

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

2008 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Sierra Valley

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	Landsat – US Geological Survey
Acquisition date	September 2008
Data description	True Color (30 meter), False Color Infrared (30 meter)
Coverage gaps	None
Additional imagery used	2005 National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA, True Color (2 meter)

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

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

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2006 maps)
County of Sierra.
Personal Contacts
None.
Websites Used for Reference
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/0506/loyalton/loyalton-buff.pdf http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/0910/cityofloyalton/loyalton_att_a.pdf
GIS Data Used for Reference
Agricultural Preserve zoning data, Plumas County.

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	1 change
Only one change from Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land for over 18 acres. A pond area was identified as the nine effluent infiltration basins of the Loyalton wastewater treatment plant. During the previous update, this area was noted as possibly associated with the treatment plant, but access was limited and grass was noted in the 2005 NAIP photo. Internet searches this update lead to the Water Quality Control Board documents listed under the websites for reference. The specific mention of the number and types of ponds at the wastewater treatment plant corresponded nicely with the photo evidence.	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	4 changes
These changes were only small boundary adjustments to existing Urban Land polygons accounting for a total of 10-12 acres.	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	19 changes
This type of change was primarily due to irrigated pasture going fallow for three or more update cycles and becoming non-irrigated pasture. There were two alfalfa fields that also went fallow. One is in Beckwourth on Highway 70 that was almost 40 acres. The other one was on Westside Road, and it was almost 135 acres. This field was changed to non-irrigated grains due to evidence like stacked bales of grain and stubble in the field during the site visit.	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	1 change
Only a single change from Irrigated Farmland to Other Land. It was a mere 3 acres of farmstead buildings adjacent to existing Other Land in Beckwourth.	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	12 changes
Several of these changes were boundary adjustments to irrigated pastures. There are two significant changes due to new agriculture. The largest one is over 100 acres of new alfalfa irrigated with a center pivot system in the central part of the valley. The other change is near Highway 49 north of Loyalton, where 40 acres of new irrigated pasture was verified during the field check.	
Unusual Changes	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2008 update.)	
Urban Land revision--near Sierraville on Highway 49/89. There was an urban polygon that was being monitored for several updates as lacking the criteria for Urban Land. The site visit revealed a small electrical substation and farmstead, but the size and density of the structures didn't justify Urban. Therefore the adjacent farmstead and pond were combined with the electrical substation to change this area to Other Land. This resulted in a decrease of almost 20 acres of Urban Land.	
Areas of Concern for Future Updates	

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

There are several large areas of irrigated pasture that are currently marked as fallow for two update cycles. If these areas remain fallow, there could be large conversions next update.

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	9/14/2009
Image interpretation, number of days	2
Ground truth dates	9/28/2009
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	1

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