



Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Plumas

Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Plumas County's large geographic area requires litigants, jurors and others with court business to travel long distances to get to the main courthouse; transportation options are limited in most areas and winter weather affects access by litigants in areas previously served by the now closed branch location
- The reduction in court-supported self-help services and the lack of other self-help services in the County of Plumas are affecting the ability of the Court to provide timely access to justice for self-represented litigants

Budget Impacts

General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Civil case processing and traffic collection efforts are backlogged
- Turnaround time has increased for document processing, file retrieval and long lines at public counters, with a marked increase in "last minute" filings by litigants and agencies
- Records search requests previously done same day now take 5-7 days

Reduced Public Access: Self-Help/Mediator/Facilitator Services

- Reduced hours from 35 to 28 hours per week for self-help contract providers to family law and guardianship clients
- The Court financially supports the only self-help services in the County
- Litigants are ill-prepared due to reductions in self-help services

Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters

- Substantial reductions may occur in the coming year and the court has no electronic recording capabilities

Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Counter hours reduced by 6 hours per week and telephone hours by 4 hours per week as fewer staff are available to provide service
- A single clerk often serves the public counter and telephones for some part of each day

Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Closed Greenville court location in October 2012
- Quincy Courthouse replacement project was cancelled in October 2012

Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- All employees furloughed in 2010.
- Vacancy rate for clerical positions is 35%; 100% for the account clerk position in FY 2012-13

Impacts: Court Security Services

- The Plumas County Sheriff provides limited security services and there is no perimeter security at the main courthouse

Fewer Judicial Officers

- Plumas is a 2-judge, small court

Annual Allocation*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 2,207,553
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 1,635,201
Percentage change	-25.9%

*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

**For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

Plumas Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	3
Capital construction projects	1 (indefinitely delayed)

Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	19,718
Judicial officers	2.3
Judicial officers needed	1.6
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	16
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	12

Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	156
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	556
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	3,185
Civil filings	483
Family and juvenile filings	401

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Janet Hilde
Court Executive Officer	Deborah Norrie