

Reedsport

People and Place

Location

Reedsport is located in Douglas County on the coast approximately 194 miles south of Portland and 530 miles north of San Francisco. The community encompasses 2.06 square miles of land and 0.24 square miles of water. Reedsport's geographic coordinates are lat 43°42'09"N, long 124°05'44"W.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Reedsport's population was 4,378. The gender composition was 51.7% female and 48.3% male. The median age was 47.1, higher than the national median of 35.3. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 66.7% had a high school education or higher, 13.3% had a bachelor's degree of higher, and 4.8% had a graduate or professional degree; the national averages were 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The majority of the Reedsport racial composition was white (93.9%), followed by individuals who identified with two or more races (2.2%), individuals who identified with some other race (2.1%), American Indian and Alaska Native (1.2%), Asian (0.4%), black (0.02%), and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (0.02%). Less than five percent (4.7%) of the population identified as Hispanic. Approximately 2.6% of the population was foreign-born, with 42% born in Canada, 21.4% in Mexico, and 9.8% in Japan.

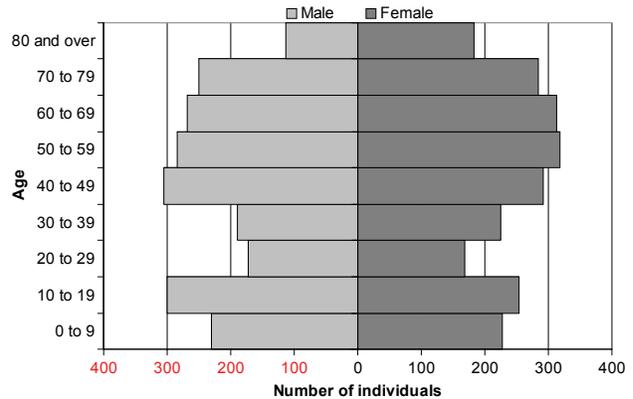
In 2000 80.3% of the population lived in family households.

History

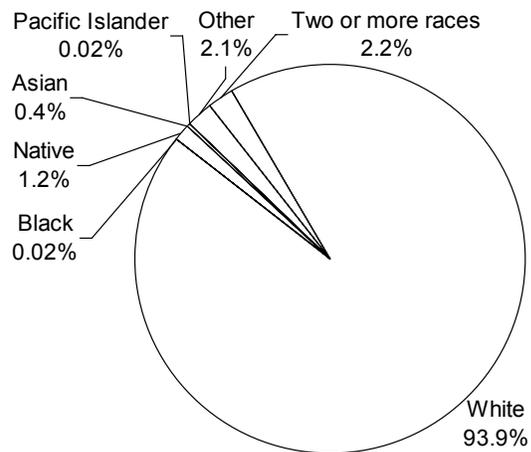
The Reedsport area was originally inhabited by ancestors of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua (Kuitsh), and Siuslaw Indians. First contact with Europeans came in the sixteenth century, specifically Spanish and British explorers. Contact increased in the 1700s and by 1791 the Lower Umpqua tribe traded with ships that stopped at the mouth of the Umpqua River.¹ Contact between members of Siuslaw Tribe and fur trappers from the Hudson's Bay Company occurred in 1826. In 1828 conflict between the Lower Umpqua and fur trapper and explorer Jedediah Strong Smith resulted in the loss of many of Smith's company.²

Fur trapping continued to grow in the area, and in 1836 the Hudson's Bay Company established a trading post, Fort Umpqua, upriver near the modern day town of

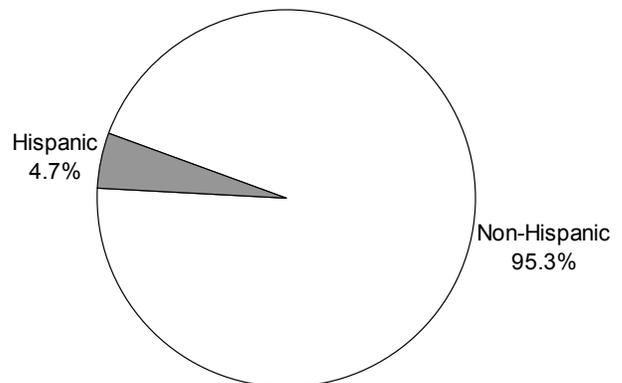
2000 Population structure



2000 Racial structure



2000 Hispanic ethnicity



Elkton. A gold rush brought more Euro-American settlers to the area. Reedsport was established in 1852 and was named after a pioneer resident, Alfred W. Reed. The post office was established in 1912 and seven years later the town was incorporated. Reedsport was built on marshy ground and subject to frequent flooding, so buildings had to be elevated.³ In 1964 a devastating flood caused major damage to the community and a dike was built to protect the lower town. Primary industries in the 1900s included timber and fishing. With the collapse of the timber industry in the late 1990s, Reedsport's contemporary economy is now supported by tourism, agriculture, and fishing.

Tourism is an important component of the Reedsport economy. The community is home to the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area headquarters office.⁴ The dunes are a 50-mile stretch that offer hiking trails, beaches, 30 lakes, fishing, swimming, interpretive exhibits, and wildlife watching. Campgrounds extend throughout the area. The Umpqua River Lighthouse is nearby in Winchester Bay. The Dean Creek elk viewing area supports approximately 150 Roosevelt Elk on a 1,000-acre reserve. Reedsport is also the home of the Umpqua Discovery Center that houses displays of the area's history.

Community events include the Tsalila Festival that celebrates Native American culture and traditions, and activities focused on watershed restoration and salmon recovery. The Ocean Festival includes U.S. Coast Guard rescue demonstrations and a seafood barbeque. The Oregon Divisional Chainsaw Sculpting Championships, Dune Musher's Mail Run, and Summer Concert Series are other popular activities.

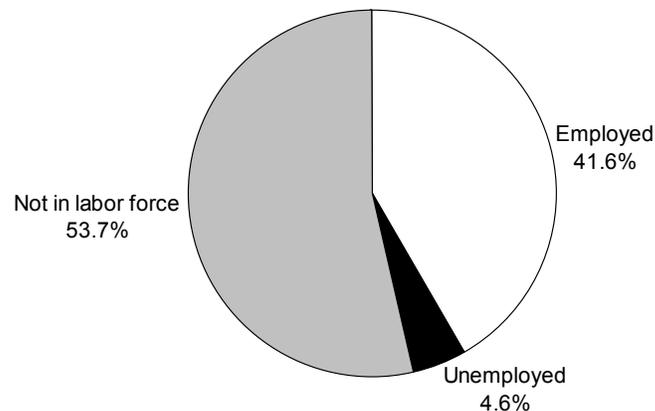
Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 41.6% of Reedsport's potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 4.6% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 10% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 53.7% were not in the labor force, higher than the national average of 36.1%. The top employment sectors were local, state, or federal government (18%), retail trade (14.7%), accommodation and food services (13.9%), and health care and social assistance (12.0%). Natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employed 4.2%, but this percentage may be artificially low because many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in the data.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Reedsport's per capita income was \$16,093, compared to the national

2000 Employment structure



average of \$21,587, and the median household income was \$26,054. In 1999 16% lived below the poverty level, higher than the national average of 12.4%. In 2000 Reedsport had 2,178 housing units, of which 90.8% were occupied and 9.2% were vacant. Of the occupied units, 66.9% were by owner and 33.1% were by renter. A total of 16.5% of the vacant units were for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

Governance

Reedsport incorporated in 1919. The city operates under a city charter, with seven city council members including the mayor. It also has a manager, recorder, attorney, and, at the discretion of the council, a municipal judge.⁵ Oregon has no general sales tax, but does levy a 1% overnight lodging tax that funds the Oregon Tourism Commission. See the Governance subsection (page 43) in the Overview section for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fishermen and processors in Oregon.

Reedsport is 72 miles from the National Marine Fisheries Service research station in Newport. The closest Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife office is 33 miles away in Charleston. The U.S. Coast Guard's Umpqua River Station is nearby in Winchester Bay, approximately 5 miles from Reedsport. Meetings of the Pacific Fishery Management and North Pacific Fishery Management councils are held in Portland, which is also home to the closest U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office.

Facilities

Reedsport is accessible by ground, air, and water. The community lies along U.S. Highway 101. Greyhound provides bus services. While there is commercial freight rail service in the community, the closest passenger service, provided by Amtrak, is in Eugene. The North Bend Airport is located nearby (24

miles) and an additional airport, Newport Municipal Airport, is 72 miles away. The nearest major airport is Portland International Airport.

Reedsport School District 105 supports two public schools; an elementary school has grades kindergarten through sixth and the Reedsport Junior/Senior High School supports grades seven through twelve. Southwestern Oregon Community College is located nearby in Coos Bay and the University of Oregon, the closest four-year college, is in Eugene.

The City of Reedsport supplies water, Verizon Communications provides telephone service, and the Central Lincoln Peoples Utility District provides electricity. The Lower Umpqua Hospital is in Reedsport. The City of Reedsport Police Department, comprised of a 17-member police department with a 24-hour dispatch center, provides public safety. The Douglas County Sheriff's office and the Oregon State Police provide additional police support. The Reedsport Fire Department responds to fire and safety calls with a staff of 40 volunteer fire fighters, a fire chief, and a fire marshal. There are approximately six hotels, one bed and breakfast facility, and several state, county, and private campgrounds and recreational vehicle parks identified by the local chamber of commerce.⁶

Reedsport is included in the Port of Umpqua, which maintains multiple port facilities including offices, dock, small industrial park, and an island used for wetland mitigation. The Winchester Bay dock, also managed by the Port of Umpqua, supports the commercial fishing fleet. Please see the Winchester Bay community profile for additional information.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 no vessels delivered landings to Reedsport and no processors operated in the community. Reedsport residents owned 19 vessels that participated in West Coast fisheries, including 9 vessels that participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. The number of vessels owned by Reedsport residents in 2000 that participated in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 0/9/0, groundfish 0/0/NA, highly migratory species NA/0/NA, salmon 11/0/1, shellfish NA/0/NA, and shrimp NA/1/0.⁷

In 2000 three residents held three federal groundfish fishery permits. The number of Reedsport residents holding permits in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 0/8/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 0/9/1, shellfish 0/0/NA, shrimp 0/1/1, and other species 3/0/0.⁸

According to the available data, 23 permits were registered to Reedsport residents in 2000, including 20 registered state permits and 3 federal permits. The number of permits held by these community members in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 0/10/2, shellfish 0/0/NA, shrimp 0/1/3, and other species 4/0/0.⁹

Sportfishing

Reedsport had at least four registered outfitter guide businesses in 2003 and four licensed charter vessel businesses were located in the community. Reedsport has three sportfishing license vendors whose agents sold 2,059 licenses at a value of \$34,525.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 there were three vessels owned by Reedsport residents that participated in North Pacific fisheries. Residents held seven commercial fishing permits for the North Pacific in 2000, with five individuals holding federal permits and two holding state permits.

In 2000 Reedsport residents held a total of 794,775 halibut individual fishing quota (IFQ) shares and 756,293 sablefish IFQ shares. Residents also held one groundfish License Limitation Program (LLP) permit, one LLP crab permit, one Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) Bering Sea and Aleutian Island groundfish permit, one CFEC halibut permit, and one CFEC salmon permit.

Seven residents held crew member licenses for North Pacific fisheries in 2000.

Sportfishing

Reedsport fishermen purchased 28 sportfishing licenses for Alaska fisheries.

Notes

1. Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians. 2005. Culture and history. Online at <http://216.128.13.185/CTCLUSINEW/> [accessed November 2005].
2. Jedediah Smith Society. 2005. Biography. Online at <http://www.jedediahsmithsociety.org/bioforstudents.html> [accessed 24 January 2007].
3. Wikipedia. 2005. Reedsport, OR. Online at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reedsport> [accessed November 2005].
4. Chamber of Commerce. No date. Reedsport/Winchester Bay. Online at <http://www.reedsportcc.org/lodging.html> [accessed 24 January 2007].
5. City of Reedsport. 2005. City of Reedsport charter. Online at http://www.reedsport.or.us/index.asp?Type=B_DIR&SEC={D8350D7C-6622-4547-B0D3-9F4EBB09E4EC}&DE

={1496A7A4-A8FB-4FFA-9831-6121BDF0A913} [accessed 24 January 2007].

6. See note 4.

7. NA refers to data that were not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.

8. See note 7.

9. See note 7.