

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

2014 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Sierra Valley

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2014
Data description: True color mosaic, 1 meter resolution
Coverage gaps: None
Additional imagery used: None

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2014 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2012 maps)
None
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps: www.google.com/maps
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer Sierra Valley Base Map

2012-2014 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	0 changes
There were no significant conversions from irrigated farmland to Urban Land this update.	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	1 change
There were no significant conversions from nonirrigated land uses to Urban Land this update. The only conversion to Urban Land this update was a slight urban boundary adjustment due to the use of high resolution imagery.	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	37 changes
<p>Conversions from irrigated farmland or pastureland to nonirrigated land uses were primarily due to plots of irrigated farmland or pastureland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Some of these fallow areas will be converted to Farmland of Local Importance due to the presence of high quality soils or dry pasture. The remainder will be converted to Grazing Land. The largest conversion of this type occurred on the Reconnaissance Peak quad nearby the Buttes where some formerly irrigated land adjacent to some center-pivot fields was idled (~250 acres). There were two other large conversions this update occurring on the Chilcoot (~150 acres) and Reconnaissance Peak (~100 acres) quads. The remaining conversions were generally smaller than 50 acres and primarily occurred on the Antelope Valley (9 changes), Chilcoot (7 changes), and Reconnaissance Peak (4 changes) quads.</p> <p>On the other hand, four of these conversions were due to the production of nonirrigated grain crops for three update cycles on areas that had formerly been irrigated. These areas will be converted to Farmland of Local Importance in Lassen and Sierra Counties and either Grazing Land or Farmland of Local Importance in Plumas County, depending upon whether or not the area is located on land designated as an “agricultural preserve.” There were four conversions of this type, with two occurring on the Antelope Valley quad and two occurring on the Loyalton quad. The most notable conversion of this type encompassed approximately 140 acres and occurred to the north of Loyalton.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	1 change
There were no significant conversions from irrigated farmland to Other Land this update. The one conversion was simply due to the use of high resolution imagery to improve the linework around a small area of natural vegetation.	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	4 changes
Conversions to irrigated farmland primarily consisted of additions of alfalfa and irrigated pasture, mostly in the Loyalton area. There were two additions of alfalfa near Loyalton. The first addition of alfalfa was approximately 40 acres and was located to the north of Loyalton while the other addition of alfalfa was approximately 10 acres and was	

located directly on the northeastern edge of Loyalton. Meanwhile, a small plot of irrigated pasture (~10 acres) was delineated just east of Loyalton. Lastly, a small plot of irrigated farmland (~10 acres) was delineated next to some center pivot fields on the Reconnaissance Peak quad.

Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2014 update.)

Conversion from Water: A conversion occurred to an area at least partially surrounded by berms that had been void of surface water for many updates. This area was located to the north of Loyalton, off Dotta Lane. This caused a conversion from Water to Grazing Land of approximately 45 acres.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2016 update, and reasons.)

None

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 2014 update.

Image interpretation, start date: July 11, 2016
Image interpretation, number of days: 2.5
Ground truth dates: July 29, 2016
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 0.5

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

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>