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QUALITY OF LIFE

Work & Play

Quality of Life

From Stateline to Mullan, the Canadian border to St. Maries, the five **counties of North Idaho** are a kaleidoscope of natural and man-made wonders. North Idaho has much to offer, from the finest in health care, outdoor recreation and quality of life to excellent job and school opportunities.

Growth

Growth is a **fact of life** in Idaho's panhandle as more people discover the place they love to vacation just may be an even better place to call home.

North Idaho communities have repeatedly ranked in the **top 10** fastest growing areas in the country. Coeur d'Alene was ranked as the **fifth best city to live in**, according to a national USA Today report. Money Magazine in April 2007 named it one of the top ten best places to retire young, citing Coeur d'Alene's flourishing **golf culture**, which features the world's only moveable floating green. Companies relocating

their corporate headquarters to the area, such as Buck Knives, Sysco and Oxyfresh, are a testament to the successful economic development strategies of local planners. Post Falls is the site where world famous outdoor retailer, Cabela's, opened in 2007. Not only is Cabela's projected to draw over a million visitors each year, but is providing hundreds of jobs in a trickle down flow. Lifestyle home developments like **Black Rock**, a PGA Golf course community overlooking Lake Coeur d'Alene and **Riverstone**, a "Live, Walk, Work" community within Coeur d'Alene, bring a promise of quality jobs and a positive impact to the burgeoning infrastructure.

Kootenai County has experienced exceptionally strong growth. From 1994 to 2004 the county grew 39%, compared to Idaho's growth rate of 22% and the national growth rate of 13%. Strong population growth shapes many aspects of the county's economy.

Some of the growing pains are eased by a **short commute**. Current census bureau figures

estimate nearly 2,000 Kootenai County residents work in Spokane County, Washington and 2,150 Spokane residents work in Kootenai County, illustrating another regional economic factor... it isn't a challenge to live in North Idaho and work in Washington, or vice versa.

In a unique partnership between Kootenai County and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, **Citi-Link bus service** was established in 2005, providing free transportation for the masses often not available in communities of this size. www.idahocitylink.com

Benewah County and its most populated (2,589) city, **St. Maries**, has also experienced fairly strong growth. The rural lifestyle and great hunting and fishing opportunities drew many people to move there. From 1994 to 2004 the county population grew 5% although recent improvements in the local economy and retirement desirability are likely to influence population growth this year.

Boundary County's scenery, recreational

Marketing • Promotions • Custom Publications



The Guide to North Idaho

• The Largest Quantity, Most Comprehensive and Most Widely Distributed Visitor & Newcomer Publication • www.fyinnorthidaho.com

The Guide to Dining

• Coeur d'Alene Area Cuisine and Entertainment Review featuring 'The Locals Dish' genuine restaurant reviews • www.diningni.com

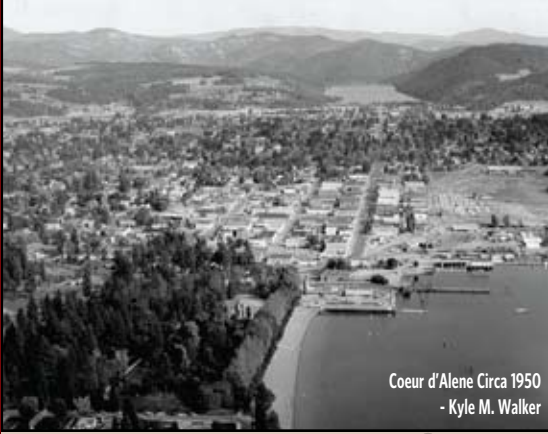
North Idaho Family Magazine

• Published in cooperation with The Kootenai Alliance for Children and Families • www.nifamily.com

Tourism Institute of North Idaho

• Training for frontline staff, in answering visitor FAQs. Register Through North Idaho College • www.tiofni.com

1048 North 3rd Street • Coeur d'Alene • 208.667.2314 • www.fyinnorthidaho.com



Coeur d'Alene Circa 1950
- Kyle M. Walker



Coeur d'Alene Circa 2003



Centennial Trail

opportunities, quality of life and expanding job market drew many new residents from 1994 to 2004, when the county's population grew 14%. About 90% of the county is forested, so most of the population lives in the Kootenai River Valley, where **Bonnors Ferry** has a population of 2,647.

Shoshone County, after devastating mine and smelter closures in the 1980s saw the population fall, but the **Silver Valley** held its own in the 1990s. Retirees moved in, offsetting the loss of young families and increasingly some towns became bedroom communities of the Coeur d'Alene area. A brighter economic outlook and the development of housing around **Silver Mountain Resort**, the county (including its largest city, Kellogg-pop. 2,236) has grown steadily in the past few years.

Taxes

The state of Idaho collects a state income tax and a **sales tax of 6%**. The Idaho sales and use tax has been in effect since 1965. Sales tax applies to the sale, rental, lease of tangible personal property and some services. **Food is taxed** but prescription drugs are not. Hotel, motel and campground accommodations are taxed at a higher rate, 7 to 11%. Corporate state tax is 8 percent of net taxable income. Motor vehicle taxes are levied on cars and trucks on a sliding scale, depending on vehicle year. Commercial vehicles are charged by gross weight up to 16,000 pounds.

Kroc Center

Joan Kroc, wife of McDonald's founder Ray Kroc, had a clear vision in mind: build **state-of-the-art** recreational and arts facilities in underserved communities throughout the nation to ensure that all individuals have equal opportunities to grow their natural gifts and talents. At her passing, Mrs. Kroc left \$1.6 billion to the Salvation Army to build and run world-class community centers nationwide.

On May 1, 2006, after a fierce national competition, Coeur d'Alene was selected to receive funding to build a **Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Community Corps Center**. The facility would be funded with a \$34 million grant from the foundation and another \$4 million in local donations. An additional \$34 million from Kroc and \$2.5 million in donations were placed in an endowment to operate the center and subsidize membership rates.

The 123,000 square-foot Coeur d'Alene Kroc Center opened in May, 2009. Set on 12-acres just **north of I-90 on Ramsey Road**, the center houses four major components: a center of worship and performance venue, an aquatics center, fitness and recreation center, and special event facilities as well as arts, education and fitness programming.

Monthly membership rates range from \$8 to \$65. **Day passes** are available for \$4 to \$8. Climb Time and Fitness Class passes are also available. www.kroccda.com or 667-1865.

Stay in shape when you're away from home at these health and fitness clubs which offer day passes:

| Name | City | Phone | Cost | Trainers | Nursery |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| Kroc Center | Coeur d'Alene | 667-1865 | \$4-8 | ▪ | ▪ |
| Anytime Fitness | Post Falls | 773-5900 | \$10 | ▪ | |
| Peak Fitness | Post Falls/Hayden | 772-9014 | \$10 | ▪ | ▪ |
| Peak Athletic | Coeur d'Alene | 667-2582 | \$15 | ▪ | ▪ |
| North Idaho Fitness | Coeur d'Alene/Rathdrum | 664-6213 | \$8 | ▪ | ▪ |
| 360 Fitness | Coeur d'Alene | 667-5010 | \$10-15 | ▪ | ▪ |
| Sandpoint West | Sandpoint | 263-6633 | \$12 | ▪ | ▪ |
| Silver Valley Fitness | Kellogg | 783-1291 | \$5 | ▪ | ▪ |

Working Well

Civic and business leaders work hard to ensure North Idaho residents will have good-paying jobs to support their families. Area **industry recruitment** organizations such as Jobs Plus (www.jobsplusonline.org) and the Silver Valley Economic Development Corporation (www.silvervalleyedc.com) have been responsible for the relocation of a wide range of companies, as well as supporting the growth of local industry.

The **Community Profile** page (page 78) has employment, population and real estate statistics. Information on business and industry relocation assistance can be found in the **Business Directory** (pages 79-81) as well as listings of area agencies, associations and community services.

With a citizen legislature; business has the opportunity for input in the legislative process. The Coeur d'Alene **Chamber of Commerce** and other local chambers have a commitment to advocate for the business community in matters of local and state regulations. During the legislative session weekly townhall meetings are held to keep citizens and business informed. It's because of such efforts that Idaho has a positive reputation with commerce and industry, for being "business friendly."

Valued Volunteers

Quality of life goes beyond the statistics and economic development efforts. It speaks to the heart of a place. **North Idaho has a beautiful heart**; volunteerism is a way of life and the generosity of the citizenry is extraordinary. From Habitat for Humanity to Ducks Unlimited and the Chambers of Commerce, there are gala fundraisers throughout the year, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for education, cancer research, and building projects. Service organizations thrive and each one makes a significant contribution in our communities. Examples are seen at the **Rotary Bandshell** and **Kiwanis Wooden Playground** in Coeur d'Alene's City Park. The **Grand Pavillion** in Post



Coeur d'Alene Kroc Center



Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center

Falls' Q'emlin Park was built by the Post Falls Lions Club. Volunteers serve on commissions and boards in each Panhandle town.

Fitness Culture

North Idaho has developed a culture of fitness that's in keeping with the variety of **sports and recreation opportunities** available through all of the seasons. Hiking, cycling, climbing, swimming, skiing and golf are all conducive to a healthy lifestyle. The annual Coeur d'Alene **Ironman Triathlon** not only offers a look at world-class athletes but is also inspiring the average North Idahoan to embrace active outdoor fitness goals.

Wellness and seeking to enjoy life are some of the reasons this area consistently tops **best places to live and retire** lists.

Health & Wellness

Expert medical care is one reason why the North Idaho area is a premier relocation destination. In Coeur d'Alene, **Kootenai Medical Center** serves over 13,000 inpatients and 169,000 emergency and outpatients annually. KMC provides a full range of services including cancer care at the **North Idaho Cancer Center** and the **North Idaho Heart Center** is entering their fourth year of operation. In 2006, Kootenai Medical Center earned the prestigious Magnet status, the gold standard of nursing excellence. This honor is held by fewer than 200 hospitals across the nation. KMC Health Park brings residents of Post Falls together with general practitioners conveniently located off of Mullan Ave.

The 22-bed **Northwest Specialty Hospital** in Post Falls offers orthopedic, ENT, general and plastic surgeons, GYN, gastric, neurology and pain management specialists. An attached medical center features specialists in physical therapy and an expanded **North Idaho Immediate Care Center** for general medical treatment and minor emergency care.

Bonner General Hospital in Sandpoint serves most of Bonner and Boundary counties along with **Boundary Community Hospital** in Bonners Ferry. Sandpoint also has an urgent care center downtown. The Silver Valley is well provided for by the **Shoshone Medical Center** in Kellogg as well as the SMC Health and Wellness Center. The **Benewah Community Hospital** is in St. Maries.

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Hayden

8093 Cornerstone Dr.
(208) 762-9355

Coeur d'Alene

305 W. Kathleen
(208) 765-2268
inside Super 1 Foods

Post Falls

805 E. Polston
(208) 777-7732
inside Super 1 Foods

Hayden

240 W. Hayden Ave.
(208) 772-3311
inside Super 1 Foods

Coeur d'Alene

1114 Ironwood Dr.
(208) 666-2502

Rathdrum

15837 Westwood Dr.
(208) 687-5717
inside Super 1 Foods

Liberty Lake

23801 E. Appleway
(509) 755-3333
inside Heartland Mall

Eight Locations to Serve You



The **Coeur d'Alene Tribal Wellness Center**, a 43,000 square-foot facility in Worley, serves members from five counties. The **Benewah Medical and Wellness Center** (BMC/WC) is located in Benewah County in the Panhandle of Idaho on the Coeur d' Alene Indian Reservation. This county has the highest number of minorities of any county in the State of Idaho. It offers fitness, community health and aquatics and rehabilitation programs to Tribal members and non-Indians through membership plans.

As the influx of **new residents** to North Idaho includes many from metropolitan areas, more specialists, day spas and medi-spas, offering an upscale array of services from Botox to laser vein removal are opening their doors. **Renew Mind & Body Spa** (www.renewcda.com), The Spa at The Coeur d'Alene Resort and Highlands Day Spa are as luxurious as spas found in larger cities.

In years past, residents of North Idaho routinely sought medical care and treatment across the state line in Washington, but now a full selection of quality services are available locally.

Seniors Paradise

A moderate climate, low crime rate and cost of living, as well as quality health care, make North Idaho a popular retirement center. Senior services are provided through the **Area Agency on Aging**, the Lake City Senior Center in Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls' **Senior Center** and numerous life-care, retirement and Senior Center facilities

throughout North Idaho.

As the region grows, active adult communities such as **Golden Spike Estates** in Rathdrum are being built to provide senior friendly housing with clubhouses amenities, fitness centers, RV parking, social events and more. www.goldenspikeestates.com or 687-4472

In recent years over a dozen skilled nursing, assisted living and retirement communities have been built. Some offer full health and living services tailored to the individuals desire and capabilities for independent living. **Skilled nursing** and specialties in Alzheimer's and related segments of the elder care industry encompass the past and the future. Adding to their facilities in Coeur d'Alene and Sandpoint, LifeCare Centers opened a large assisted living and skilled nursing facility in Post Falls in 2009.

Coeur d'Alene Homes' historic building in the center of the city is a not-for-profit home for the elderly which is supported by a number of different churches in the area. The facility includes an Alzheimer's and dementia wing. **Bee Hive Homes** on E. Sherman Avenue in Coeur d'Alene, and S. Division in Pinehurst offers state-of-the-art facilities providing assisted living in a residential setting.

The trend shows **seniors are choosing to retire here** to be near their adult children and the grandkids. The percentage of people over the age of 65 in Kootenai County will no doubt increase considerably in the coming decade.



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208 S. Division Street
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FIND THEM ON THE WEB

Idaho Department of Labor
www.labor.state.id.us

Idaho State Tax Commission
www.state.id.us/tax

Jobs Plus
www.jobsplusonline.org

Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Community Corps Center - Coeur d'Alene
www.kroccda.com

Copper Basin Construction
www.copperbasin.com

North Idaho Building Contractors Association
www.nibca.com

United Way of Kootenai County
www.unitedwaykootenai.org

University of Idaho Research Park
www.uirp.com

Benewah/Coeur d'Alene Tribe Wellness Center
www.bmcwc.com

Bonner General Hospital
www.bonnergen.org

Boundary Community Hospital
www.boundaryhospital.org

Kootenai Medical Center
www.kmc.org

Shoshone Medical Center
www.shomed.org

Medicine Man Pharmacies
www.medmanpharmacy.com

Northwest Specialty Hospital
www.northwestspecialtyhospital.com

Golden Spike Estates
www.goldenspikeestates.com

Bee Hive Homes Assisted Living Community
www.beehivehomes.com

Area Agency on Aging
agingadultsvcs.org

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