

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

2006 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Colusa

FIELD MAPPER(S): Amy Klug

IMAGERY:

source: National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP)

date: summer 2006, summer 2005

scale: 2 meter resolution

film type: true color mosaic

coverage gaps:

additional imagery:

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*

cities: None

county: None

others: None

➤ *personal contacts:*

Mr. Teji Sandhu, Department of Water Resources, Division of Planning and Local Assistance (Surface Storage Investigations). (916) 651-9254

➤ *websites:*

www.storage.water.ca.gov

www.tccanal.com

www.usbr.gov/mp/ncao/eastpark/docs/EPbrochure.pdf

➤ *GIS data referenced: GDT Roads, DFG lands*

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: 10 Changes**

The largest new housing development, which did not have a name posted during the field check, was approximately 40 acres and located just south of Arbuckle. Horizon at Williams was the second largest development (≈30 acres) followed by Estates at Riverglen located at the southern end of Arbuckle (≈15 acres). There were also several smaller changes; for example, a parking lot was expanded (≈5 acres), a park with basketball courts (≈5 acres) and a cemetery (≈10 acres) were added, and new homes were incorporated into an existing neighborhood (≈15 acres) on the Williams quad and on the Princeton quad, a baseball field (≈10 acres) was added.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land: 2 changes**

The City of Colusa added approximately 15 acres of new homes to an existing development. On the Moulten Weir quad, slightly over 8 acres of high density housing was added in an agricultural area near the Sacramento River.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land: 43 changes**

There were 38 conversions of irrigated farmland to grazing land (≈1,525 acres total) which were due to land fallowing for three or more update cycles with the three largest conversions occurring on the Wildwood School (≈285 acres), Arbuckle (≈290 acres), and Colusa (≈115 acres) quads. Irrigated pasture on unique soil and nonirrigated grain are designated as “Local” in Colusa County. There were 2 changes (≈70 acres total), both on the Wildwood School quad, which converted irrigated farmland (flagged as fallow for three update cycles) to nonirrigated grain. There were 3 conversions of irrigated farmland to irrigated pasture resulting in approximately 30 acres being converted to Local.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land: 73 changes**

Irrigated farmland going to wetlands made up the majority of acres converted in this category (≈935 total) with the three biggest changes occurring on the Colusa (≈460 acres), Arbuckle (≈230 acres) and Moulten Weir (≈125 acres) quads. During the field check several Wilderness Unlimited signs were observed in these areas.

Lower in acreage but larger in number (53 changes and ≈780 acres total) were unpaved disturbed land areas with structures (including ranchettes) or equipment storage areas with the largest acreage converted occurring on the Colusa (≈115 acres), Wildwood School (≈90 acres) and Williams (≈80 acres) quads. Also within this total were 7 changes (≈150 acres) of land that contained fallow farmland in combination with a lake, riparian area, or unpaved disturbed land with structures. Three changes (≈35 acres total) involved irrigated farmland converting into agricultural storage (such as rice silos) or processing facilities on the Arbuckle, Grimes and Williams quads.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland:** 15 changes

Grazing land converting to irrigated farmland (7 changes and ≈350 acres total) consisted of 4 new orchards on the Rumsey (≈ 50 acres), Wildwood School (≈ 165 acres), and Arbuckle (≈45 acres) quads, 1 new vineyard (≈75 acres) on the Manor Slough quad, 1 irrigated pasture (≈5 acres) on the Meridian quad, and 1 unidentified crop on the Grimes quad (≈15 acres).

Irrigated pasture on unique soil and nonirrigated grain are designated as “Local” in Colusa County. Five changes (≈750 acres total) converted nonirrigated grains into irrigated farmland or pasture. The changes consisted of 2 new orchards (≈365 acres total) on the Sites (≈340 acres) and Wildwood School (≈30 acres) quads, 10 acres of irrigated pasture on prime soil on the Manor Slough Quad, and 2 unidentified crops on the Williams (≈295 acres) and Arbuckle (≈80 acres) quads.

Approximately 75 acres and 3 changes of other land converted to irrigated farmland which consisted of approximately 25 acres of rice on the Grimes quad and 50 acres total of unidentified crops on the Maxwell and Princeton quads.

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

There were 19 instances of grazing land being converted to other land (≈345 acres total) that were due to improved imagery, particularly in the coast range. Unpaved disturbed land with structures accounted for the majority of the changes (10 changes and ≈110 acres) on the Colusa, Gilmore Peak, Salt Canyon, Sites, and Wilbur Springs quads; however, campgrounds added around East Park Reservoir on the Gilmore Peak and Lodoga quads accounted for the largest acreage conversions (4 changes and ≈180 acres total). Five small lakes (≈60 acres total) were added on the Leesville, Lodoga, Salt Canyon, and Sites quads.

A boundary adjustment was made to the Funks Reservoir in Colusa County on the Sites quad which increased the water boundary by approximately 80 acres. This was the second update the water boundary had been flagged. After looking up the elevation of the dam and contacting Department of Water Resources to verify the dam had not been enlarged, a determination was made that the reservoir was low at the time the water boundary was first mapped.

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

Watch for flags on the Gilmore Peak, Moulten Weir, Wildwood School, and Williams quads where the presence of nonirrigated grain could not be determined because the field was either smooth plowed (like agriculture) or not accessible. The Arbuckle quad also had a smooth plowed field making it difficult to determine whether to convert a fallow field into grazing land. Logan Ridge and Sites quads both have non-accessible areas with graded for agriculture flags for 2 update cycles. Check for accessibility in the future.

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

photo interpretation, start date: 9/27/2007

photo interpretation, number of days:18

ground truthing dates: October 25-26,31 2007 and Nov. 1-2, 2007

days for map compilation and clean up: 5

* **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