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Eureka County Profile

Introduction

Few areas of Nevada can boast the diversity of natural, historic, and economic resources that characterize Eureka County. From alpine mountain peaks to irrigated valley floors, County residents enjoy a diverse physiography that supports important natural resources and economic activities. The unique values of Eureka County include clean air, access to open space and recreation, active and passive enjoyment of fish and wildlife, quiet surroundings, enjoyment of nature, views and scenery, the community life of small towns, safety and security, agricultural and other outdoor employment, among others.



Eureka County was created in 1873 from lands derived from Elko, Lander and White Pine Counties. There are three established communities in the County: Eureka, Crescent Valley, and Beowawe. The Town of Eureka is located on U.S. Highway 50, "the Loneliest Road in America", in the southeastern portion of the County.

Eureka was first settled in 1865 after the discovery of a rich ore deposit in the area and was subsequently designated the County Seat in 1873. The Town of Crescent Valley became a residential community after attempts to farm alfalfa and operate a dude ranch failed. It has become a haven for those seeking a friendly, comfortable lifestyle in northern Eureka County. Beowawe, a small community located on the Humboldt River near Crescent Valley, was originally established as a supply point, or gateway, for the mining districts in the area. Today, the Union Pacific Railroad still pass through the center of Beowawe.

Eureka County is one of the few Nevada counties which is traversed by Interstate 80, U.S. highway 50, and the mainline Union Pacific rail lines. Within Eureka County can be found commercial quality geothermal, oil, and mineral resources. North America's largest gold mines are currently located in the north part of the County.



The demand for natural resources produced in the intermountain region of the United States has brought both prosperity and concern to Eureka County. In the past, the demand for energy and precious metals has bolstered economic activity through the production of oil and gold. However, in recent years the mining industry in Eureka County has suffered a downturn and the once rapid rate of immigration to the County has tapered off over the last decade. The population growth and decline inherent in the "boom and bust" cycles of a mining economy requires the County to carefully consider efficient uses of land as well as provision of public facilities and services.

At the same time, urbanization of the intermountain west has brought interest in the management of public lands and increased regulation of traditional uses such as domestic livestock. As a consequence, agriculture in Eureka County, long considered an important stabilizing factor, has been faced with escalating costs of operation and limitations in access to forage resources.

Collectively, these issues have galvanized residents and their elected representatives to seek mechanisms to manage growth and influence resource management. These actions are viewed as necessary to maintain and enhance local economic security and the rural quality of life which has long typified Eureka County.

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Population & Demographics

The population of Eureka County has fluctuated significantly with the boom and bust patterns of mining activity common to the area. A decline in mining activity caused the county population to steadily drop from 1,350 residents in 1920 to a low of 767 people in 1960. Since 1960, however, the county population has steadily increased. Both the decade of the sixties and the decade of the seventies witnessed growth of over 23 percent, and during the eighties the County's population grew by 29 percent.



Growth rates slowed appreciably in the nineties, with the county seeing a population increase of only 6.7 percent (104 people) from 1990 to 2000, according to 2000 census data. This was in contrast to the overall growth of the state, which realized the highest percentage population growth rate in the nation (66.3 percent). Current projections are predicting a similarly slow growth rate for Eureka County in the next decade.

County Population

Eureka County's population since 1920:

1920	1,350
1930	1,333
1940	1,361
1950	896
1960	767
1970	948
1980	1,198
1990	1,547
2000	1,651

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Population Estimates

2002	1,982
2005	2,036
2010	2,129

Source: Nevada State Demographer's Office

The majority of the County's residents live in the unincorporated town and county seat of Eureka, located in the southeastern corner of the county. The balance of county residents live primarily in Crescent Valley and Beowawe in northern Eureka County. The census reported 1,103 persons living in the Eureka census county division (CCD) and 548 persons in the Beowawe CCD.

Population Distribution by Age and Sex (2000)

Comparative review of 2000 census data indicates the overall demographic composition of Eureka County is similar to that of the State and the Nation. The most significant difference can be seen in the population distribution of race. The County is predominately Caucasian (over 92 percent) with the remaining non-Caucasians being mostly American Indians. Statewide and nationally, minorities comprise a much higher share of the population.

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	97	5.9%
5-19	398	24.1%
20-44	523	31.6%
45-64	428	25.9%
65 and older	205	12.4%
Total persons	1,651	--
Median age	38.3 years	

Sex	Number	Percent
Male	852	51.6%
Female	799	48.4%

While the overall population of Eureka County increased slightly over the course of the past ten years, the number of those in the age group of 20 to 34 year-olds decreased by 37.7 percent. As a consequence, the median age of Eureka County residents increased from 33.3 years to 38.3 years of age from 1990 to 2000. This decrease is of some concern as the 20 to 34 age group is the basis for future economic growth in the County.

Source: University of Nevada, Reno, Center for Economic Development

<http://www.ag.unr.edu/>

U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov>

State of Nevada Demographer

<http://www.nsbdc.org/demographer/>

Population Distribution by Race (2000)

Race	Number	Percent
White	1,531	92.7%
Black or African American	9	0.5%
American Indian	68	4.1%
Asian and Pacific Islanders	15	0.9%
Other races	86	5.2%
Persons of Hispanic origin (may be of any race)	158	9.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov>

Demographic Indicators (1999)

Births Rate -- 8.29 per 1,000 (16 births)

*Source: Department of Human Resources, Vital Statistics***Household Type and Relationship**

	1980	1990	2000
Total households	446	617	666
Family households	305	386	440
Married-couple family	279	350	376
Non-family households	141	231	226
Householder living alone	N/A	189	194
Average household size	2.65	2.49	2.47
Average family size	3.41	N/A	3.08

Source: U.S. Census Bureau<http://www.census.gov>**[Next Section](#)** --

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Housing Characteristics

According to the 2000 census there are 961 year-round housing units in Eureka County, the majority of which are owner occupied.



Housing Composition (2000)

Housing Occupancy	Number & Percent
Total housing units*	1,025 100.0%
Occupied housing units	666 65.0%
by owner	491 73.7%
by renter	175 26.3%
Average household size	2.48

*A housing unit is a house, an apartment, or a group of rooms or a single room occupied as a separate living quarter.

It should be noted that the Eureka County assessor reports 920 housing units on the tax rolls, consisting of 236 single-family homes, 28 duplexes, 4 four-plexes, and 640 mobile homes. According to the assessor, there are only about 20 vacant units – 5 in the north and 15 in the south, primarily near the Town of Eureka. Vacancy rates can increase or decrease with swings in the local economy (e.g., mining).

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, <http://www.census.gov> Eureka County, *Impact Assessment Report on Proposed Shipments of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste through Eureka County, Nevada*

Housing Inventory

Two-thirds of the housing stock in Eureka County is comprised of mobile homes. This is unlikely to change in the future. Reliance upon mobile homes in many rural areas, particularly Eureka County, is due to a number of factors including affordability for retirees and young families, lack of available mortgage financing, and the demand for short-term housing options associated with mining activity.

Other factors contributing to mobile home use include the lack of a stable housing market, a general lack of available housing, the cost to construct a new home relative to the price of existing homes, and demographic characteristics.



Eureka County can anticipate that mobile home use is likely to continue at levels consistent with those shown below:

Type of Housing Units -- 1997

Type of Housing	Number and % of total
Single family detached	159 or 16.6%
Single family attached	28 or 2.9%
Multi-family	16 or 1.7%
Mobile homes	633 or 66.1%
Ag. Residential	122 or 12.7%
Total	958

Selected Demographics -- 2000

Households Occupied By:	Number	Percent
One person	194	29.1
Two persons	219	32.9
Three persons	102	15.3
Four persons	82	12.3
Five or more persons	69	10.4
Age of householder	Percent	Number
15 to 24 years	11	1.7%
25 to 34 years	92	13.8%
35 to 44 years	158	23.7%
45 to 54 years	145	21.8%
55 to 64 years	116	17.4%
65 years and over	144	21.6%

Race of householder	Number	Percent
White	606	91%
Black or African American	4	0.6%
American Indian	12	1.8%
Asian	5	0.8%
Some other race	24	3.6%
Two or more races	15	2.3%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	48	7.2%

Financial Information

Median household money income for 1997 model-based estimate was \$45,572

Median value/owner occupied (1990) was \$54,600

Median monthly cash rent (1990) was \$293

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Employment & Economic Activity

Mining built Eureka in the late 1800s and mining today is still the major economic activity in the county. In 1998, 84 percent of all jobs were in the mining industry. However, according to a study by the Center of Economic Development at the University of Nevada, Reno, mining production is expected to decrease 25 percent in the next five years, 60 percent in the next 14 years, and 100 percent by 2018 unless new reserves are discovered.



Although agriculture does not employ as large a share of the total labor force today (only about 4 percent) as it has in the past, the industry is nevertheless vital to the county's economy. Unlike mining, agriculture has been a steady base of employment in the county.

The agricultural economy consists of four sectors: range beef cattle, alfalfa hay, timothy hay, and native hay. The other major non-agricultural industry in Eureka County is the government which provided just over five percent of wage and salary jobs in 1998.

In addition, travel, including tourism and recreational travel, has been more important to the economy in recent years. Tourists and visitors positively affect the county's economy. Since the completion of the [downtown facade and streetscape beautification](#) program in 1999 and complete renovation of the [Eureka Opera House](#), County Courthouse, and many other historic buildings, the number of persons visiting Eureka is on the rise.



According to the [Eureka Sentinel Museum](#), which tracks visitors through its sign-in book, visitation to the museum increased to 4,140 persons in 2000 from 3,405 persons in 1999. Increased efforts to market the natural beauty of Eureka County in both travel and outdoor magazines, will increase visitation to the area.

From 1992 to 1998, the county saw an employment increase of 419 jobs. This was due mostly to the overall growth in the national economy during the same period. According to another recent report by UNR's Center for Economic Development, Eureka County is classified as a "Strong Job Growth and Strong Entrepreneurship" county because it has had employment growth greater than the national average and a ratio of entrepreneurs to workers that is greater than that of the nation.

Sources: *University of Nevada, Reno, Center for Economic Development Eureka County, Impact Assessment Report on Proposed Shipments of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste through Eureka County, Nevada; Eureka County, Eureka County Assisted Living Facility Feasibility Study*

Labor Force Data

Labor Force Data	2000	2001
Total labor force	870	850
Total employed	850	820
Unemployment	20	30
Unemployment rate	2.6%	3.5%

Source: Nevada Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation
<http://detr.state.nv.us/>

It is important to note that because Eureka County's economy is primarily dependent on the mining industry however, the rate of unemployment may not be a reliable indicator of economic downturns. When a mine closes, the unemployment rate does not increase because those who were employed by the mine leave the area. Consequently, the change is seen only in a decrease of the labor force. Since 1997 the unemployment rate in Eureka County has dropped from 5.6 to 2.6 percent; however, the labor force has fallen by 7.6 percent. These numbers reflect a slowdown in mining activity in the area because a loss in the workforce can artificially lower the unemployment rate.

Sectoral Employment (1998)

Economic Sector	Employment Share (1998)
Agriculture	4.06%
Mining	83.67%
Construction	0.93%
Manufacturing	0.2%
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	0.2%
Wholesale and Retail Trade	3.12%
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	0.2%
Services	2.4%
Government	5.21%

Source: University of Nevada, Reno, Center for Economic Development

Agricultural Data (1999)

Number of farms and ranches	84
Land in farms	214,966 acres
Average size	2,559 acres
Cropland	41,125 acres
Irrigated farm land	48,530 acres

Source: University of Nevada, Reno, Cooperative Extension, Fact Sheet: 00-39
<http://detr.state.nv.us/>

Industrial Employment (2001)

Sector	Average Number Employed	Number Weekly Wages
Mining	3,560	\$1,114
Construction	0	\$568
Manufacturing	0	\$0
Transportation, Comm.		
Public Utilities	20	\$726
Wholesale / Retail Trade	70	\$191
Finance & Real Estate	10	\$672
Services	10	\$421
Government	250	\$600
Total industries	3,920	\$1,063

Source: Nevada Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation
<http://detr.state.nv.us/>

Average Wage per Job (unadjusted dollars)

1970 -- \$7,215
 1980 -- \$14,560
 1990 -- \$35,783
 2000 -- \$53,557

The average weekly wage and wage per job in Eureka County are substantially higher than the state averages. For example, the average wage per job in Nevada is \$32,673 compared to \$53,557 in Eureka County. This difference is a result of the larger proportional employment in the mining sector in Eureka County.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis
<http://www.bea.doc.gov/>

Personal Income (thousands of dollars)

1970 -- \$4,895
 1980 -- \$14,755
 1990 -- \$32,284
 1999 -- \$38,721

Average Annual -- Growth Rate: 6.6%

Per Capita Personal Income (dollars)

1970 -- \$5,213
 1980 -- \$12,104
 1990 -- \$20,923
 1999 -- \$20,885

Per capita income is commonly used to measure economic well-being because it shows how much money people have to buy goods and services. The per capita income figure is lower than average wage per job because it includes children and others not in the labor force.

At \$20,855, per capita income in Eureka County for 1999 is approximately 33 percent less than the State of Nevada's average of \$31,004. It is also substantially less than the national average of \$28,546.

Per capita income for Eureka County residents peaked at \$25,942 in 1994 and has since been declining.

Note: Total personal income is the current income received by residents of an area from all sources. This includes the earnings (wages and salaries, other labor income, proprietors' income), dividends, interest, rent, and transfer payments received by the residents of Eureka County. Per capita personal income is computed by dividing the total personal income by the mid-year population estimate.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis
<http://www.bea.doc.gov/>

Eureka County Top Employers (June 2001)

Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc. (1800 - 1899 Employees)
Newmont Gold Company (1500 - 1599 Employees)
Eureka County (0 - 99 Employees)
Ruby Hill Project (0- 99 Employees)
Eureka County School District (0 - 99 Employees)
Mine Service and Supply Co., Inc. (0 - 99 Employees)
Tonto Drilling Services, Inc. (0 - 99 Employees)
Nevada Department of Transportation (0 - 99 Employees)
Owl Club and Steak House (0 - 99 Employees)
Ridgewood Associates Nevada (0 - 99 Employees)

Source: Nevada Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation
<http://detr.state.nv.us/>

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Schools and Education

The Eureka County School District (ECSD) is one of the smallest districts in the state. In the Town of Eureka, the ECSD operates a junior-senior high school with a capacity of 200 students; an elementary school with a capacity of 240 students; the Crescent Valley elementary school, with a capacity of 180 students; and 12 school buses.

There are no private schools in Eureka County. The Great Basin Community College offers classes for adults. The school building in Beowawe is not used for classes, since students from Beowawe attend school in the Town of Crescent Valley, but the building is used as a recreation center and is maintained by Eureka County's juvenile probation office.



The building provides basketball courts and other recreation activities for adults and children. High school students from Crescent Valley and Beowawe attend Battle Mountain High School. Pine Valley high school students go to Carlin High School.

Years of School Completed (1990)

Percent of persons 25 and over high school graduate or higher -- 75.2%
with bachelor's degree or higher -- 13.6%

Public School Enrollment

Year	PreK	Kdgn	Elem	Sec	Ungraded	Total	% Gain / loss
1997/98	0	39	181	157	1	348	13.9%
1998/99	6	22	175	154	0	358	-5.3%
1999/00	6	25	156	160	0	347	-3.1%
2000/01	0	17	135	153	0	305	-12.1%

Source: Nevada Department of Education

<http://www.nde.state.nv.us/admin/deptsuper/fiscal/research.html>

Eureka School District Expenditures

School Years	1997/98	1998/99
Expenditure per student: instruction	\$9,681	\$8,647
Expenditure per student: administration	\$2,595	\$2,560
Total expenditure per student	\$12,276	\$11,207

Source: Nevada Department of Education

<http://www.nde.state.nv.us/finacc/finaldist9899.xls>

Public School Personnel

Full-time position	Number	Average salary
Total non-teaching personnel	7	\$64,218
Service personnel	3	\$55,707
Principals/assistant	2	\$76,999
Directors/supervisory	1	\$68,410
Superintendents	1	\$60,000
Total teaching personnel	29	\$54,572
Elementary teachers	13	\$57,488
Secondary teachers	10	\$54,242
Special education teachers	5	\$47,041
Occupational teachers	1	\$57,616

Source: Nevada Department of Education

<http://www.nde.state.nv.us/admin/deptsuper/fiscal/research.html>

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Energy, Utilities and Communications

[Energy Services](#)

Eureka County is served by three electric utilities. The central and southern portions of the county, including the Town of Eureka, are served by Mount Wheeler Power, Inc. The northwestern corner of the County, including Beowawe, receives electricity from Sierra Pacific Power Company, an investor owned utility. Wells Rural Electric Company serves a small segment of the County in northeast Eureka.



Water and Sewer

Water service for the town of Eureka is provided by the Eureka Town Water System. The water is supplied from two wells, which draw from the Diamond Valley Water Basin Aquifer. The two wells are located approximately three miles north of the Townsite of Eureka.

Devil's Gate Water District provides water service to some residential development in Diamond Valley. Crescent Valley is served by the Crescent Valley Water Department. Residents not served by the county water system rely on individual wells and surface springs for water.



The Town of Eureka has a wastewater collection system with evaporation and percolation ponds. Sewage disposal in the Crescent Valley, including Beowawe and the Town of Crescent Valley, occurs through private septic systems.

Solid Waste Disposal

[The Eureka County Public Works Department](#) operates a landfill located on the west end of the Town of Eureka and a transfer site located near the Town of Crescent Valley. Residents of the County may purchase a household waste permit for \$25 a quarter or \$100 a year. Previously, Eureka County paid Lander County to dispose of waste from Crescent Valley in the Battle Mountain Landfill. Under a new contract with the hauler, Hoss Disposal, waste from Crescent Valley is now disposed of in the Eureka Landfill.

Source: *Great Basin Development Association, Public Services Analysis for Six Local Governments*

Communications

The Eureka Sentinel, the County's only weekly newspaper, is published by Central Nevada Newspapers, Inc. It has a circulation of 500 newspapers per week. [The Elko Daily Free Press](#), Battle Mountain Bugle, High Desert Advocate, Ely Daily Times, Reno Gazette-Journal, and Carlin Express also serve residents in Eureka County. The Eureka Sentinel and Elko Free Press are the County's newspapers of record for legal notices.

Eureka does not have a local broadcasting radio station, however, AM and FM stations from Elko, Ely, and Reno are received and transmitted locally. [National Public Radio from Reno](#) is heard in Eureka and Crescent Valley on transmitters. Eureka County residents have access to regional and national television stations. Cable television is also available within the town of Eureka. In Crescent Valley, limited television reception is available. Some residents in the outlying areas have satellite dishes.

A fiber optic line extends north south through the county providing high-speed communications on the Internet to the Eureka County administrative and school district offices only. Eureka County also offers Internet services to county residents at a base rate of \$20 per month. Telephone service is provided by Nevada Bell. Cellular phone coverage is also available across much of the county.

Source: *Eureka County Assisted Living Facility Feasibility Study*

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Transportation Services

Two major east-west highways traverse Eureka County. Interstate 80 crosses through the northern part of the County; U.S. Highway 50 connects the Town of Eureka with Ely and continues on through Carson City to Sacramento. Nevada State Route 278 is the primary north-south link in the County, intersecting U.S. 50 at Eureka and I-80 at Carlin. Nevada 306 connects Crescent Valley to I-80 through Beowawe in the northern part of the County. In addition, the Eureka County Road Department maintains 800 miles of main and general county roads.

▶ [Traveler Information](#) External Link -- Nevada Department of Transportation
Travel Maps include:

- Nevada Rest Areas
- Nevada Milepost Map
- Nevada Posted Speed Limits
- Nevada State Maintained Highways

Common Carriers

Common carriers provide a number of transportation services to the community including:

Bus service. Eureka County, in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) has recently completed a transportation needs assessment for the area. The study indicates a demand by Eureka County residents for public transit services between Eureka and destinations such as Ely, Elko, Reno, and Las Vegas. Currently, the county and NDOT are developing an implementation plan to provide transit service in the County. Currently, there is no bus service in Eureka County.

Senior Services. The Senior Center Van Program, operated by the two [Eureka County senior centers](#), provides pick up and meal delivery service. Seniors residing in the town of Eureka also receive monthly transportation services to Elko and Reno for shopping and special events. Seniors within a five-mile radius of Crescent Valley receive transportation services to the senior center and medical clinic. All seniors in northern Eureka County receive transportation to Elko for shopping and special events.

Rail service. The Union Pacific Rail Road tracks pass through Eureka County near the Humboldt River and Beowawe, where freight service is available. The nearest Amtrak passenger service is available in Elko.

Air service. Eureka County supports two airports which provide access to air transportation for the communities of Eureka and Crescent Valley. [The general aviation airport](#) is located eight miles north of Eureka off State Highway 278 at the elevation of 5,946 feet. The runway is paved and lighted and is 7,400 feet long. During 1996, a hanger and shop, apartment for a fixed base operator and/or caretaker, and fuel tanks were constructed with grant funds. Eureka County has retained a fixed-base operator.

The nearest commercial service available to residents of southern Eureka County is provided in Ely (Yelland Field) with one round trip flight to Las Vegas daily. Ely is located 77 miles from Eureka. Elko Municipal (J. C. Harris Field) provides commercial service to northern Eureka County residents. Elko is approximately 128 miles from Eureka and approximately 55 miles from Crescent Valley.

There is one unpaved runway at the Crescent Valley Airport. The airport is located at an elevation of



4,787 feet and is a tenth of a mile from the town of Crescent Valley.

Motor Vehicles. Private automobiles lead all other common carriers as the major source of transportation for the people living in Eureka County. In 2001, 1,769 cars and trucks were registered in Eureka County. Based on 1990 Census data, 96.5 percent of all households had access to at least one motor vehicle and two of every three households had access to two or more vehicles.

Source: *Eureka County Assisted Living Facility Feasibility Study*

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Government & Taxes

A leading indicator of Eureka County's economic stability is the taxable sales figures since 1996 as compiled by the [Nevada Department of Taxation](#). When these are reviewed it is apparent that there was a 25.7 percent drop in sales from 1996-97 to 1998-99 which coincides with the downturn in the mining industry at the time. Since 1998-99 through 2000-01, there has been a modest increase of 3.8 percent in taxable sales figures.



Selected Tax Rates and Taxable Sales

Sales Tax: 6.5%**Taxable Sales**

1996-97	\$239,951,161
1997-98	\$222,728,984
1998-99	\$178,190,772
1999-00	\$180,454,034
2000-01	\$184,929,752

Sources: Eureka County, Eureka County Assisted Living Facility Feasibility; Nevada Department of Taxation

<http://tax.state.nv.us/>

Public Finance

The costs of operating government and schools in Eureka County are paid for through a variety of taxes and fees, collected either at the State level (for distribution to the County) or at the County level. Taxes and fees collected by the County, and by the State of Nevada for distribution to the County, include:

- **Cigarette and other tobacco products excise tax:** set at 10 cents per package of 20 cigarettes, less an administrative fee, deposited in the local government tax distribution fund and redistributed within each county by statutory formula;
- **City-county gaming tax:** levied on the retail sale of tangible personal property for use of consumption, plus equipment leases and rentals, including the State sales and use tax (SST), the local school support tax (LSST), the basic city county relief tax (BCCRT), the supplemental city county relief tax (SCCRT), and county optional sales taxes, and distributed to the State general fund, school districts and local governments;
- **County gaming fees:** charged on card games, other games and slots at \$25, \$50, and \$10 per month respectively, to the county general fund, from which a portion is distributed to cities and unincorporated towns;
- **County motor vehicle fuel tax:** set at 1 cent per gallon, used only for repair and restoration of existing paved roads and streets owned by the County;
- **County RTC motor vehicle fuel tax:** set, in Eureka County, at 4 cents per gallon of motor

vehicle fuel sold, to the regional highway fund for construction or improvements;

- ***Intoxicating liquor tax:*** liquor over 22 percent alcohol is taxed at \$2.05 per gallon, of which 50 cents is deposited in the local government tax distribution fund and redistributed within each county by statutory formula;
- ***Local franchise fee:*** imposed by ordinance on public utilities, including local governments, that provide electrical energy, natural gas, or telecommunications; collected from utility customers; limited to a maximum of 5 percent of the utility's gross revenue;
- ***Local transient lodging tax:*** levied in Eureka County at 8 percent on revenues from the rental of transient lodging;
- ***Motor vehicle privilege tax, basic:*** a tax of 4 or 5 cents on each \$1 valuation of a vehicle, plus taxes on trailers and other vehicles, distributed to the state highway fund, schools, and the local government tax distribution fund for distribution by statutory formula;
- ***Net proceeds of minerals and patented mines tax:*** received by counties, cities, towns, school districts, and special districts based on their tax rate times net proceeds; covers both real property of patented mines and proceeds of patented and unpatented mines; includes royalties; set at a rate between 2 and 5 percent, depending on the ratio of net proceeds to gross proceeds;
- ***Personal property tax:*** on business personal property, mobile and manufactured homes not converted to real property, leasehold improvements, and non-licensed vehicles, at the same rate and distributed in the same manner as taxes on real property;
- ***Real property (ad valorem) tax:*** set at a rate per \$100 of assessed valuation, to a statutory maximum of \$3.64, including a state rate of 15 cents, a school operating rate of 75 cents, and a variable school debt rate, and distributed to the State, cities, towns, counties, school districts, general improvement districts, and special districts;
- ***Real property transfer tax:*** levied on the value of real property transferred from one person to another, at 65 cents per \$500 of value, of which 55 cents goes to the local government tax distribution fund for redistribution by statutory formula;
- ***Slot machine excise tax:*** a statewide annual tax of \$250 per machine, a portion of which goes to the State Distributive School Fund;
- ***State games license, annual fees:*** an annual fee on all games, distributed among the 17 counties, less the cost of administration, to the county general fund;
- ***State motor vehicle fuel tax:*** set at 23 cents per gallon, of which 5.35 cents is distributed to county road funds;
- ***State transient lodging tax:*** 8 percent, levied by the State on revenues from rental of transient housing, in addition to any locally-imposed room tax, and distributed to counties or fair and recreation boards for the promotion of tourism or to furnish recreation facilities; and
- ***Miscellaneous local levies.***

For Fiscal Year 2001, Eureka County collected \$11.7 million and expended \$8.5 million. The two largest revenue sources were property taxes including net proceeds of mines and intergovernmental

receipts. The projected budget for FY 2002 is smaller, with the County expecting to receive \$9.7 million and expend \$8.4 million. The volatility in Eureka County's budget is largely due to fluctuations in mining activity.

Note: The Eureka County School District is a separate unit of government, with a separate budget.

Source: *Eureka County, Impact Assessment Report on Proposed Shipments of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste through Eureka County, Nevada -- and the Nevada Taxpayers Association.*

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Local Government & State/Federal Elected Officials

The [Board of Eureka County Commissioners](#) oversees County government and administers the budgets of the Town of Eureka and the Town of Crescent Valley.



Various special districts are governed by the Board of County Commissioners or by separate boards. A town advisory board participates in governance for the [Town of Crescent Valley](#), as set forth in State statutes.

The Eureka County Board of Commissioners meets the 6th and 20th of every month unless these dates fall on a weekend or holiday.

County Government

Established: 1873
County Seat: Eureka
Form of Government: Commissioner

Address: Eureka County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 677
Eureka, Nevada 89316-0677
Phone: (775) 237-5262
Fax: (775) 237-5641

County Officials (2005)

Commissioners:	Donna Bailey, Chairwoman David Pastorino, Vice-Chairman Kenneth Benson, Member
Clerk/Treasurer:	Frances Gale
Assessor:	James P. Ithurralde
Recorder/Auditor:	Michael N. Rebaleati
District Attorney:	Theodore Beutel
District Judges:	Judge Dobrescu Judge Papez
Justices of the Peace:	John Schweble, Eureka Justice Court Susan E. Fye, Beowawe Justice Court
Sheriff:	Larry Etter
Public Works:	Ronald Damele, Director
Natural Resources:	Jon Hutchings, PhD
School District:	Ben Zunino, Superintendent

Governing Planning Organization

The Eureka County Planning Commission was started on March 6, 1961 under the Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 278. The Board consists of 7 members. The Boards purpose is to keep

developers and property owners within the guidelines of the State Laws and County Ordinances when parceling property by reviewing parcel maps, subdivision maps, and division of land into large parcel maps. The Board is an advisory board to the County Commission.

Eureka County Planning Commission

P.O. Box 596
Eureka, NV 89316
Phone number: (775) 237-5270
Fax: (775) 237-5614
E-mail: ecmears@eurekanv.org

Members:

Rex Collingwood
Maxine Rebaleati, Chairwoman
Cecil Wright, Treasurer
Ellen Rand
Phillip Brown
Ron Rankin
Holon Moll
Michael Mears, Secretary

State and Federal Elected Officials

Voter Activity

Registered voters	2001
	227
Democrat	523
Republican	68
Non-partisan	4
Libertarian	7
Ind. American	829
Total	97%
Voter Turnout	

Sources: Secretary of the State, Voter Registration Figures <http://sos.state.nv.us/nvelection/>

Eureka County Clerk/Treasurer, personal communication <http://www.co.eureka.nv.us/clerk/clerk01.htm>

Representatives in Congress

Senate

Senator Harry Reid

528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3542
Fax: (202) 224-7327
<http://reid.senate.gov/>

Senator John Ensign

364 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-6244
FAX (202) 228-2193
<http://ensign.senate.gov/>

House of Representatives

Congressman Jim Gibbons

100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-6155
Fax: (202) 225-5679
<http://www.house.gov/gibbons/>

State Representatives

State Senate

Northern Nevada Senatorial District

Dean A. Rhoads
Box 8
Tuscarora, NV 89834-0008
Phone: (775) 756-6582
Fax: (775) 756-5544
[Email: drhoads@sen.state.nv.us](mailto:drhoads@sen.state.nv.us)

Central Nevada Senatorial District

Mike McGinness
770 Wildes Road
Fallon, NV 89406-7843
Phone
Fax: (775) 423-588
[Email: mmcginness@sen.state.nv.us](mailto:mmcginness@sen.state.nv.us)

State Assembly

District No. 35
Pete Goicoechea
P.O. Box 97
Eureka, NV 89316-0097
Phone: (775) 237-5300
Fax: (775) 237-5102
[Email: pgoicoechea@asm.state.nv.us](mailto:pgoicoechea@asm.state.nv.us)

State Assembly

District No. 32
John W. Marvel
P.O. Box 1270
Battle Mountain, NV 89820-1270
Phone: (775) 635-2538
Fax: (775) 635-9144
[Email: jmarvel@asm.state.nv.us](mailto:jmarvel@asm.state.nv.us)

Source: Nevada State Legislature <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/>

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Land Use & Environment

Physical Characteristics

Eureka County, located in Central Nevada, encompasses 4,176 square miles. The County borders Elko County to the north, White Pine and Elko Counties to the east, Nye County to the south, and Lander County to the west.

The topography of the County generally consists of alternating, linear mountains with long, low alluvial-filled basins characteristic of the Basin and Range Province. Similar to the topography of the State, mountain ranges and valleys in Eureka County have a north-south orientation. Uplifting, faulting, and weathering have contributed to the present relief. Elevation ranges from a high of around 10,461 feet at the Summit Mountains in the Monitor Range to about 4,000 feet elevation found on the floors of several of the lower basins.



The Humboldt River, the largest in the County, winds through the north. The Town of Eureka, located at 6,500 feet elevation in the southeast corner of the County, is the county seat.

Federal Land Ownership. Almost 81 percent of the land in Eureka County is owned and managed by the United States government. The remaining 19 percent of the land area is private property.

Eureka County Land Management (1996)	Acreage	Percent
Bureau of Land Management	2,021,141	75.0%
U.S. Forest Service	144,139	5.4%
Private ownership	504,738	19.0%
State	5,512	0.12%
County	50	0.01%
<u>Total</u>	2,676,480	-

Local Land Use

The Eureka County 1973 General Plan provided an overall designation for existing land uses in Eureka County. The General Plan recognized principally six land use categories which include:

- Urbanizing Areas, Permanent Open Space;
- Open Space and Appropriate Associated Uses;
- Agriculture, Mining, Limited Housing;

- Agriculture, Mining, and Very Limited Housing;
- Agriculture Only, Associated Housing.

Changes in land uses have occurred since the adoption of the County's previous master plan in 1973. The distribution of land ownership and management has remained relatively constant. Mining activity has increased tremendously. Approximately 93 percent of private lands are used for agriculture with the remaining 7 percent in non-agricultural uses. In the early 1970s there were few active mining operations in the County, primarily one gold mine operation. Agricultural land uses in terms of the amount of irrigated acreage has remained relatively constant.

Source: Eureka County Master Plan, January 1997

Mineral Resources

Mineral production on public lands in Nevada involves three primary systems: mineral location, resource leasing, and material sale. Miners and prospectors who locate minerals such as gold and silver on public lands must apply for mineral rights. Oil and gas, geothermal, sodium, and other similar minerals are available through competitive and non-competitive mineral leasing. Mineral resources such as sand and gravel may be purchased through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Material Sales. Mineral products mined in Eureka County include (in order of production value) gold, iron ore, stone (crushed), silver, mercury, lead, copper, and zinc.

Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)

Congress has directed that all federal land management agencies review public lands for wilderness consideration. Those areas which meet the wilderness criteria – roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more, generally undeveloped with outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation – are identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Congress has reserved the right to final decision on selected lands for wilderness designation.

Identified BLM WSAs in Eureka County:

[NV 060-541 Roberts Mountain](#)

[NV 060-428 Simpson Park](#)

Air Pollution & Monitoring

Presently, the [Nevada Division of Environmental Protection \(NDEP\)](#) is responsible for identifying, evaluating, and controlling air contaminant emissions from mobile and stationary sources of air pollution throughout the state. Eureka County falls within the jurisdiction of the Nevada Intrastate Air Quality Control Region (AQCR 147). At the present, Eureka County satisfactorily complies with state and federal standards; therefore, the County is classified as an attainment area.

Climate

The Sierra Nevada Mountain Range forms an effective barrier to moisture laden Pacific storms traveling east to Nevada. As a result, precipitation in Eureka County is light.

Mean annual precipitation (rainfall) 7.91 inches

Mean annual precipitation (snowfall) 9.30 inches

Summer temperatures extend into the 90s during the day, but surrounding mountain ranges and

cooling downdrafts usually push nighttime temperatures into the mid-40s. Winters are generally moderate, though occasional blasts of colder arctic air settle in the region for short periods.

Mean annual temperature (° F) 47.8 °

Normal for January 27.2 °

Normal for July 70.4 °

Recording station: Beowawe, elevation 4,684 feet

Note: Mean figures are derived by averaging the highest and lowest for a period of time.

Source: *State of Nevada Office of Community Services, Eureka County Nevada Profile*

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Community Services & Recreation

Eureka County has services typical of a county of similar size. Most residents have ready access to adequate police and fire protection, medical facilities, and judicial services. Recreational opportunities, including hunting, hiking, exploring abound. The following section offers selected information on public services, community services, recreational opportunities and cultural activities available in Eureka County.

[Fire Protection](#)

Eureka County funds volunteer fire departments in Eureka, Crescent Valley, Beowawe, and Pine Valley. The County provides facilities, equipment, training, and supplies for the volunteer services. Eureka County also contracts with the Nevada Division of Forestry for wild fires in the County.

Medical Services

Medical Facilities. Eureka County operates the Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Eureka and the Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Crescent Valley by contracting with Nevada Rural Health Services. The County contracts with the State of Nevada for the services of a community health nurse. Revenues from fees paid by patients at the Diagnostic and Treatment Center are retained by Nevada Rural Health Services to offset operating costs. Eureka County subsidizes the operations since the operations are not self-sustaining.



There is no hospital and no separate hospital district in Eureka County. Residents of and visitors to the County obtain most medical, dental, and pharmacy services in Ely, Elko, Reno, Battle Mountain, and Salt Lake City. The nearest hospitals are Elko General Hospital and Battle Mountain General Hospital.

[Emergency Medical Services](#)

Eureka County funds volunteer ambulance/EMT services in Eureka, Crescent Valley, Beowawe, and Pine Valley. The County provides facilities, ambulances, training, and supplies for these operations. Eureka County is served by emergency medical flight service to transport patients to Elko or major hospitals in case of medical emergency.

Judicial Services

[District Attorney](#). The District Attorney's Office is responsible for prosecuting all felony, gross misdemeanor, and juvenile offender cases committed anywhere within the County. The District Attorney's Office also provides legal advise to the Eureka County Board of Commissioners and other elected or appointed offices. In addition to statutory duties, the Eureka District Attorney's Office also performs the following duties:

- Child support enforcement
- Bad check restitution
- Public administrator
- Public guardian

District Court. Eureka is part of the Seventh Judicial District, which includes Eureka, White Pine, and Lincoln Counties. Two District Court Judges are elected to 6-year terms and must be attorneys licensed to practice law in Nevada. The District Court System is responsible for hearing all gross and misdemeanor and felony criminal trials that have occurred in Eureka County. District Court is also responsible for hearing all juvenile matters, estate matters, divorce matters, and any civil cause of action where the amount of money involved is over \$3,500. Additionally, the District Court Judges are responsible for maintaining a law library in each of the three counties.

Justice Courts. Eureka County funds a justice court in Eureka and a justice court in Beowawe. One Justice of the Peace is elected for each Court. The Justice of the Peace may perform marriage ceremonies anywhere in Nevada but the Courts have jurisdiction over cases in Eureka County. The Courts hear civil cases with amounts up to \$7,500, small claims up to \$5,000, and landlord/tenant eviction hearings.

The Courts also issue Temporary and Extended Protective Orders with hearings. The Courts handle citations issues by the Nevada Highway Patrol, the Nevada Division of Wildlife, and the Eureka County Sheriff's Office. In addition, the Courts issue search warrants and arrest warrants, hold arraignments and trials for misdemeanors, and handle felony and gross misdemeanors cases from the initial arrest through the preliminary hearing stage, including bail setting and probable cause determination. Extradition hearings are held when a defendant is accused or has been convicted of serious crimes in another state.

Law Enforcement

Sheriff. The Administrative Division consists of an elected Sheriff, an Undersheriff, and a Civil Deputy. The Patrol Division consists of six full time deputies, five reserves, one patrol sergeant, and one lieutenant. The Jail Division consists of detention deputies, sergeants, and lieutenants. The Communications Division consists of four full time and two part time dispatchers.

The Eureka County Sheriff's Communications Division handles all calls for Sheriff, Fire, and Emergency Medical Service. In addition, the Communications Division takes doctor and physician assistant calls outside of business hours. The main office and jail is located in the Town of Eureka with a substation located in the Town of Crescent Valley.

Libraries

Eureka County operates libraries in Eureka, Crescent Valley, and Beowawe through an interlocal agreement with Elko County. Eureka County provides the buildings and certain assets for use of Elko County personnel to run the libraries.

Senior Centers

Eureka County operates senior centers in Eureka and Crescent Valley. The Eureka Senior

Center offers a daily lunch meal with occasional breakfasts and dinners, transportation services, homebound meals, a housekeeping program, Medicare/Medicaid Insurance Assistance, food assistance, and recreational and social opportunities.

The Fannie Komp Senior Center in Crescent Valley offers lunch, transportation, Medicare assistance, and recreational and social opportunities.



Community Organizations

Residents have the option of participating in the various service organizations in Eureka County including the Eureka Lions Club, Eureka Lodge, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Girl Scouts of America, Eureka 4-H, and Future Farmers of America. Additionally, there are several churches in the County. St. Brendan's Catholic Church, St. James Episcopal Church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Diamond Valley Baptist Church, and St. Mark's Lutheran Church all hold regular services in the vicinity of the Town of Eureka. The Baptist Church and Pentecostal Evangelical Church hold services in the Town of Crescent Valley.

Recreation

Dispersed outdoor recreation is the predominant type of recreation enjoyed in Eureka County. Residents of Eureka County, as well as residents of other parts of Nevada and other states, rely on open spaces in Eureka County for recreational opportunities, including camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, nature study, history study, photography, rock hounding, mountain biking, back country travel, horse packing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, picnicking, and sightseeing. The Roberts Wilderness Study Area (WSA) in west-central Eureka County and the Simpson Park WSA in southeastern Lander County are used for hunting, hiking, and camping. Additionally, the County also provides recreational facilities, including:

Parks

The County maintains two ball fields, the Town Park, Children's Park, and a park at the Eureka County Fairgrounds. The Town of Crescent Valley includes a park with basketball and tennis courts, a picnic area, a ball field, and a playground. Fairgrounds for equestrian events are located adjacent to the Town.

Swimming Pool

Eureka County operates an indoor swimming pool in the Town of Eureka.

Shooting Range

Eureka County provides funding to Perdiz Sport Shooting, Inc. for operation of a facility for sporting clays, trap and skeet shooting. This facility is located approximately 2 miles south of the Town of Eureka.

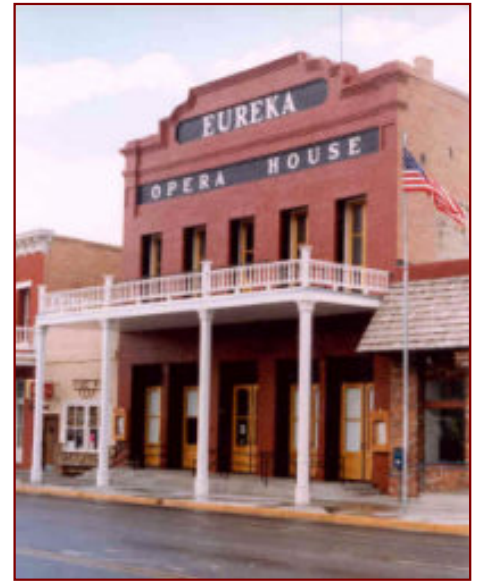
Note: Fishing and hunting season information is available from the Nevada Division of Wildlife: <http://www.ndow.org>

Arts and Culture

Eureka County Opera House

Built in 1880 and recently restored, the Eureka Opera House offers full convention and meeting

services. The Opera House hosts a wide array of cultural events year round, including concerts, ballets, and a range of theatrical productions. The Opera House features the Grand Hall Auditorium which seats 300 people theater style or 150 people at banquet tables. The Diamond and Prospect Meeting Rooms accommodate 50 people seated theater style or 48 people seated at banquet tables. The meeting rooms also serve as the fine arts gallery for the Opera House's permanent fine arts collection or traveling exhibits.



Sentinel Museum The Eureka Sentinel Museum interprets the history of Eureka County. The museum is housed in the 1879 Eureka Sentinel Newspaper Building in the Town of Eureka. The ground floor of the building was made into a county historical museum in 1982; in June of 2000, the museum expanded to include both floors of the building. Eureka County accounts for the costs of operating the museum in the Culture and Recreation section of the General Fund.

Sources: *Great Basin Development Association, Public Services Analysis for Six Local Governments;*

Eureka County, Impact Assessment Report on Proposed Shipments of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste through Eureka County, Nevada

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