

**California Department of Conservation
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

2002 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Tulare

FIELD MAPPER(S): Kerri Kisko

IMAGERY:

source: NASA-Ames Research Center
date: August 28, 2001
scale: 1 : 130,000
type: CIR Transparencies
coverage gaps: none
additional imagery: Landsat 2002

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2000 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2002 update.*

➤ *local review comments:* none
cities:
county:
others:

➤ *personal contacts:* none

➤ *websites:*
Abandoned and Little-Known Airfields East Central:
http://members.tripod.com/airfields_freeman/CA/Airfields_CA_EC.htm#rankin
City of Visalia: www.ci.visalia.ca.us
County of Tulare: www.co.tulare.ca.us
Housing Authority of County of Tulare: www.HATC.net
The Tulare Basin Wetlands Association: www.tulare_wetlands.org
Tulare HS Agriculture: www.tulare.k12.ca.us/farm
World Ag Expo 2003: www.farmshow.org

➤ *GIS data referenced:*
SWIS landfill/waste facility reference file: SWIS .dgn
Tulare Digital Soil Survey: Tul_soils.dgn
DWR land use survey, 1999.

2000-2002 CHANGES*: Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to

list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land**

There were 76 conversions of irrigated farmland to urban land this update. The majority of these conversions occurred in and around the cities of Porterville, Tulare, and Visalia. In the City of Porterville the new urban was primarily in the form of new homes. On the Porterville quad the housing developments of Orchard Ridge (≈25 acres), North Creek (≈50 acres), and New Expressions (≈10 acres) were added.

In the City of Tulare the development was a mixture of new homes and businesses. The Del Lago housing community and another area of new homes (≈55 acres each) were added and the Bethel Assembly of God church and some homes (≈35 acres) were noted on the Tulare quad. Also on the Tulare quad the new Edison AgTac building and the County of Tulare Agricultural Commissioner and U.C. Cooperative Extension building were added (≈20 acres) and the wastewater treatment plant was expanded by approximately 70 acres.

The City of Visalia had more development than any other city in Tulare County. The majority of the development was in the form of new homes. On the Visalia quad the new housing communities of Oakwood (≈55 acres), Cambridge (≈40 acres), and Rancho Santa Barbara (≈20 acres) were added as well as seven other areas of new homes (≈30-40 acres each). Also on the Visalia quad the new El Diamante High School (≈45 acres), Neighborhood Church with park (≈20 acres), Visalia First Assembly of God church (≈30 acres), and the West Visalia Church of God and some homes (≈40 acres) were noted. On the Goshen quad the new Jo-Ann distribution center (≈65 acres) and two areas of commercial properties (≈10 acres each) were noted.

Throughout the rest of the county the urbanization of irrigated farmland was less intense. On the Reedley quad a new GMC car dealership (≈10 acres) was added. On the Orange Cove South quad the Abe-El Produce packing facility (≈10 acres) and the new housing development of Villa de Guadalupe (≈10 acres) were noted. On the Traver quad the Fruit Patch Inc. packing facility (≈25 acres) was noted. Hank Swank's Woodlake Ranch Golf Course (≈100 acres) was added on the Woodlake quad. The Venida Packing Co. facility (≈10 acres) was noted on the Exeter quad. On the Pixley quad the housing development of La Primavera (≈25 acres) and the new Alila School (≈10 acres) were added. On the Delano West quad the Four Star Fruit, Inc. packing facility (≈10 acres) was noted and the Richgrove Wastewater Treatment Plant (≈10 acres) was added on the Richgrove quad.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land**

There were 58 conversions of local, grazing or other land to urban land this update. These conversions were primarily near Goshen, Porterville, Tulare, and Visalia. In the community of Goshen the urbanization was mostly in the form of businesses. The businesses of Kerman Mobile Homes Inc. (≈25 acres) and Avran Dairy Automation (≈10 acres), a commercial center with a Harley Davidson dealership (≈25 acres), and a factory (≈30 acres) were noted on the Goshen quad.

In or near the City of Porterville the urbanization was a mixture of homes and

businesses. On the Porterville quad the River Breeze and River Springs (≈ 25 acres total) housing developments were added as well as an area of new homes (≈ 55 acres) and three commercial centers (≈ 15 acres each). On the Success Dam quad the addition of athletic fields at Grant Hills High School (≈ 30 acres) was noted.

In the City of Tulare, on the Tulare quad, the Heritage Elementary School (≈ 20 acres), the Heritage Complex at the International Agri-Center (≈ 20 acres), an area of new homes (≈ 40 acres), and a new commercial center (≈ 40 acres) were added.

In the City of Visalia the urbanization was a mixture of new housing and businesses. On the Goshen quad the Westside Self-Service Auto Dismantlers (≈ 45 acres) was noted and an area of new warehouses including Molded Fibre Technology (≈ 35 acres) was added. On the Visalia quad, Garden Park (≈ 10 acres) was noted and four areas of new homes (≈ 25 acres each) were added.

Throughout the rest of the county the urbanization was primarily in the form of agricultural-related businesses. On the Reedley quad the Rich Harvest packing facility (≈ 20 acres) was noted. The Sunkist Tri County Packers facility (≈ 15 acres) and the Wawona Packing Co. facility (≈ 15 acres) were noted on the Orange Cove South quad. On the Exeter quad the housing development of Schraff Park (≈ 20 acres) was added. The Helena Chemical Co. (≈ 10 acres) and the Harvest Packing facility (≈ 20 acres) were noted on the Lindsay quad. On the Sausalito School quad the Treehouse and Sunrise Almonds processing facilities (≈ 35 acres total) and the Wilbur Ellis Co. (≈ 20 acres) were noted. On the Richgrove quad the Southern California Edison substation (≈ 15 acres) was added.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land**

There were 205 conversions of prime, statewide or unique farmland to local or grazing land this update. The majority (140) of these conversions were due to irrigated farmland being fallow for three or more update cycles. These conversions were scattered throughout the county. Large conversions of 100 acres or larger occurred on the Allensworth (3), Alpaugh (3), Exeter (1), Monson (1), and Quincy School (1) quads. A large number (58) of these conversions were due to new or expanded areas of confined livestock. These conversions occurred primarily in the western half of the county. Large conversions of 100 acres or larger occurred on the Alpaugh (2), Goshen (1), Pixley (4), Sausalito School (1), and Taylor Weir (3) quads. The remaining seven conversions were due to irrigated farmland being converted to nonirrigated grain. These conversions occurred in the southeastern portion of the county. One change of note was a field of approximately 150 acres of nonirrigated grain on the Ducor quad.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

There were 160 conversions of irrigated farmland to other land this update. The majority (107) of these changes were due to low-density housing (ranchettes). These conversions were scattered throughout the county and were small in size (≈ 10 -30 acres). Other conversions were due to rural commercial, agricultural staging areas, native vegetation, small water bodies, and mining activities.

There were also seven conversions due to wetland restoration. Six of these were due to wetland restoration activities in the Tulare Basin. Large conversions of 250 acres or larger occurred on the Alpaugh (1) and Hacienda Ranch Northeast (2) quads. The other

conversion was due to the Wayne O. Turnipseed Environmental Management Project (~80 acres) on the Delano East quad.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

There were 108 conversions of local, grazing, or other land to irrigated farmland. These conversions were scattered throughout the county and primarily were in the form of field crops, orchards, and row crops. The most notable conversions include an approximately 220-acre parcel of citrus on the Ducor quad, an approximately 175-acre parcel of corn on the Monson quad, an approximately 160-acre parcel of alfalfa on the Sausalito School quad, and an approximately 50-acre expansion of the Gold Coast Farms nursery on the Woodlake quad.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2002.*

Local, Grazing to Other Land: There were 41 conversions. The majority of these changes were due to the addition of low-density housing (ranchettes). Other changes also included rural commercial, an equestrian center, and small water bodies. One change of note was a low-density development (~575 acres) on the Rocky Hill quad.

Other to Local: There were 13 conversions. Seven of these conversions were due to newly identified areas of nonirrigated grain. One change of note was an approximately 3,365-acre parcel of nonirrigated grain on the Hacienda Ranch and Allensworth quads. The other six conversions were due to newly identified areas of confined livestock, particularly dairies.

Boundary adjustments: Additional time was spent this update delineating more detail on the urban and agricultural boundaries with the terrain-corrected imagery. Statistics will show anomalous increases and decreases to category acreages as lines shifted compared to the prior data set.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2004? Why?*

There were a large number of dairies being added or expanded this update. Watch for more dairies to be added in the future.

LABOR ESTIMATE: *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*

photo interpretation, start date: 6/6/03

photo interpretation, number of days: 9

ground truthing dates: 6/23-27/03

days for map compilation and clean up: 23

* **Note:** **Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland; **Local** = Farmland of Local Importance

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp