



# County Of Modoc



County of Modoc

Office of  
Administration

204 South Court  
Street

Alturas, Ca 96101

**“Where the West  
still Lives”**

**Phone: (530)-233-7660**

## The Region

Modoc County is located in the Northeastern corner of California, bordering Nevada and Oregon.

The population density in Modoc County is only two people per square mile.

Congestion and over population are extremely unlikely. Clean air, crystal-streams, and lack of automobile traffic are virtually assured. Wildlife is abundant in Modoc County.

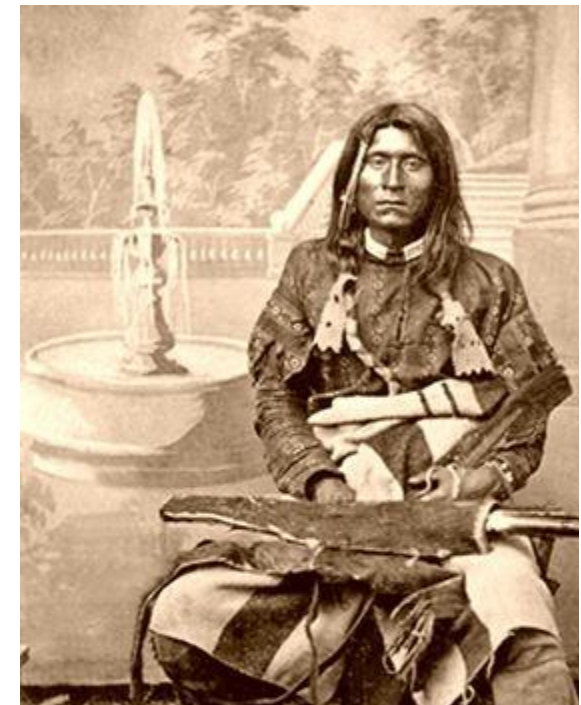


## THE COUNTY

Modoc County was incorporated in 1874.

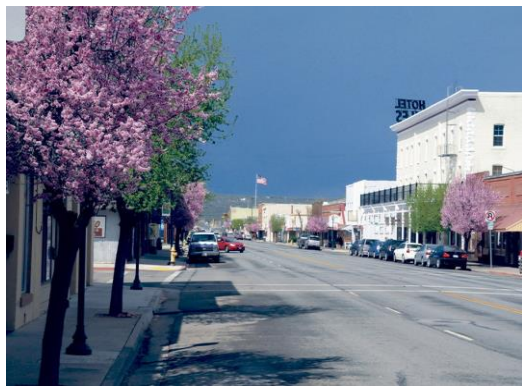
The name Modoc was named after a native American tribe that formerly ranged in the Northeastern part of California.

The County seat of Modoc is the City of Alturas, which carries the motto, “Where the West Still Lives.”



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A large portion of Modoc County is Federal land. Several federal agencies, including the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land management, national Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, have employees assigned to the area, and their operations are a significant part of the economy and services in this rural area.

## Migration

Early migration routes to and from Modoc County, California for emigrant settlers included:

- **California Trail:** 1846 to 1869 from western Missouri to northern California
- **Applegate Trail:** since 1846 (avoided the Forty Mile Desert) by leaving the Humboldt River in Nevada early at present-day Rye Reservoir, Nevada and passing through the Black Rock Desert to Fandango Pass past Goose Lake on to the Lost River and eventually the Willamette Valley in Oregon
- **The Lassen Cutoff:** 1848 was established by gold rushers from Oregon going to California. It branched off the Applegate Trail at Davis Creek, went through Devil's Garden to the Pit River passing east of Mt. Lassen, and turning west to Lassen Rancho, California, and from there to Sacramento.

In some years as much as 1/3 of emigrants mistakenly took the Applegate Trail-Lassen Cutoff, a much longer and more difficult trail than the Truckee or Carson routes.



For further information on Modoc County, please visit our website at:

[www.co.modoc.ca.us](http://www.co.modoc.ca.us)