

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

2006 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Butte

FIELD MAPPER(S): Troy Dick

IMAGERY:

source: National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP)

date: summer 2006

scale: 2 meter resolution

film type: true color mosaic

coverage gaps: none

additional imagery: NAIP 2005 (1 meter); Landsat 7 Infrared Imagery (2005)

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2004 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2006 update.*

➤ *local review comments:* none

cities:

county:

others:

➤ *personal contacts:*

Donald Blake

Wildlife Habitat Supervisor II

Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area

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2004-2006 CHANGES*: *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quad or city) 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:** 11 conversions

The majority of these changes occurred on the Gridley, Chico, and Nord quads. The largest change took place in the City of Gridley where a total of approximately 80 acres was delineated for new homes in the Heron Landing development. Near the City of Chico, the addition of the Twin Palms homes added ~20 acres of new urban. Meanwhile, the Nord quad saw the addition of ~20 acres of new homes. Further, on the West of Biggs quad due

to the use of higher resolution (1 meter) imagery, an already existing airfield and buildings accounted for the conversion of approximately 20 acres of Irrigated Farmland.

➤ **Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land:** 40 conversions

The majority of the urbanization this update was due to new development and to the use of higher resolution (1 meter) imagery to delineate existing homes throughout the county, as some areas had lacked detailed imagery in the past. On the Forbestown quad, this higher resolution imagery allowed ~70 acres of Urban Land to be added. Meanwhile, the Hamlin quad ~50 acres was added. Further, on the Cherokee quad, approximately 50 acres of existing homes were delineated.

On the other hand, the expansion of home and business developments contributed to this type of conversion. The largest was on the Oroville quad where approximately 70 acres was delineated for new homes. Other notable conversions made on the Oroville quad included the Thermalito North Forebay Recreation Area and the Ishi Hills Middle School. An addition of approximately 40 acres of new homes was made in the City of Chico. Further, in the City of Chico, there was ~30 acres devoted to a new Kohl's, Shoe Pavilion, and other businesses. Meanwhile, on the Cherokee quad, ~30 acres of new homes were added.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Grazing Land:** 99 conversions

All the changes that occurred in this category were due to plots of Irrigated Farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. In the whole county approximately 2,660 acres was converted into Grazing Land. The largest change in this category occurred on the Palermo quad with a total of ~680 acres going out of production. This was followed by the Llano Seco and Ord Ferry quads with ~350 and 340 acres, respectively, going out of production.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land:** 45 conversions

Some of these changes were due to the use of higher resolution (1 meter) imagery to delineate areas of low-density housing or natural vegetation throughout the county. The largest of these changes happened on the Ord Ferry quad, totaling ~140 acres.

Other changes of this type were due to Irrigated Farmland having been fallow for 3 or more update cycles, in plots too small to be mapped as Grazing Land. The largest change happened on the Chico quad with a total of ~40 acres.

➤ **Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland:** 23 conversions

The most notable addition of Irrigated Farmland this update occurred on the Honcut quad where a single change was approximately 120 acres. This was followed by the Palermo quad with a total of ~ 110 acres of Irrigated Farmland.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2006.*

Irrigated Farmland or Other Land to Water: 8 conversions

These conversions of Irrigated Farmland or Other Land to Water were due to the delineation of water within a previously non-surveyed area. The largest change was on the Jonesville quad with ~160 acres of Water for the Philbrook Reservoir. Other changes of this type were due to shifts in the course of the Sacramento River which led to a decision to update the boundaries. Notable conversion due to these adjustments consisted of a total of approximately 80 acres which occurred on the Foster Island, Ord Ferry, and Llano Seco quads.

Water to Other Land: 5 conversions

All changes of this type were due to shifts in the course of the Sacramento River which led to a decision to update the boundaries. Notable conversions due to these adjustments consisted of approximately a total of 50 acres which occurred on the Ord Ferry and Llano Seco quads.

Nonirrigated Orchards to Grazing or Other Land: 6 conversions

A majority of these changes that occurred in this category were due to nonirrigated orchards having been fallow for three or more update cycles. The largest change in this category occurred on the Bangor quad with a total of ~70 acres.

Urban Land to Other Land: 4 conversions

All changes of this type were due the use of higher resolution (1 meter) imagery to delineate more distinct urban boundaries throughout the county, as some areas had lacked detailed imagery in the past. The largest of these changes happened on the Palermo quad with a total of ~160 acres going out of Urban Land.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2008? Why?*

Throughout Butte County, several roads outside of urban areas had road signs that stated the roads were subject to flooding for a certain number of miles. Advise not field checking Butte County during or after a rain storm.

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

photo interpretation, start date: 3/6/2008

photo interpretation, number of days: 9

ground truthing dates: March 25, 26, 27 and 28, 2008

days for map compilation and clean up: 4

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

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

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp