

**California Department of Conservation  
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM**

**2008 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Butte

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Kerri Kisko

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source	Digital Globe Inc.
Acquisition date	September 2008
Data description	True color mosaic, 1 foot resolution
Coverage gaps	Northeast portion of county
Additional imagery used	USGS Landsat, September 2008, color infrared scene, 30 meter resolution

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:**

*The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2008 mapping.*

<b>Local Review Comments</b> (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2006 maps)
City of Chico
<b>Personal Contacts</b>
Greg Redeker; City of Chico, Planning Services Department; 530-879-6810
<b>Websites Used for Reference</b>
City of Chico: <a href="http://www.chico.ca.us">http://www.chico.ca.us</a> County of Butte: <a href="http://www.buttecounty.net">http://www.buttecounty.net</a> Far West Rice: <a href="http://www.farwestrice.com">http://www.farwestrice.com</a> Google Earth, Street View: <a href="http://maps.google.com">http://maps.google.com</a>
<b>GIS Data Used for Reference</b>
Butte County Base Map California City Boundary Layer City of Chico digital comments: O:\vector\ancillary_data\county\butte\Comments_City_of_Chico_2006_map Solid Waste Information System Layer

**2006-2008 CHANGE SUMMARY:**

*Changes made during the map update are summarized by type and location. Particular attention is paid to large or unusual changes and their estimated acreages. Please note that land use type, size of land use unit, soil quality, and Farmland of Local Importance definition (if any) determines the final Important Farmland (IFL) category. [See definitions](#) at bottom of table.*

## Conversions to Urban Land

### Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land 10 changes

These changes were primarily due to new homes, commercial buildings, and the increase in imagery resolution which allowed for the delineation of sports fields.

**City of Chico:** There were approximately 45 acres of new housing developments added, including Creekside Landing, River Glen, and Shastan at Glenwood.

**City of Gridley:** The increase in imagery resolution this update allowed for approximately 20 acres of sports fields to be added.

**City of Biggs:** There were approximately 10 acres of new commercial buildings added.

**Community of Nelson:** The Far West Rice processing facility added a new solar farm (~5 acres).

### Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land 30 changes

These changes were due to the new construction of homes, buildings and a park:

- **City of Chico:** There were approximately 95 acres of new housing developments added, including Hillview Terrace and Pinnacle IV.
- **City of Oroville:** Oroville Self Storage (~10 acres) was added as well as approximately 5 acres of new buildings. The Riverbend Park (~10 acres) was also added along with an apartment complex (~5 acres).

A few changes were due to the increase in imagery resolution. The Sunset Hills Golf Course (~15 acres) was noted in the City of Chico. In the City of Paradise, the Lava Creek Golf Course (~30 acres) was noted. The Wild Goose Storage Facility (~15 acres) was noted on the Pennington quad.

Other changes were due to the increased density of homes in existing housing areas resulting in changes from Other Land to Urban and Built-up Land. Approximately 40 acres of change occurred on the Oroville Dam quad. Also, changes occurred on the Forbestown (~25 acres) and Hamlin Canyon (~30 acres) quads.

## Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization

### Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses 52 changes

The majority of these changes were due to irrigated farmland being fallow for three or more update cycles. Most of these changes were less than 30 acres and primarily occurred in the Sacramento Valley. Larger conversions occurred on the Llano Seco (~225 acres) and the Nord (~165 acres) quads.

Other conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. These changes primarily occurred in the Sacramento Valley also. Most of the changes were less than 50 acres. The largest conversions occurred on the Honcut (~60 acres) and Nord (~75 acres) quads.

### Irrigated Farmland to Other Land 56 changes

Low-density housing (ranchettes), farmsteads, and rural commercial facilities accounted for the majority of the changes. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily 10-30 acres in size.

## Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland | 47 changes

The majority of the irrigated farmland was added in the Sacramento Valley. Most of the changes were 10-40 acres in size and consisted of orchards, irrigated pasture, and rice. Some changes of note included an orchard (~120 acres) on the Foster Island quad, and an area of irrigated pasture (~85 acres) and rice (~110 acres) on the Llano Seco quad.

## Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2008 update.)

Nonirrigated Land Uses to Other Land: There were 198 conversions to Other Land. The majority of these changes were due to low-density housing (ranchettes). These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily less than 50 acres each. Large changes greater than 100 acres occurred on the Bangor (4), Cherokee (1), Loma Rica (1), Palermo (1), and Paradise West (1) quads. Other changes were due to farmsteads, rural commercial, mining facilities, and riparian areas.

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland categories: There were 2 conversions between irrigated farmland categories. These changes were due to irrigated farmland being converted to a nonirrigated orchard and a potted plant nursery. Nonirrigated orchards and potted plant nurseries are considered Unique Farmland regardless of the underlying soil. These changes may result in conversions between Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland.

Conversions from Urban Land: There were 3 conversions from Urban Land. Urban Land was converted to irrigated farmland due to the expansion of the hop farm at the Sierra Nevada Brewing Company (the hop farm needed to be at least 10 acres to be separated out from the surrounding Urban Land). Further conversions to Other Land were due to improved digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries.

Grazing Land to Water: There was one conversion to Water. The Lost Creek Reservoir boundary was adjusted due to the improved digital imagery.

## Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2010 update, and reasons.)

Watch for more conversion of irrigated farmland to nonirrigated grain.

### Definitions:

**Irrigated Farmland** includes most irrigated crops grown in California. When combined with soil data, these farmed areas become the Important Farmland (IFL) categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance & Unique Farmland. Because of the nature of the IFL definitions, some irrigated uses, such as irrigated pastures or nurseries, may not be eligible for all three IFL categories.

**Nonirrigated land uses** include grazing areas, land used for dryland crop farming, and formerly irrigated land that has been left idle for three or more update cycles. These uses are frequently incorporated into county Farmland of Local Importance definitions.

**Other Land** includes a variety of miscellaneous uses, such as low density rural residential development, mining areas, vacant areas and nonagricultural vegetation. Confined animal agriculture facilities are mapped as Other Land unless incorporated into a county Farmland of Local Importance definition.

**Urban Land** includes residential, industrial, recreational, infrastructure and institutional uses.

For more on map categories, including Farmland of Local Importance definitions, visit the [FMMP web site](#).

**LABOR ESTIMATE:**

*Time estimates for conducting the 2008 update.*

Image interpretation, start date	June 8, 2009
Image interpretation, number of days	7
Ground truth dates	June 24-26, 2009
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	5

*Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:*  
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>