain peaks, consists of the towns of Adin, Lookout, Bieber, and Nubieber. All of these towns border the 14,100 acres of the Ash Creek Wildlife area. It is said that, during the winter months, nearly one-half of the world's population of Cackling Geese migrate here.

Settlers arriving in this area in the early 1800's began logging and farming in this region. Until recently, agriculture and logging had been the main source of employment for residents of Modoc County. However, due to the restrictions on logging and water rights, numerous town businesses, including several mills, were forced to close their doors.

Currently, the major employers in the area are government, agriculture, services, wholesale/retail and manufacturing. In Surprise Valley, cattle ranching and alfalfa hay production are still the leading enterprises in the area.

### DEMOGRAPHICS

- As of the year 2008, total population was 10,562, of which 2,699 are aged 60+ and 967 are aged 75+
- The population of Modoc County has seen a slight decrease within the last decade
- In 2003, population decreased 0.3 %, and has been decreasing at an average rate of 0.2% annually
- Roughly 2.5 people per square mile, a 4% decrease since 1991

### TAREGETED POPULATIONS

- 75+ 36%
- Low Income 20%
- Minorities 8%

### AGRICULTURE – Top Crops

- Hay, Alfalfa
- Cattle and Calves
- Potatoes, Irish

### LABOR FORCE

- Total population employment rate in 2007 was 37%, consisting of 3,900 members
- The labor force in Modoc County experienced average variations between 1990 and 2007.
- The labor force in the county increased 10% between 1990 and 2007 and had a 5 percent annual increase in 2007
- Unemployment rate was 9.8% in 2007 and highest in 1993 at 13.3%

## INCOME

- In 2005, total personal income was \$245,524, a 3% increase from the previous year
- The per capita income in 2005 was \$25,836, a 4% increase over the previous year
- Income indicators in Modoc County remained relatively stable of the last decade
- Poverty rate in 2005 was 20.4%, compared to 13% statewide

## HOUSING

- With total housing units in the year 2007 being 12,979, per capita housing was 51% or approximately 1 housing unit per every 2 persons
- Between 1991 and 2007, the number of total housing units in the county increased .01%, compared to an average annual increase of 2.7%
- Fair market rent prices have been increasing at a slightly slower rate than the Northern California average, but increased 15% between 2007 and 2008

## LOW INCOME

- 20% of the 60+ year old population is @ 125% or below poverty level. This is composed of:

78.7%	Non-Minority
.9%	African American
9.2%	American Indian/Alaskan Native
0	Asian
0	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
2.3%	Other
.9%	Multi-race
8.0%	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
- In 2006, approximately 22% of the population in the county was eligible for Medi-Cal programs; whereas only 14% made use of the programs. The comparison statewide indicates 9% was eligible; and 7% made use of the programs.

- The highest number of Medi-Cal eligible recipients are Non-Minority, consisting of 70% of the people served by the program
- Medi-Cal expenditures were \$864,431 in 2006

## CLIMATE

- Average Maximum Temperature – mid-80's
- Average Low Temperature – low 40's
- Average annual precipitation – ranges from 12" to 18"
- Average annual snowfall – ranges from 20" to 55"