

Oregon State Counties

Clatsop

Location

Clatsop County is located in the northwest corner of Oregon. It shares a border with the Pacific Ocean, the Columbia River in the north, Columbia County in the east, and Tillamook County in the south. The areas of Astoria and Warrenton are nationally known as significant historic regions located at the terminal end of the Lewis & Clark Trail.

History

Traditional industries such as logging, agriculture and fishing, contributed to the economic growth of Clatsop County. Astoria, one of the largest and oldest fishing communities on the Oregon coast, was also dominated by the agricultural industry (Bradbury, 2001).

Current Industry

Today, the principle industries driving the economy are fishing, tourism and forest products (Bradbury, 2001). The Port of Astoria, created in 1914, is one of Oregon's 23 port districts, which support the trade and commerce of Oregon. Major employers are the U.S. Coast Guard, James River Corporation and Willamette Industries (<http://www.oldoregon.com/Pages/Quickfacts.htm>).

Fishing Industry

Ports: Astoria/Warrenton (commercial/recreational), Gearhart/Seaside (commercial/recreational), Cannon Beach (commercial/recreational)

Fishing continues to be Astoria's number one industry. Like a lot of west coast fishing communities, Astoria's primary historic catch was salmon and was home of drag fishing, which developed in the 1950s. Today, additional species such as groundfish, sardines, tuna, shrimp and crab contribute to Astoria's overall landings. Gear strategies applied by Astoria fishermen have also evolved due to recent conservation efforts. Technological changes in fishing gear include the use of tangle nets in the place of gillnets, in the hopes of reducing by-catch. Fishing has been an important industry to Astoria's community throughout its history, and continues to be "essential to the backbone" of Astoria's growth. The importance of the industry to local community members is reflected in its many commercial fishing organizations such as Salmon for All, the Columbia River Fisherman's Proactive Union, the Fishermen's Wives Association and the Pacific Marine Conservation Council. Astoria's fishing infrastructure is also well-developed containing eight processors and six bait and tackle shops. Six harbors exist in Astoria and Warrenton; one has 335 slips, while the other has 85. The Port of Astoria also accommodates about 12 large vessels that fish in Alaska (Personal Interview, 2002).

Columbia

Location

Columbia County has an area of 657 square miles and shares its borders with three counties and the Columbia River. The counties borders are Multnomah and Washington Counties in the south, and Clatsop County in the west. Columbia County is situated on the longest stretch of the Columbia River in Oregon. The river is a major route of ocean-going vessels and is popular for fishing, boating and windsurfing (<http://www.co.columbia.or.us/>).

History

Columbia County was established January 16, 1854, and was economically based on commercial fishing, water transportation and lumber (<http://www.co.columbia.or.us/>). Being originally settled by New England loggers, the county was dominated by the lumber industry. Later, however, an Italian community developed in the uptown area of the county and did not participate in the logging industry. Instead, they brought construction trades signaling a new direction for the areas manufacturing industry (<http://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/>).

Current Industry

Today, the county's principle industries include manufacturing, agriculture, lumber, fishing, and tourism (<http://www.co.columbia.or.us/>). Manufacturing has been the principal source of income, however, the timber industry still provides a strong economic base for the county (<http://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/>).

Fishing Industry

Port: St. Helens (recreational)

St. Helens fishing community is made up entirely of recreational fishermen. The closest non-tribal commercial fleet to the city is 30 miles away. County residents, who fish in St. Helens, do so for salmon and sturgeon. The city has a long history of recreational fishing, exhibited in a group of local 80 year olds who have moored their boats at the St. Helens marina for 40 to 50 years. The marina has 220 slips and can accommodate boats that fall in the range from 16 to 50 feet long, with the largest being 60 feet long (Personal Interview, 2002).

Coos

Location

Coos County is located just north of Curry County in the southeast corner of the state. It is bounded by Douglas County on the north and east, and the Pacific Ocean on the west. The county has an area of 1,629 square miles after various boundary adjustments during the 1800s (<http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/county/cpcooshome.html>). The principal rivers are the Coos and Coquille Rivers (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~orcoos/history.htm>).

Reservations and Trust Lands

One American Indian Reservation is located in two main clusters throughout the county. This reservation is home to the Coquille tribe, population of 193 in 2000 (U.S. Census, 2000).

History

Coos County was created on December 22, 1853, from parts of Umpqua and Jackson Counties. Port Orford, now in Curry County, was the first settlement. Until recent lumber shortages, Coos County had the largest timber shipping port in the world. Gold mining was another magnet that drew people to explore and exploit the mineral resources of the county during the nineteenth century (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~orcoos/history.htm>). Another important contributor to the county's economic base was fishing.

Current Industry

The county's primary industries consist of forest products, fishing, agriculture, shipping, tourism and recreation (Bradbury, 2001). Additional products that play an important role in the economy include: boating, dairy farming, cranberries, and myrtle wood manufacturing. There are several port districts that also contribute to the county's growth: Port of Coos Bay founded in 1909, Port of Coquille River founded in 1912, and Port of Bandon founded in 1913. Coos Bay is considered the best natural harbor between San Francisco Bay and the Puget Sound. The Port of Coos Bay is the largest forest products shipper in the world (<http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/county/cpcooshome.html>).

Fishing Industry

Ports: Coos Bay (commercial/recreational), Bandon (commercial), Charleston (commercial/recreational)

Coos Bay is the largest deep-draft coastal harbor between San Francisco Bay and Puget Sound, and is Oregon's second busiest maritime commerce center. (<http://www.portofcoosbay.com/>). Charleston, nine miles west on Cape Arago Highway, is an old waterfront fishing village, with a busy commercial fishing fleet. It contains more than 150 boats that during various seasons of the year land Dungeness crab, halibut, shrimp, salmon, tuna, and a variety of ground and rockfish including sole, cod, flounder, mackerel and snapper (<http://www.charlestonmarina.com>).

Curry

Location

Curry County is located in the southwest corner of the state. It is bounded on the south by California, on the west by the Pacific Ocean, on the north by Coos County, and on the east by Josephine County. The county originally contained about 1,500 square miles, however, boundary adjustments with Coos County in 1872 and 1951 and Josephine County in 1880 and 1927 increased the area to 1,648 square miles (<http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/county/cpcurryhome.html>).

Reservations and Trust Lands

Located in the uppermost corner of the county is an American Indian Reservation representing the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw tribes. In 2000, all three tribes made up a total of 11 residents (U.S. Census, 2000).

History

Curry County's growth is attributed to the county's commercial fishing industry. As early as 1876, a cannery was built at the mouth of the Rogue River, processing salmon. A year later, the county's first salmon hatchery was built, success and experienced in replenishing salmon to the Rogue River (<http://radicalacademy.com/currycountyalmanc1.htm>).

Current Industry

The principal industries of Curry County include forest products, agriculture, commercial and sport fishing, mining, recreation, and tourism (Bradbury, 2001). Additional products of importance include sheep and cattle, cranberries, blueberries, easter lilies, myrtle wood, and horticultural nursery stock. While there is still some mining of cobalt, nickel, and chromium in the Gasaquet Mountain area, the economy is more focused on agriculture and timber. Vacation and recreational possibilities also draw tourists to the area and provide additional economic growth (<http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/county/cpcurryhome.html>).

Fishing Industry

Ports: Brookings (commercial/recreational), Port Orford (commercial), Gold Beach (commercial)

Curry County's coastal scenery and standing timber attract visitors to participate in recreational clamming, crabbing, and fishing in both freshwater and saltwater. The Port of Brookings is considered one of the safest harbors, as well as one of the largest fishing communities on the Oregon coast (Bradbury, 2001). Today, shrimp, crab, ground fish and salmon make up most of the ports landings. The Port of Brookings Harbor's mooring facilities include 750 berths and 485 linear feet of transit dock for the non-home porting vessels. The port is a "Harbor of Refuge" for all vessels in the 100 to 150 foot class needing shelter from inclement weather. The port also accommodates vessels that range from 24 to 110 feet. Another fact about the Port is that it functions in four areas: property management, tourism, commercial and recreational fishing. The Port manages a business loan program, is involved in telecommunications, assists in the development of medical infrastructure, and advocates and secures funding for community improvement projects. This port district covers over four hundred square miles and represents over 75% of the entire population of Curry County (Personal Interview, 2002).

Douglas

Location

Douglas County extends from sea level at the Pacific Ocean to the 9,182-foot Mt. Thielsen in the Cascade Mountains. It is located just north of Coos County, south of Lane County, and west of the Pacific Ocean. The county contains the entire Umpqua River watershed within its boundaries, and nearly 2.8 million acres of commercial forestlands. Additionally, the Federal Government owns over 50% of the county's land (<http://www.co.douglas.or.us/overview.htm>).

Reservations and Trust Lands

The Cow Creek Reservation had a population of zero residents in 2000 as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau (perhaps they did not receive completed census forms). As one of the smallest reservations in the state, it is located in the south central portion of the county (U.S. Census, 2000).

History

Like most northwest counties in Oregon, one of the most important industries in Douglas County was the lumber industry. In 1990, the county's direct income came from approximately a billion board feet of timber harvest (Jackson and Kimberling, 1993).

Current Industry

Douglas County's economy is primarily based on logging, agriculture, and recreation (County Parks Department). Approximately 25 to 30 percent of the labor force is employed in the forest products industry which includes numerous sawmills, veneer plants, one pulp and particle board plant, and numerous shingle, shake, pole and other wood plants. Agriculture is another important industry, encompassing field crops, orchards, and livestock. The County Parks Department, has over 50 parks in the system, which range from large facilities with overnight camping to small boat launching access points (<http://www.co.douglas.or.us/overview.htm>). Additionally, the tribal casinos contribute to the local economy.

Fishing Industry

Port: Winchester Bay (commercial/recreational)

Winchester Bay Marina is made up of both commercial and recreational fishing boats. The commercial vessels comprise about 20 percent of the marina while the remaining 80 percent represent recreational users. Even though the fishery at Winchester Bay is primarily recreational, it remains an important industry to the local economy. Salmon Harbor Marina is also focused on recreational fishing, with immediate access to the Umpqua River and Pacific Ocean. The Harbor contains 750 moorage slips for short-term or long-term occupancy. Recreational fishermen that moor in both the Winchester Bay and Salmon Harbor marinas, typically land Chinook salmon, striped bass, steelhead, sturgeon, chad, pink fin perch, small mouth bass and Dungeness crab (<http://www.marinarvresort.com/shframes.htm>).

Hood River

Location

Hood River County is bordered by Wasco County on the east, by Clackamas and Multnomah Counties on the west, and by the Columbia River on the north. Hood River County is the second smallest county in terms of size in the state, outranking Multnomah County, with a total area of 533 square miles (<http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/county/cphoodriverhome.html>).

Reservations and Trust Lands

Hood River County is home to one of the largest American Indian reservations on Oregon's West Coast. A small part of the Warm Spring Reservation, located in Hood River County, had a population of 3,282 in 2000 (U.S. Census, 2000).

History

The Columbia River Highway was completed in 1922 from Portland to The Dalles, making the towns of Hood River County more accessible to people and commerce from throughout the Columbia River Gorge and the state (<http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/county/cphoodriverhome.html>). Prior to hydroelectric dam construction, Celilo Falls was an important location for tribal salmon fishermen.

Current Industry

The principal industries of Hood River include agriculture, timber, hydroelectric production, and recreation. The fertile Hood River Valley has an ideal climate for the production of apples, cherries, peaches, and pears. It also offers recreational activities such as snow skiing, yachting, and fishing which bring both people and capital to compensate for the declining logging and hydroelectric industries. The Columbia River near Hood River is a premier windsurfing area and attracts windsurfers from throughout the United States and around the world (<http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/county/cphoodriverhome.html>).

Fishing Industry

Port: Hood River (recreational)

Hood River County has two ports and two boat basins. One port serves local barge traffic, a steel boat manufacturing firm and Mid-Columbia yachting interests (Bradbury, 2001). In general, Hood River County's fishing industry is primarily recreational, with the Columbia River being a major draw for salmon and tribal fishing.

Lane

Location

Lane County is located on the central coastline of Oregon. It is bordered on the north by Lincoln County, on the east by Deschutes and Klamath County, on the south by Douglas County, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean. The county's 4,620 square miles are more than double the geographical extent of the State of Delaware (http://www.co.lane.or.us/about_lane/More_facts.htm), while most of the county is far from the coast.

History

Lane County was established on January 28, 1851 and is one of only two Oregon counties (Douglas County being the other) to expand from the Pacific Ocean to the Cascade mountain range (http://www.co.lane.or.us/about_lane/). Both manufacturing and dairying represent most of the county's historic economic growth. Major companies that had a tremendous impact include: Nike, Dow Corning, Stretch & Sew Inc., Sony, Weyerhaeuser, the University of Oregon and Dutch Girl. These corporations starting their companies in Lane County made tremendous contributions to the county's economic foundation (http://www.co.lane.or.us/about_lane/More_facts.htm).

Current Industry

The principal industries of Lane County include: agriculture, higher education, technology, recreation, RV manufacturing and tourism (http://www.co.lane.or.us/about_lane/). Moviemaking is also a small but growing part of the economy. However, most of these economies do not have much of an impact on coastal communities. The few economies that do influence coastal residents are timber, tourism, agriculture, and an influx in retirees moving to the area.

Fishing Industry

Port: Florence (commercial/recreational)

Lane County has a long history of commercial fishing. Today, both commercial and recreational fishermen moor at the Port of Siuslaw. The port provides 51 slips for commercial vessels and 49 for recreational customers. Most commercial fishermen that homeport at the Port of Siuslaw typically target sablefish, salmon, crab and tuna. Two fish buying stations also operate from the Port of Siuslaw Old Town Wharf (Personal Interview, 2003). The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reported in 2000 that some 4,280 salmon were caught by recreational fishermen in the Siuslaw River (ODFW, 2000). "The Port of Siuslaw boundaries enclose over 720 square miles of Siuslaw River drainage. Over 20,000 people live within those boundaries, including the populations of Florence, Dunes City, Mapleton, Swisshome, Deadwood, Blachly, Walton and Lorane (Personal Interview, 2003)".

Aside from being "good business for the town," fishing is a big part of the community socially and environmentally. Local community members got involved in Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) in 1981. The program was initially created by the Oregon Legislature to focus on habitat restoration in streams and rivers (<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFW.html/VolunteerProg/STEP.html#overview>). STEP has been successful for the last five years, with a couple dozen community members and students from local middle and high schools actively involved in the project (Personal Interview, 2002).

Lincoln

Location

Lincoln County is located in the central portion of the Oregon Coast. It is surrounded by five counties from north to south that include: Tillamook, Yamhill, Polk, Benton, and Lane.

Reservation and Trust Lands

The Siletz American Indian Reservation is situated in the central portion of the county. In 2000 the reservation had a population of 274 (U.S. Census, 2000).

History

Agriculture, tourism and the timber and fishing industries were important to Lincoln County's economic foundation. After the discovery of Yaquina Bay oyster beds in 1862, the industry began exporting products to San Francisco and elsewhere (www.newportchamber.org). Later in 1896, John H. Kern operated a salmon cannery not far from the mouth of the Siletz River in Kernville. A sawmill was also erected in the same area during the late 1800s. Large development of Newport's fishing industry, however, did not thrive until 1908 with the discovery of refrigeration (www.newportnet.com).

Current Industry

Current industries in Lincoln County include: fishing, government, and forestry, and it is one of the most popular tourist destinations on the Oregon Coast. Newport has one of the largest fishing fleets and working bay fronts in Oregon as well as the Oregon Coast Aquarium, Hatfield Marine Science Center and interpretive centers (Bradbury, 2001). Retirees are also an increasing demographic group moving to the area.

Fishing Industry

Ports: Depoe Bay (commercial), Siletz Bay (commercial), Newport (commercial/recreational), Waldport (commercial), Yachats (commercial)

Both Depoe Bay and Newport play an important role in Lincoln County's commercial and recreational fishing industries. Two marinas, the Depoe Bay Marina and the Waldport Marina, contain the largest charter fleet on the Oregon Coast. The Depoe Bay Marina, comprised of about 5% of commercial vessels and 95% of recreational boats, can accommodate a total of 137 boats. The Waldport Marina, located in Alsea Bay, has only 20 slips. About 50 years ago, the commercial fleet in the Bay shifted to a recreational fleet, leaving the Bay as it is today.

In contrast to Depoe Bay's sport fishery, Newport could be called one of the largest commercial fishing ports in Oregon. Like Depoe Bay, Newport was founded on salmon fishing, which remains an important industry. Commercial fishermen commonly land Dungeness crab, blackcod, halibut, albacore tuna, pink shrimp, Pacific whiting and a variety of groundfish. In 1998 Newport was ranked 11th among all ports in the United States in seafood landings with 118 million pounds of landed fish. (Personal Interview, 2002).

Multnomah

Location

Multnomah County is the smallest (462 square miles) Oregon county geographically and yet contains approximately 20% of the state's population due to the city of Portland and its surrounding areas (<http://bluebook.state.or.us/local/counties/counties26.htm>).

History

The Territorial Legislature created Multnomah County from parts of Washington and Clackamas Counties in 1854, five years before Oregon became a state (<http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/county/cpmultnomahhome.html>). Multnomah's economic base was founded on trade, agriculture and lumber products. Aside from these industries, fishing has always been an integral part of the community. As early as the 1880s, canneries were in operation along the Lower Columbia River (<http://arweb.sos.state.or.us>).

Current Industry

Today, the principle industries of the county are manufacturing, transportation, wholesale, retail trade, and tourism. The Port of Portland, established in 1891, ranks third in total waterborne commerce on the West Coast. Portland is one of the five largest auto import ports in the nation and is the West Coast's leading exporter of grain and lumber (<http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/county/cpmultnomahhome.html>).

Fishing Industry

Port: Portland (commercial/recreational)

Fishing has always contributed to the overall economy of the county. Many of the species that were caught historically continue to be a target. These species include: salmon, steelhead, bass, shad, sturgeon, walleye and trout. Specifically, walleye is fast becoming a valuable sport fish. Over the past eight to ten years, it has gained the interest of sports anglers. Typical gear strategies for these species include salmon and trout poles, down riggers and gillnets (Personal Interview, 2002). The Pacific Fishery Management Council, who manages fish stocks along the west coast, is also located in Portland (for a list of processors please see appendix).

Tillamook

Location

Tillamook County is comprised of 1,125 square miles situated on the east shore of Tillamook Bay. The county shares borders with five counties and the Pacific Ocean. The borders from north to south are Clatsop, Washington, Yamhill, Polk and Lincoln (<http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us./county/cptillamookhome.html>).

History

The county's early occupations were in the shipping, lumbering, fishing and dairying industries. Unlike most west coast counties, logging did not dominate Tillamook's economy. The forests of the area were seen as stumbling blocks to the development of land for agriculture. The first lumber mills were built in Idaville, and after 1890, became more important to the economy. Once land was cleared for agriculture, dairying became an important industry to county residents. Because the rich grasslands and mild climate were ideal for dairy herds, pioneers produced the finest butter in the country. However, with transportation so uncertain, it became necessary to find a dairy product that could be stored long periods of time without losing its quality. In 1894, Peter McIntosh arrived from Canada, with knowledge of the art of cheese-making. The dairymen banded together and built small cheese factories around the county. Through the years the name Tillamook Cheese has become world famous because of the high standards of quality set by these early pioneers. (<http://www.tillamoo.com/history.html>).

Current Industry

The current industry of the county includes agriculture, lumber, fishing, and recreation. Dairy farming dominates the agricultural industry, with 165 dairy farms and 25,000 cows. The lumber industry in the recent past is becoming a more significant economic force due to reforestation. Other industries of importance are the fishing, oyster, holly and tourism industries (<http://www.tillamoo.com/tour.html>).

Fishing Industry

Ports: Tillamook/Garibaldi (commercial), Nehalem Bay (commercial), Netarts (commercial), Sand Lake (commercial), Pacific City (commercial), Salmon River (commercial)

In the early days of Tillamook County's history, the only source of cash was the sale of fish caught in the many bays and rivers. Numerous canneries sprang up from Uppertown in the north to Oretown in the south. Peddlers bought fish and made the trek to the Willamette valley to sell it for cash or trade. The cash received from the fishing industry helped develop other businesses and enabled the settlers to build a stable economy (<http://www.tillamook.com/history.html>).