Plumas County

The Plumas County Courthouse in Quincy (2002).

Plumas County Data
Population: 20,824 (Rank: 50)
Land Area (square miles): 2,554 (Rank: 22)

There are two easy ways to get to Plumas County. The route from the Sacramento Valley is by Highway 70 through the scenic Feather River Canyon. The other way is Highway 89 that connects Lake Tahoe with the counties to the north.

Most of the county is mountainous with the canyons in the western part of the county carved by the many branches of the Feather River. Much of the county is located in the Plumas National Forest and logging remains an important industry providing 7.8% of the state's timber harvest.

In the northeast part of the county is Lake Almanor, which is a well-known recreation area. The eastern part of the county is part of the Sierra Valley. At the east end of the valley is Beckwourth Pass. Jim Beckwourth was an African-American mountain man who was also a Crow Indian chief. After many adventures in the west as an army scout and trapper he discovered the pass in 1850 and settled there.

The county was created in 1854 and was named for the Feather River that has its origins here. The Spanish name for the river was Rio de las Plumas, "river of the feathers." The county boasts of more than 100 lakes, 1,000 miles of rivers and streams and over a million acres of national forest. It has one stoplight.

Cities: Portola. Towns: Quincy, Chester, Greenville, La Porte.

Introduction

California is comprised of 58 counties. The state, the third largest in the U.S., has the greatest diversity of geography of any of the states. It has huge deserts, high mountain ranges, fertile valleys and a 1000 mile coastline. Beginning in 2001 my wife and I began to travel and photograph the state as a retirement hobby.

In 2009 we published a CD containing about 4,000 photos of the regions of the state. Since that time we have added about 10,000 more photos to our collection. It was also at this time (December 2008) I began to send a photographic diary of our trips to friends and people with an interest in California geography.

Now we are organizing our collection by county using all of our photos dating back to 2001.

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Photo Trips

July 2002
This trip was on the Fourth of July and we drove over Yuba Pass on Highway 49. We stopped at the rail museum at Portola and at Quincy. We continued on to Greenville, Westwood and Susanville where we stayed overnight and then went on to Alturas.

October 2004
This trip was just to La Porte and the little communities on the way up to La Porte from the Sacramento Valley. La Porte is in the western portion of Plumas County.

June 2006
This was a trip up the Feather River Canyon. We stopped at Belden and turned around.

October 2010
This was our most comprehensive trip to Plumas County. We stayed in Truckee and took a couple of day trips to the eastern portion of Plumas county. We photographed Taylorsville, Genesee and the Indian Valley.

Del Norte
Siskyou
Modoc
Shasta
Lassen
Trinity
Humboldt
Tehama
Plumas
Mendocino
Glenn
Butte
Sierra
Nevada
Colusa
Yuba
Placer
Lake
Sutter
Yolo
El Dorado
Sonoma
Napa
Sacramento
Amador
Alpine
Solano
Calaveras
Mono
Marin
San Joaquin
Tuolumne
Contra Costa

LASSEN
Hwy 36
Chester
Westwood
Susanville
Greenville
Taylorsville
Hwy 395
Quincy
Genesee
Belden
Bucks Lake
Hwy 70
Davis Lake
Frenchman's Lake
PLUMAS
Portola
Chilcoot
Beckwourth
Hwy 89
Sierra City
Settley
Loyalton
Downieville
Sierraville
Hwy 49
Malakoff
Diggings
NEVADA
Nevada City
Grass Valley
EL DORADO
Truckee
Interstate 80
Newcastle
Auburn
Penryn
Loomis
Tahoe City
Stateline
S. Lake Tahoe
Rocklin
PLACER
Hwy 50
Placerville

La Porte

La Porte is an old gold mining community that is isolated. You reach it by taking Honcut Road off Highway 70 just north of Marysville. Its original name in 1850 was Rabbit Creek. The name was changed in 1857. Gold mining lasted until 1883. The road to La Porte was not paved until 1952 and the town did not have electricity until 1964. (October 2004)

La Porte

The Union Hotel was built in the 1850's and is still open for business. It also is said to have ghosts that inhabit the third floor. (October 2004)

Little Grass Valley Reservoir

Little Grass Valley Reservoir is just north of La Porte. It was built in 1963. On this Fall day winds were gusting up the canyon causing white caps on the lake and nearly blowing me over when I was standing on the top of the dam. (October 2004)

Storrie

Storrie is a P.G.& E. company town along the highway through the Feather River Canyon. It is named for the builder of the Bucks Creek power station, R.C. Storrie. (June 2006)

Tobin

Tobin is a small resort community in the Feather River Canyon. It is one of two places in the canyon where the railroad and highway bridges cross over one another. The railroad was built through the canyon in 1909. Construction of the highway began 1928 and finished in 1937. (June 2006)

Belden

Belden was named by the Western Pacific railroad for a local miner, Robert Belden. It is now a resort with a post office. It is across the river from the highway and Belden power plant. (June 2006)

Belden

(June 2006)

Belden

(June 2006)

Belden

There are seven hydroelectric plants in the Feather River Canyon. They are all owned by Pacific Gas and Electric. (June 2006)

Bucks Lake

Bucks Lake is named for Horace Bucklin who settled here in 1850. The dam was built in 1928 creating a lake which is a resort community. (October 2010).

Quincy

Quincy was founded in 1855. James H. Bradley laid out the city and donated land for the courthouse. He named the town after his farm in Illinois. (October 2010)

Quincy

Main street across from the courthouss. (October 2010)

Quincy

(July 2002)

Quincy

(July 2002)

Quincy

(July 2002)

Quincy

(July 2002)

Quincy

(July 2002)

Quincy

(July 2002)

Quincy

(July 2002)

Quincy

(July 2002)

Greenville

Greenville began as Green's Hotel in the 1850's. The hotel catered to miners. Today the community is the largest in the Indian Valley. (July 2002)

Greenville

(July 2002)

Greenville

(July 2002)

Greenville

(July 2002)

Taylorsville

Taylorsville began when Jobe Taylor built a house here in 1852. The community is located in the Indian Valley which cattle country. The community has a population of 350. (October 2010)

Taylorsville

(October 2010)

Taylorsville

(October 2010)

Taylorsville

(October 2010)

Taylorsville

The old school. (October 2010)

Taylorsville

(October 2010)

Taylorsville

(October 2010)

Taylorsville

(October 2010)

Taylorsville

(October 2010)

Taylorsville

(October 2010)

Taylorsville

(October 2010)

Taylorsville

(October 2010)

Genesee

Genesee is probably named after a town in New York. (October 2010)

Genesee

(October 2010)

Genesee Road

(October 2010)

Genesee Road

(October 2010)

Genesee Road

(October 2010)

Genesee Road

(October 2010)

Genesee Road

(October 2010)

Portola

The new branch courthouse in Portola. (October 2010)

Portola

Portola is the only city in Plumas County. (October 2010)

Portola

(October 2010)

Portola

(October 2010)

Portola

(October 2010)

Portola

Portola has a rail museum featuring old Western Pacific equipment. Western Pacific built a rail route through the Feather River Canyon in 1909. This route was lower and more efficient than the Donner Pass route used by the Southern Pacific. Western Pacific was one of the more innovative railroads. (July 2002)

Western Pacific was famous for its refrigerated cars for shippping California produce to the east. It was the first railroad to convert entirely to diesel locomotives. It also was famous for using vista dome passenger cars so that riders could enjoy the scenery of the west. (July 2002)

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Lake Davis

Lake Davis is famous because of the state's attempt to eradicate a foreign fish – the Northern Pike. The pike is a threat to the native trout population. The state used poison, explosives and eventually drained the lake to get rid of the predator. (October 2010)

Lake Davis

A little store that supports fishermen at Lake Davis. (October 2010)

Frenchman Lake Region

(October 2010)

Frenchman Lake Region

(October 2010)

Frenchman Lake Region

(October 2010)

Vinton

Vinton is on Highway 70 and is at the end of Highway 49, The town was originally called Cleveland and was renamed in 1897 after the daughter of Henry Bowen the head of the local railroad. Most of the business activity has moved a few miles down the road to Chilcoot. (October 2010)

Chilcoot

Chilcoot over the years has changed its name and location to keep up with railroad and highway construction. The name was originally Summit. This was the pass discovered by the mountain man James Beckwourth. The current location of Chilcoot was set in 1937 when the highway was finished. (October 2010)

Chilcoot

(October 2010)

Chilcoot area

A ranch on the road to Frenchman's Lake. (October 2010)