



Trinity County

Trinity County, with a population of 13,667 in 2016 (RCRC), is located in the lower regions of the Cascade Mountain Range, halfway between Redding in Shasta County and the Northern Redwood Coast. Trinity County consists of approximately 3208 square miles of alpine splendor. Roughly the size of the state of Vermont, Trinity County would cover an area the size of Texas if it were flattened!

Prior to the statehood of California, Trinity County was established in February 1850. Originally, the county encompassed an area which is now divided into Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity Counties. The county is comprised of hundreds of miles of Forest Service roads, trails, and old logging tracts which would provide excellent outdoor opportunities for hiking, mountain bike and motor touring.

Predominant features of the county's region include the Trinity River, Trinity Lake and the Trinity Alps. Some of the most breathtaking scenery and natural lakes can be found in the Trinity Alps Wilderness (named for its resemblance of the Swiss Alps). This 500,000-acre wilderness area includes 9,000 foot peaks, saw-tooth ridges, alpine meadows, deep glacial canyons and more than 50 mountain lakes and streams making the Trinity Alps the second largest wilderness area in California and one of the largest in the United States.

In the northeastern region of the county is Trinity Lake, the third largest reservoir in California with 16,000 surface acres and 147 miles of shoreline which encircles the lake. Trinity Lake offers an abundance of still water enjoyment, including jet and water skiing, canoeing, kayaking, rafting, fishing and swimming.

Trinity County has been home to many different ethnic groups, including various Native American tribes. As evidence that the land coincided with their myths and beliefs, drawings on sides of rocks and caves can still be seen which were used for their worshiping rituals and sacred rites.

Long before the gold rush of 1849 and prior to its discovery at Sutter's Mill, it is said that gold was discovered in Trinity County. It was this gold rush which brought thousands of miners to the area thereby initiating the establishment of such towns as Weaverville and Lewiston. Located along Highway 299, Weaverville, serves as the seat for Trinity County. Offering a variety of services, Weaverville is the economic center of the county.

At one point in Weaverville's history, there were just as many Chinese in the region seeking the riches of gold as there were Euro-Americans. Thousands of Chinese settled in the area and quickly established their claims. With them they brought their lifestyles and soon started their own businesses.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; RCRCNet.org

In 1852, the Chinese established a Taoist temple of worship which burned down in 1873 and was rebuilt in 1875. To this day, the temple continues to be used as a place of worship. However, by 1865 with the attraction of gold fading, many Chinese either returned to China or moved on to work on the construction of the Central and Union Pacific Railways. By 1906, few Chinese descendants remained in Weaverville, however the signs of their presence still remain a part of this region.

Hayfork is the second largest town within the county which offers a variety of businesses, ranches and signs reminiscent of a frontier village.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- As of the year 2016, the total population was 13,667 (RCRC) with 27.3% (Census.gov) aged 60+ and 9.46% aged 75+ (RCRC)
- The population density is roughly 4.3 (RCRC) people per square mile.

TARGETED POPULATIONS

- 75+ 9.46% (RCRC)
- Poverty 21.3% (RCRC)

AGRICULTURE – Top Crops

- Cattle – Heifers, Steers, Milk Cows, Cull, Bulls, Calves
- Pasture – Range, Irrigated
- Grapes, White
- Fruit and Nut Crops
- Nursery Products
- Hay, Other

LABOR FORCE

- Total county unemployment rate in 2016 was 7.1% (RCRC).
- Total labor force in the year 2016 was 5,070 (RCRC) members.

INCOME

- In 2018, the county's median household income was \$38,497 (census.gov)
- The per capita income in 2018 was \$25,961 (census.gov)
- Poverty rate in 2018 was 21.6% in the county (census.gov).

HOUSING

- Total housing units in the year 2018 was 5,796 (census.gov), with an average of 2.17 individuals per housing unit.

CLIMATE

- Average Maximum Temperature – high 90's
- Average Low Temperature – low 40's
- Average annual precipitation – ranges from 38" to 62"
- Average annual snowfall – ranges from 8" to 22"

References:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/trinitycountycalifornia,shastacountycalifornia,siskiyoucountycalifornia,lassencountycalifornia,modoccountycalifornia/PST045219>

https://www.rcrcnet.org/sites/default/files/useruploads/Documents/Advocacy/Economic_Development/County_Profiles/2018%20Trinity%20Economic%20&%20Demographic%20Profile.pdf