

Delta County Profile

ENVIRONMENT

Located in west central Colorado, Delta County encompasses 1,157 square miles and ranges in elevation from 4,758 ft to 11,396 ft.

Scenically situated in the Gunnison River valley, Delta County is rimmed by the San Juan and West Elk mountain ranges to the east and south, the Grand Mesa on the north, and the Uncompahgre Plateau to the west, with the Gunnison, Grand Mesa, San Juan, and Uncompahgre National Forests nearby.

Delta County enjoys a mild climate, averaging 300 clear days per year, and 8-10" annual precipitation. Low humidity moderates warm summer days and cold winter nights.

Served by Walker Field Airport and the Amtrak depot (Grand Junction – 45 miles); Montrose Regional Airport (Montrose – 20 miles); Delta and Paonia county airports for private aircraft, and Greyhound bus service (Grand Junction, Montrose, Delta)

ECONOMIC BASE

Agriculture (fruit and vegetables, livestock, grazing), coal mining, timber, government services, construction, small manufacturing, and utilities.

POPULATION

Approximately 30,000 concentrated primarily in five communities.

RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

Natural and prepared areas are easily accessible for outdoor recreation of many kinds in all seasons. Delta County is home to a vibrant community of artists, craftsmen, and musicians.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Delta County Memorial Hospital, 24-hour ambulance service, many local physicians, and frequent visiting consulting physicians from Montrose, Grand Junction, and Denver provide services.

DELTA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 50J

Since consolidation in 1950, the school district has fostered and enjoyed strong cooperative relationships among administration, faculty (represented by the Coordinating Council), Board of Education, and community. In addition to a wide variety of liberal arts, fine arts, extracurricular, and athletic programs, Delta County School District has effective programs in agriculture, business vocations, technology, Special Education, music and band, and sequential learning at the elementary level in math and reading. These programs are supported by continuing curriculum research and a dedicated staff of approximately 350 classroom and Special Education instructors.

School Enrollment Fall 2006

Pre-School	1	162 students
Elementary Schools	4	1,729 students
Middle Schools	3	762 students
High Schools	4	1,167 students
Junior/Senior High	1	263 students
K-8 Schools	2	553 students
Montessori	1	78 students
Delta Academy	1	26 students
Vision, North Fork	1	113 students
Vision, Delta	1	320 students
Vision, Surface Creek	1	151 students
Lamborn Vision	1	32 students
Delta Opportunity School	1	<u>24 students</u>
	22	5,380 students

Delta-Montrose Technical College (High School/Adult)		
Full time		105 students
Part-time		1,884 students

MAJOR COMMUNITIES AND THEIR SCHOOLS

Delta – The county seat and economic center of the county, the city was founded in 1882 where railroad, highways, and rivers meet. Delta enjoys over 400 acres of prepared recreation area including 256-acre Confluence Park. Known as the City of Murals, Delta is happy to be the home of a state-of-the-art recreational center, Ft. Uncompahgre Living History Museum, Sweitzer Lake State Recreation Area, public library, 52-bed hospital, medical and dental clinics, retail shopping, and public golf course. Population for Delta and its surrounding area is approximately 12,000.

Public Schools (Fall 2006): 1 preschool (162 students), 2 elementary schools (1,080 total students), 1 middle school (549 students), 1 high school (628 students), Delta Vision School (320 students), Delta Academy of Applied Learning (26 students), Delta Opportunity School (24 students)

Cedaredge – Founded in 1894, Cedaredge, at 6,200 ft. elevation, is the southern gateway to Grand Mesa, the largest flattop mountain in the world. The economic and cultural center for the Surface Creek Valley, the town and surrounding area has a population of approximately 8,100. Local amenities include public library, public golf course, Pioneer Town, medical and dental clinics, and easy access to outdoor recreation, including Powderhorn Ski Area.

Public Schools (Fall 2006): 1 elementary school (390 students), 1 middle school (213 students), 1 high school (284 students), Surface Creek Vision School (151 students).

Hotchkiss – Host of the annual Delta County Fair, Hotchkiss and its surrounding rural area has a population of approximately 3,400. Founded in 1882, Hotchkiss has a public library, medical and dental clinics, and is home to the Hotchkiss National Fish Hatchery. Orchards, farming, and livestock form the main economic base.

Public Schools (Fall 2006): 1 K-8 school (414 students), 1 high school (255 students), 1 Montessori school (78 students)

Paonia – Founded in 1882, Paonia is the gateway to McClure and Kebler Passes, and the West Elk Mountains. Fruit orchards and coal production have made Paonia the largest town in the North Fork Valley of the Gunnison River. Paonia, including the surrounding area, has a population of approximately 3,700, at an altitude 5,675 ft. Public library, and medical and dental clinics are located in town. Paonia State Recreation Area and Paonia Reservoir offer opportunities for recreation and wildlife viewing.

Public Schools (Fall 2006): 1 elementary school (259 students), 1 junior/senior high school (263 students), North Fork Vision School (113 students), Lamborn Vision School (32 students)

Crawford – Easy access to the Gunnison National Forest, Crawford Reservoir State Recreation Area, Needle Rock, and Black Canyon National Monument, the deepest, narrowest canyon in North America, make Crawford an attractive recreational area. Population for the town and surrounding area is approximately 1,200.

Public Schools (Fall 2006): 1 K-8 school (139 students), high school students are transported to Hotchkiss.