



Fact Sheet

History

- Butte County was established in 1850
- John Bidwell, a member of one of the first wagon trains to reach California in 1841, founded Chico and inspired the name of the city's main attraction—Bidwell Park. He originally made his fortune on gold in Oroville.
- The California and Oregon Railroads pass through Chico and Oroville.
- Bidwell Bar, located in Oroville, was one of the first gold mining sites in California and still exists today.
- The Feather River was one of the richest gold bearing rivers in northern California, with the first discovery in 1949.
- “Oro” means “gold” in Spanish—hence the name, Oroville

Outdoor Recreation

Butte County is home to Table Mountain, Phantom Falls, Feather River and a variety of natural wonders. It contains:

- 32 lakes
- 46 rivers
- 4 major mountains (Bald Mountain, Bald Rock Dome, Sugarloaf Mountain, Table Mountain)
- Hiking & Biking trails

Agriculture

- There are approximately 2,065 farms in Butte County
- Average farm size: 185 acres
- The Sierra Oro Farm Trail maps the county's best operating farms. Visit sierraoro.org for more information.

Top five commodities in Butte County for 2015:

- 1. Walnuts: \$240,900,000
- 2. Almonds: \$202,092,000
- 3. Rice: \$138,692,019
- 4. Dried Plums: \$43,191,120
- 5. Peaches: \$14,904,478

Arts

- The Theater on the Ridge, founded in 1975 in Paradise, is the oldest community, non-profit California theater north of Sacramento.
- The Museum of Northern California Art houses a collection of paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures and photography from nearly 100 artists in Northern California.
- Chico is known for its hand blown glass, with three companies in town, including, Satava, Orient and Flume and Smallhouse glass.

Annual Events

Explore Butte County showcases agritourism, arts and culture through a variety of seasonal and ongoing events. Click [Annual Events](#) for more information.