

CHELAN COUNTY

1899

COUNTY SEAT: WENATCHEE

Name derived from a Salish Indian language word meaning “deep water,” a reference to Lake Chelan

Traditional home of Chelan, Entiat, Methow and Wenatchi American Indian people

Chelan County stretches from the eastern slopes of the Cascade Range to the wide Columbia River. Its key geographical feature is fjord-like Lake Chelan, a deep glacial lake that snakes through the mountains for more than 55 miles.

When agricultural irrigation arrived in the early 1900s, this part of central Washington became one of the largest apple-producing regions in the world.

Chelan County was the site of the first vehicle bridge (1908) and the first hydroelectric dam (1931) to span the U.S. portion of the Columbia River.



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CHELAN COUNTY STRETCHES FROM THE EASTERN SLOPES OF THE CASCADE RANGE TO THE WIDE COLUMBIA RIVER. ITS KEY GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURE IS FJORD-LIKE LAKE CHELAN, A DEEP GLACIAL LAKE THAT SNAKES THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS FOR MORE THAN 55 MILES. WHEN AGRICULTURAL IRRIGATION ARRIVED IN THE EARLY 1900S, THIS PART OF CENTRAL WASHINGTON BECAME ONE OF THE LARGEST APPLE-PRODUCING REGIONS IN THE WORLD. CHELAN COUNTY WAS THE SITE OF THE FIRST VEHICLE BRIDGE (1908) AND THE FIRST HYDROELECTRIC DAM (1931) TO SPAN THE U.S. PORTION OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER.

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