

## **Monument, Oregon**

### **People and Place**

#### *Location*

Monument is located in Grant County along Kimberly Long Creek Highway and the North Fork John Day River, approximately 231 miles east of Portland, Oregon. The community, covering 0.54 square miles of land, lies at 44°49'10"N, 119°25'12"W.

#### *Demographic Profile*

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Monument was 151 in 2000, a 6.8% decrease from the 1990 U.S. Census. The 2000 U.S. Census shows that the racial composition was predominantly White, (95.4%), followed by Asian (4.0%). Overall, 0.6% of the population identified themselves with two or more races. In 2000 the gender structure was evenly divided with slightly more males (54.3%) than females (45.7%). The median age of Monument's population in 2000 was 34.9, which is comparable to the national median of 35.3 for the same year. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 25.2% of the population was under the age of 18, 43.7% of the population was between the ages of 30 and 59, and 14.6% was age 70 or older. For the population 18 years and over, 86.7% had a high school education or higher, 6.7% had attained a bachelor's degree or higher, and 2.5% had earned a graduate or professional degree. The highest level of educational attainment was a high school diploma/equivalency for 39.2% of the population and 30.8% reported having some college but no degree. In 2000, 77.5% of the population lived in family households.

#### *History*

The Grant County area in which Monument is located is famous for the John Day Fossil Beds, where bones, plants, and other organic materials dating from the Cenozoic Period (65 million years ago to present) were preserved in volcanic ash. More than 14,000 acres of the area's fossil beds were designated a national monument in 1974.

Umatilla Indians have resided in the Monument area since before contact with Europeans. When gold was discovered in 1862 near present-day Canyon City, thousands of explorers and settlers, including many Chinese, came to the area. In the same year, the first homestead claim in Grant County was filed by F.C. Trowbridge. The gold mining boom played out quickly, and by the 1870s farming, ranching, and logging had become the mainstays of the economy. Grant County, named for General Ulysses S. Grant, was created in 1864 by annexing portions of Wasco and Umatilla Counties.<sup>1</sup> Today, Monument's economy relies on logging and sawmilling, farming, and ranching, and is connected to the economies of John Day and Canyon City, the two largest cities in the county.

### **Infrastructure**

#### *Current Economy*

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 38.0% of the potential labor force was employed and there was a 28.1% unemployment rate (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force), more than four times the national average (5.7%) for the same year. Of the population over the age of 16, 47.1% were not in the

labor force. A total of 32.6% of the employed civilian population worked in 'Educational, health and social services.' A total of 37.0% of the employed civilian population was employed by the government at some level (local, state, or Federal); however none were reported as working for the government in the 'Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and mining' industries. Approximately 13% of the employed population was involved in 'Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting' according to the 2000 U.S. Census. The three largest employers in Monument in 2002 were Columbia Power Co-op (12 persons), the Monument School District (22 persons), and Boyer Store (gas/fuel, 4 persons).<sup>2</sup>

According to the 2000 U.S. Census Monument's per capita income was \$15,814 in 1999, while the median household income was \$24,000. In 1999 a total of 17.1% of the population was living below the poverty level, higher than the national average of 12.4% for the same year. In 2000 there were 81 housing units in Monument, 84% and 16% were occupied and vacant respectively. Of the occupied housing units, half (50%) were owner occupied and half were renter occupied. Slightly under half (46.2%) of the vacancies were due to 'Rented or sold, not occupied.'

### *Governance*

Monument incorporated in 1947 and lies within Grant County in eastern Oregon.<sup>3</sup> The State of Oregon has no general sales tax but levies a 1% tax on overnight lodging.

Fishing businesses located in Oregon or deriving income from Oregon resources must pay a corporate excise or income tax totaling 6% of their net Oregon income. Wholesale fish dealers, canners, and bait dealers pay a landing fee that is determined from a percentage of the value of the food fish purchased from commercial harvesters. Salmon and Steelhead Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) landing fees are \$0.05 per pound for round, \$.0575 per pound for dressed, and \$.0605 per pound for dressed with heads off. Other regular landing fees are based on value; salmon and steelhead are 3.15% of value (including eggs and parts); all other fish and shellfish are 1.09% of value, and near-shore species are 5% of value.

Vessel owners must pay registration and title fees, and marine fuel taxes that support boating facilities, marine law enforcement, and boating safety education. Fishing boats and equipment may be taxed as personal property if they are valued at less than \$1 million. If their value exceeds this amount, they are taxed as industrial property. In 2004, title transfer fees are \$30 and registration fees are \$3 per foot based on center length of vessel. Oregon levies a fuel tax of \$0.24 per gallon of gasoline and use fuel. The Oregon Department of Agriculture administers four commodity commissions, Oregon Albacore Commission, Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, Oregon Salmon Commission, and Oregon Trawl Commission. Fishermen pay fees to these commissions for marketing and lobbying on behalf of fishermen involved in these specific fisheries.

Portland Oregon (231 miles) is home to several agencies and events including: the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services, and meetings of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

### *Facilities*

Monument is accessible primarily by road. The community is located along the Kimberly-Long Creek Highway, which runs west from Highway 395. There are no bus services in the community; the nearest bus service (Greyhound Bus) is located 112 miles

away in Prineville, Oregon. The Eastern Oregon Regional Airport, located in Pendleton (72 miles) offers commercial flights and Monument Municipal Airport, situated 1 mile from town, serves as a public-use airport. The Portland International Airport is located 231 miles northwest in Portland, Oregon.

The Monument School District, located in the community, provides students with education from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. In 2000 the District had 9 certified staff members and 84 enrolled students.<sup>4</sup> Eastern Oregon University, located 99 miles away in La Grande, has a full-time enrollment of approximately 2200 students. Water (well and groundwater) and wastewater services are supplied to the community by the City of Monument Water Department. The Columbia Basin Electric Co-op provides electricity to community members but there is no local natural gas company. The Monument Fire Department provides emergency services to the community while public safety is administered by the Grant County Sheriff's Department and Oregon State Police. The Pioneer Memorial Hospital is located 37 miles away in Heppner, Oregon and the Blue Mountain Hospital District lies 44 miles away in John Day. The Grant County Library in John Day provides monthly bookmobile service to Monument.

## **Involvement in West Coast Fisheries**

### *Commercial Fishing*

In 2000 there were nine commercial vessels owned by Monument residents which participated in West Coast fisheries, however there were no landings made in the community. According to recorded data the number of vessels owned by Monument residents that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic (0/3/0), groundfish (0/0/NA), highly migratory species (NA/0/NA), salmon (0/2/0), shellfish (NA/0/NA), and shrimp (NA/4/7).<sup>5</sup> According to available data, there were no seafood processors in Monument in 2000.

In 2000, no Federally Managed Groundfish permits were held by Monument community members. In the same year, recorded data indicates that the number of residents holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (0/1/0), and shellfish (0/0/NA).<sup>6</sup>

At least one state registered commercial fishing permit was held by a Monument resident in 2000. Recorded data indicates that the number of permits held by Monument residents in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: highly migratory species (NA/0/0), salmon (0/1/0), and shellfish (0/0/NA).<sup>7</sup>

### *Sportfishing*

There was at least one registered guide business based out of Monument in 2000. However, there were no licensed charter vessels owned by Monument residents, nor were there any sportfishing licensing agents located in Monument in the same year.

### *Subsistence*

Subsistence harvest by both tribal and nontribal fishermen for marine species may exist in the Monument area. Under the trust doctrine, the federal government is charged to protect tribal resources and by constitutional mandate to protect natural resources. The government-to-government agreements made between tribal groups and the United States through treaties guarantee fishing rights on traditional grounds. Specific information on

subsistence fishing in Monument is not discussed in detail in this Community Profile due to the lack of available data on both state and federal levels.

## **Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries**

### *Commercial Fishing*

In 2000 there was one vessel owned by a Monument resident that participated in North Pacific fisheries. No Monument residents worked as crew members on vessels involved in North Pacific fisheries in 2000. In the same year, one community resident held a permit(s) for North Pacific fisheries.

There was a total of two commercial fishing permits for North Pacific fisheries held by Monument residents in 2000. Both permits were Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permits; one for Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish, the other for salmon.

### *Sportfishing*

In 2000, there was no involvement in Alaskan recreational fisheries by Monument residents.

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<sup>1</sup> Grant County Chamber of Commerce, 2005. No title, [Online] Available: URL: <http://www.grantcounty.cc/land/>. See also Grant County Oliver Museum, 1983. *The History of Grant County, Oregon, 1862-1983*.

<sup>2</sup> Economic and Community Development Department. 2006. Monument Community Profile, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://info.econ.state.or.us:591/FMPro?-db=Community.fp4&-Format=forms.htm&-lay=webpage&-op=eq&sort%20name=Monument&-script=hit%20count&-Find> (access date – January 2006).

<sup>3</sup> Economic and Community Development Department. 2006. Monument Community Profile, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://info.econ.state.or.us:591/FMPro?-db=Community.fp4&-Format=forms.htm&-lay=webpage&-op=eq&sort%20name=Monument&-script=hit%20count&-Find> (access date – January 2006).

<sup>4</sup> Economic and Community Development Department. 2006. Monument Community Profile, [Online]. Available: URL: <http://info.econ.state.or.us:591/FMPro?-db=Community.fp4&-Format=forms.htm&-lay=webpage&-op=eq&sort%20name=Monument&-script=hit%20count&-Find> (access date – January 2006).

<sup>5</sup> 'NA' refers to data which was not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.

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