

Trinity County

The Trinity County Courthouse in Weaverville.
(2002)



Trinity County Data

Pop. 13,022 (Rank: 54)

Area: 3,179 (Rank: 18)

Most of the county is covered by the Trinity-Shasta National Forest and the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area. On the eastside of the county is Trinity Lake which is formed by Trinity Dam. Trinity Dam is part of the Central Valley Project which ships water to the San Joaquin Valley.

Gold mining was the driving force for the original settlements in the 1850's. Now logging and outdoor recreation are the main-stays of the economy.

Highway 299, which connects Redding and Eureka, is the main highway that cuts through the middle of the county. Weaverville, the county seat, is located along this route. Highway 3, coming from Yreka, cuts through the Trinity Alps, skirts Trinity Lake and intersects Highway 299 at Weaverville. Highway 3 continues on to end at Highway 36. The only community on this part of the route is Hayfork.

Highway 36, which connects Red Bluff with Eureka, has very few communities. Highway 36 west of Red Bluff borders the northern edge of the Yolla Bolly Wilderness area. The name Yolla Bolly was given this wild area by the Wintun Indians who lived here. It means "high snow covered peaks." Along this route are the ruins of one of the world's largest hydraulic mines, the La Grange.

There are no railroads, freeways, traffic lights or parking meters in the entire county. None of the cities are incorporated.

Towns: Weaverville, Hayfork, Trinity Center.

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

April 2002

This trip on Highway 3 took us across the Trinity Alps. We started at Yreka and passed through Ft. Jones, Etna, Callahan, Trinity Center and finished at Weaverville.

March 2006

We took this trip from Redding along Highway 299 to Douglas where it intersects with Hwy 3. We stopped for lunch in Weaverville and then drove to Hayfork on Highway 3. We returned to Redding along Highway 36 which was covered with snow and a county road that took us through Ono and Igo.

August 2008

We stayed the night in Redding and then drove along Highway 299 to Weaverville. Then we proceeded through the Trinity River Canyon along Highway 299. It was in the middle of a dry lightning storm along the Trinity River Canyon and a huge forest fire.



Weaverville

The gazebo in downtown Weaverville. (March 2002)



Weaverville

The Joss House in Weaverville. The town was founded in 1850 as a gold mining community. The temple was built in 1874. In 1956 the state took over the building as a state park. The temple is Taoist. (2002).







Weaverville

This photo was taken in 2002. The mural on the side of the theatre has since been painted over.



Weaverville

The main street of Weaverville is Highway 299 that connects Redding with Eureka on the coast. (2002)



(2002)



Weaverville

Weaverville's population is now 3,600 and it has a very high unemployment rate. However, it is one of the best preserved Gold Rush towns. (2002)



Weaverville

(2006)



Weaverville



Weaverville

(2006)



Weaverville

(2002)



Weaverville

(2006)



Weaverville

A unique feature of Weaverville's main street are the two spiral staircases. (2006)



Weaverville

(2006)



Weaverville

(2002)



Weaverville

(2006)



Lewiston

Lewiston began as a gold mining town in the 1850's. Today it is a resort for campers and fishermen on the Trinity River. Lewiston Dam is close by. And a few miles beyond Lewiston Dam is Trinity Dam. Both are part of the Central Valley Project supplying water to the San Joaquin Valley. (2006)



Lewiston

(2006)



Lewiston

(2006)



Lewiston

(2006)



Lewiston

(2006)



Lewiston

(2006)



Lewiston

(2006)



Lewiston

(2006)



Douglas City

Douglas City is at the intersection Highway 299 and Highway 3. (2006)



Douglas City

(March 2006)



Douglas City

(March 2006)



Douglas City

(March 2006)



Highway 3

(March 2006)



Highway 3

(March 2006)



Highway 3

(March 2006)



Hayfork

Hayfork has a population of about 2,300 which is enough to support Ropin Rhonda's (2006).



Hayfork

Hayfork began as gold mining community along Hayfork Creek back in the 1850's. Then logging became the industry. Now, thanks to Canadian imports, that industry has faded. Not much is left for Hayfork. (March 2006)



Hayfork

(March 2006)



Hayfork

(March 2006)



Hayfork

(March 2006)



Hayfork

(March 2006)



Hayfork

(March 2006)



Hayfork

(March 2006)



Hayfork

(March 2006)



Highway 36

Hayfork Creek as seen from Highway 36. (March 2006)



Highway 36

(March 2006)



Junction City – Highway 299

To the west of Weaverville along Highway 299 are mostly little resort communities – campgrounds, a post office and a general store. The Trinity River Canyon is scenic. (August 2008)



Junction City – Highway 299

(August 2008)



Junction City – Highway 299

(August 2008)



Junction City – Highway 299

(August 2008)



Big Bar – Highway 299

(August 2008)



Burnt Ranch – Highway 299

(August 2008)



Burnt Ranch – Highway 299

(August 2008)





Salyer

August 2008)



Iron Complex and Alps Complex fire

These two large fires joined together. They lasted weeks in August 2008. Eventually they burned 165 square miles. Eleven firefighters were killed. We were in the middle of it when we drove through the Trinity River Canyon in late August 2008.



Trinity River Canyon

A private fire crew resting along Highway 299. Firefighters come from all over the country to fight these blazes.



Trinity River Canyon

Looking down at the Trinity River from Highway 299 near Willow Creek. (August 2008)



Trinity River Canyon

This is one of the lightning started fires beginning to smoke. The fires were everywhere. There were 7,000 lightning strikes starting 2,000 fires. (August 2008)

