

McKinleyville

People and Place

Location

McKinleyville is in Humboldt County on U.S. Highway 101 near Humboldt Bay. Situated on Mad River, it is approximately 285 miles north of San Francisco and 302 miles north of the state capital, Sacramento. McKinleyville encompasses 20.9 square miles of land and 1.92 square miles of water. Its geographic coordinates are lat 40°56'48"N, long 124°05'58"W.

Demographic Profile

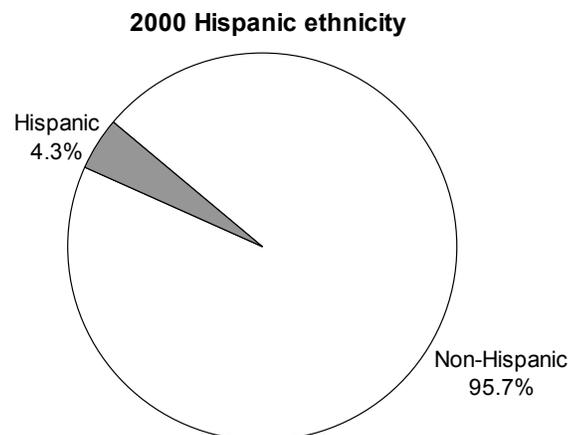
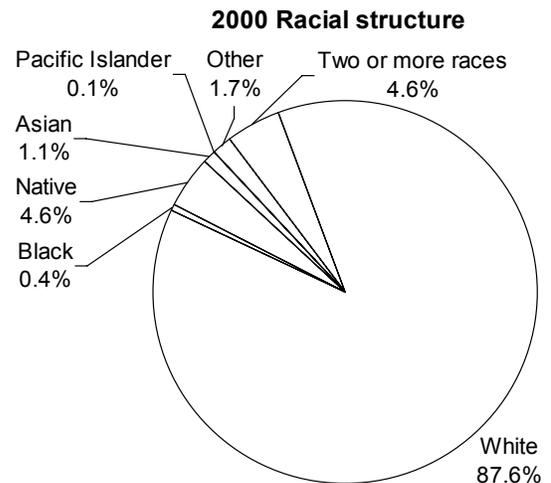
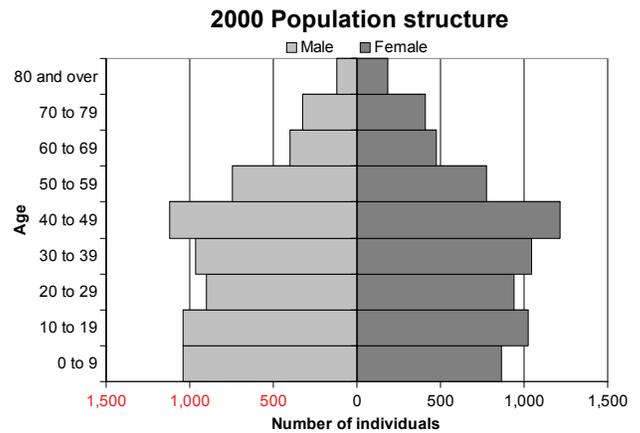
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of McKinleyville was 13,599, a 26.5% increase from 1990. The gender composition was 51% female and 49% male. The median age in 2000 was 35.2, comparable to the national median of 35.3. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 85.7% had a high school education or higher, 23% had a bachelor's degree or higher, and 6.6% had a graduate or professional degree; the national averages were 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The majority of the racial composition was white (87.6%), followed by individuals who identified with two or more races (4.6%), American Indian and Alaska Native (4.6%), individuals who identified with some other race (1.7%), Asian (1.1%), black (0.4%), and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.1%). About 4.3% identified as Hispanic. Only 2.2% were foreign-born, of which 18.8% were born in Canada, 12% in China, and 9.9% in Mexico.

In 2000 82.7% of the population lived in family households.

History

Before the arrival of Euro-American settlers, the area now known as Humboldt County was occupied by several Indian tribes. The Wiyot, Yurok, Hupa, Karuk, Chilula, Whilkut, and southern Athabascans occupied specific territories, spoke individual languages, and shared similar, yet distinct cultural systems.¹ McKinleyville is within the original territory of the Wiyot. The Wiyot people utilized surrounding resources for food, medicine, and basketry, including wildlife, salmon, and roots. Across the bay from nearby Eureka is Indian Island, "the center of the Wiyot People's world" and home of the ancient village of Tuluwat.² Beneath this site is a large clamshell midden more than six acres in size and estimated to be 1,000 years old. It contains



burial sites and the remains of meals, tools, and ceremonies. Today many of Wiyot live on the 88-acres Table Bluff Reservation, 30 miles south of McKinleyville.

The first recorded entrance into Humboldt Bay was in 1806 by employees of the Russian-American Company from Sitka, Alaska. The Gregg-Wood party arrived by land in 1849 and by 1850 the first ships came to the bay bringing prospectors looking for gold. At the turn of the century, local businessman Isaac Minor began constructing facilities to support the influx of miners and timber workers including a lodge, dance hall, and general store. At the time the area was known as Dows Prairie. The town was named McKinleyville for President William McKinley, but in 1897 it was renamed Minorville for its founder. After McKinley's assassination in 1901, the name was changed back to McKinleyville.³

The Humboldt Bay area developed quickly after 1850. Mining lured people to the area and with it brought the need for goods and services. As the gold rush waned, the economy shifted to natural resources, mainly timber, salmon, and the land. Logging developed substantially in Eureka and Fields Landing, which had both built docks by the mid-1880s. The area was also a prime exporter of agricultural products from 1857 to 1900.⁴

Development around Humboldt Bay led to the displacement of the Wiyot and increased tensions between groups. During the 1860 World Renewal Ceremony on Indian Island, a group of armed American settlers paddled to the island during the night and killed the sleeping Wiyot. Two other village sites were raided that same night. The remaining Wiyot were moved to Fort Humboldt for their protection and from there to a series of other reservations. The fort was built in 1853 in what is present day Eureka to assist in resolving conflicts between American Indians and settlers. An Indian Candlelight Vigil is held every February to remember the 200 lives lost in the massacre.⁵

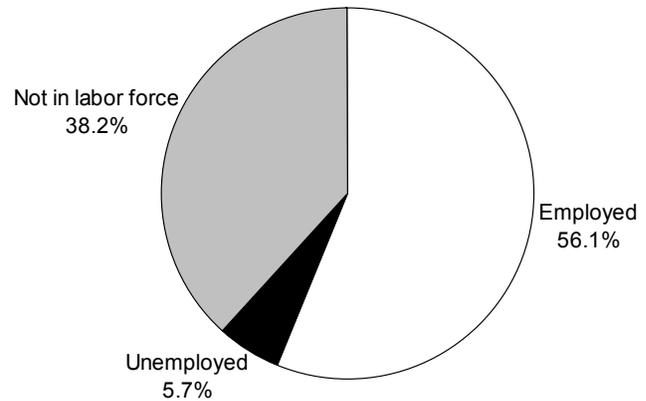
McKinleyville holds an annual Azalea Festival (formerly called Pony Express Days), which was first celebrated in the 1970s. This event includes a Fireman's Muster by the Arcata Volunteer Fire Department, a barbeque, booths, a McKinleyville High School Alumni football game, and a parade.⁶

Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 56.1% of McKinleyville's potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 5.7% were unemployed, and the

2000 Employment structure



unemployment rate was 9.2% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 38.2% were not in the labor force. The top employment sectors were education, health, and social services (26.6%), local, state, or federal government (24.1%), retail trade (13.8%), and manufacturing (10.1%). Natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employed 4.7%, 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, McKinleyville's per capita income in 1999 was \$17,870, the median household income was \$38,047, and 14.9% lived below the poverty level. In 2000 McKinleyville had 5,494 housing units, of which 96.1% were occupied and 3.9% were vacant. Of the occupied units, 65.3% were by owner and 34.7% were by renter. Of the vacant units, 31.3% were for rent, 20.3% were for sale, and 20.3% were for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

Governance

McKinleyville is an unincorporated community. The sales tax is 7.25% based on the standard statewide rate. Humboldt County has no district tax but the transient lodging tax is 10%. See the Governance subsection (page 43) in the Overview section for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fishermen and processors in California.

McKinleyville is 358 miles north of the National Marine Fisheries Service's Southwest Fisheries Science Center in Santa Cruz. A California Department of Fish and Game field office is in Eureka, about 13.5 miles away. McKinleyville is 18.3 miles from the closest U.S. Coast Guard Station in Humboldt Bay. A U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office is in San Francisco. The closest Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings are held in Foster City, 306.4 miles

from McKinleyville. The nearest North Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings are held 400.8 miles away in Portland, Oregon.

Facilities

McKinleyville is accessible by U.S. Highway 101 and the Arcata-Eureka Airport. The community is 298 miles from the San Francisco International Airport.

The community has two elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school. McKinleyville also has one high school for continuing education. The McKinleyville Community Services District provides water and sewer services, streetlights, and parks and recreation services.⁷ Pacific Gas and Electric is the primary supplier of electricity. A Humboldt County Sheriff's Office substation is in the community. The closest health care facility is Mad River Community Hospital in Arcata, about 6 miles away. St. Joseph Hospital is also in Arcata. McKinleyville accommodations include one hotel within the city and three others in neighboring communities.⁸ McKinleyville has no marine facilities and is not located on the water. Nearby Humboldt Bay is the only deepwater port between Coos Bay, Oregon, and San Francisco. Shipping terminals and marinas are in Eureka.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 there were no seafood processors in McKinleyville. Landings data for McKinleyville were recorded as part of the Other Humboldt County Ports group, which includes Arcata, Blue Lake, Carlotta, Crannel, Ferndale, Fortuna, Garberville, Honeydew, Humboldt, King Salmon, Loleta, Miranda, Moonstone Beach, Orick, Petrolia, Ruth, Scotia, Shelter Cove, and Weott. Reported landings for this port group in 2000 were in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represent landings in metric tons/value of landings/number of vessels landing): crab confidential/confidential/1; groundfish 5.4 t/\$18,003/8; highly migratory species confidential/confidential/1; salmon confidential/confidential/2; and other species confidential/confidential/1.

McKinleyville residents owned 20 commercial vessels in 2000, of which 13 participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. The number of vessels owned by McKinleyville residents in 2000 that participated in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 0/0/19, groundfish 0/0/NA, highly migratory species

NA/0/NA, salmon 0/0/13, shellfish NA/0/NA, and shrimp NA/0/1.⁹

In 2000 one resident held a federal groundfish permit. The number of McKinleyville residents holding permits in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/0/1, crab 0/0/21, groundfish 0/0/8, highly migratory species NA/0/1, salmon 0/1/24, shellfish 0/0/NA, shrimp 0/0/3, and other species 0/0/7.¹⁰

In 2000 McKinleyville residents held at least 87 registered commercial fishing permits, including 86 state registered permits. The number of state permits held by McKinleyville residents in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/0/1, crab 0/0/23, groundfish 0/0/10, highly migratory species NA/0/1, salmon 0/1/40, shellfish 0/0/NA, shrimp 0/0/3, and other species 0/0/7.¹¹

Sportfishing

Several charter vessels operate out of the area, targeting rockfish, salmon, and other species. In 2002 at least 18 charter businesses served sport fishermen and tourists in McKinleyville. Five license agents sold sportfishing licenses in McKinleyville. In 2000 vendors in Humboldt County sold 122,642 resident sportfishing licenses, 66 nonresident sportfishing licenses, 9,572 sport salmon punch cards, and 2,605 abalone report cards. In the northern California port group of Fort Bragg, McKinleyville, and Crescent City, 15 commercial passenger fishing vessels served 11,574 anglers in 2000, and reported 49,983 landings composed of at least nine species. Rockfish (unspecified) and Chinook salmon accounted for 81.2% and 16.1% of the landings respectively.

Subsistence

Specific information on subsistence fishing in McKinleyville is not discussed in detail due to the lack of available data. The California Department of Fish and Game uses the term "recreational" for fishermen who do not earn revenue from their catch, but fish for pleasure or to provide food for personal consumption. Information on subsistence fishing is captured to some degree in the sportfishing data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 three vessels owned by McKinleyville residents participated in the North Pacific Alaska salmon fishery, but specific information (landings in metric tons/value of landings) is confidential. In 2000 three community residents held state permits for Alaska

fisheries; all were Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission salmon permits. Six residents held crew member licenses for North Pacific fisheries in 2000.

Sportfishing

McKinleyville residents purchased 37 Alaska sportfishing licenses in 2000.

Notes

1. S. Van Kirk. 1999. Humboldt County: A briefest of histories. Online at <http://www.humboldthistory.org/> [accessed 27 February 2007].

2. Wiyot Tribe. No date. History and culture: Indian Island. Online at <http://www.wiyot.com/history.htm> [accessed 27 February 2007].

3. McKinleyville Community Services District. 2005. McKinleyville history. Online at <http://mckinleyvillecsd.com/history.html> [accessed 27 February 2007].

4. 2001. Humboldt Bay trails feasibility study: Humboldt Bay area history.

5. See note 2.

6. McKinleyville Press. 2005. Pony Express days. Online at <http://www.mckinleyvillepress.com/ponyex.htm> [accessed August 2005].

7. McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce. 2005. Business listings, lodging. Online at <http://www.mckinleyvillechamber.com> [accessed 27 February 2007].

8. See note 7.

9. 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.

10. See note 9.

11. See note 9.