

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

2000 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Butte (Northern Half)

FIELD MAPPER(S): Kerri Kisko

PHOTOGRAPHY:

source: NASA-Ames Research Center

date: 14 September 1999

scale: 1:130,000

film type: CIR Transparencies

coverage gaps: Extreme northeastern portion of survey area

WRITTEN OR ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 1998 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made while conducting the 2000 update.*

➤ *local review comments:* none

cities:

county:

others:

➤ *personal contacts:* none

➤ *websites:* none

1998-2000 CHANGES*: *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) 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.*

➤ I → D: There were nine changes in this category. The only significant changes were a water holding structure of approximately 50 acres on the Ord Ferry quad and a new housing development of about 100 acres on the Nord quad. The other new developments consisted of small tracts of new homes and a couple of warehouses on the Nord, Chico, and Richardson Springs quads.

➤ N, G, X → D: There were three changes on the Chico quad consisting of new tract homes, retail establishments, and a new school (Marsh Junior High). Paved parking lots and some equestrian facilities were added to Butte College on the Hamlin Canyon quad. New homes were constructed on the Nord, Richardson Springs, and Paradise West quads.

➤ I, N → G: There were six changes in this category. Five of these changes involved irrigated farmland reverting to native vegetation. On the Chico quad there were two such changes of approximately 50 acres each. The Nord quad had two changes also, one of which was approximately 460 acres. On the Foster Island quad a change of about 120 acres occurred. This tract of land had been marked fallow for three or four update cycles, however there was no access to this particular field. On the Hamlin Canyon quad a nonirrigated tract of farmland of approximately 90 acres had reverted to native vegetation.

➤ I → X: There were 25 changes in this category. The most significant changes occurred on the Llano Seco and Ord Ferry quads where large tracts of land, ranging from 200 to 1300 acres, have reverted to marsh near the Sacramento River. Smaller tracts of land on numerous quads, including Chico, Nelson, Cherokee, Foster Island, and Nord also reverted to marsh or native vegetation. Ranchettes (low-density rural housing) were fairly common and were found on the Nelson, Nord, Paradise East, and Cohasset quads. Other changes include a wetland on the Nelson quad that extends to the Shippee quad (see the 2000 field report for the southern half of Butte County) and two areas of agricultural buildings on the Nord quad.

➤ N, G, X → I: There were four changes in this category. The Nord quad had three of these changes. A new nursery was found as well as an irrigated pasture. A new orchard of approximately 200 acres was found near the western edge of the City of Chico and extends onto the Richardson Springs quad. On the Foster Island quad a small new orchard was discovered from the aerial photo. Unfortunately it was near the Sacramento River and there was no access to the field.

➤ N, G, → X: There were eight changes in this category. Near the Sacramento River, nonirrigated farmland reverted to marsh on the Llano Seco and Ord Ferry quads. Ranchettes were found on the Chico and Richardson Springs quads. On the Hamlin Canyon quad an equestrian facility (that extends onto the Cherokee quad) was found as well as some agricultural buildings. On the Nord quad a new orchard polygon has caused a portion (less than 40 acres) of a grazing polygon to become isolated and, hence, it needed to be reclassified as other land.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2000.*

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2002? Why?*

The City of Chico added a large amount of new subdivisions during this update. Some areas are already showing signs of new or potential growth. The Chico, Richardson Springs, and Nord quads should be carefully inspected for new urban growth. Near the Sacramento River there are large tracts of fallow land to which there is virtually no access. These lands are predominately on the Llano Seco and Ord Ferry quads and may be difficult to classify.

OUT OF DATE BASE MAPS: *Please list any base maps used for update or publication of this county which are woefully out of date due to extensive new development, road construction, etc.*

The quads near the Sacramento River were last photo revised in 1969 and some of the river meanders have migrated out of position in the last 30 years. The quads affected by this are the Glenn, Llano Seco, Ord Ferry, Foster Island, and Vina quads.

On the Chico quad, the eastern part of the City of Chico has undergone extensive development. Major roads may need to be drawn in before going out in the field.

Note—after completion of fieldwork in this county, we got the Fish and Game lands layer and the USFWS properties as well. Documentation for footnotes on conversions to X in 2000 (names of wetland facilities) were gathered from these ancillary files. Additional changes from ag to habitat that might have occurred in less than 3 update cycles by referencing this data were saved for next time around.

Here is info from Henry Lomeli at DFG [hlomeli@dgf.cd.gov]:

I'm the DFG district biologist for Butte County. In the future, if you need any additional help feel free to contact me directly and I'll do whatever I can to help.

I looked at the maps you sent to Pat Perkins and realized that the following contacts would most likely be able to offer you the best answers.

John Carlon
Sacramento River Partners
(530) 894-3474
sacriver@c-zone.net

Joe Silveira
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
(530) 934-2801
josephsilveira_@fws.gov

The Nature Conservancy
Chico Office
(530) 897-6370

Let me know if you need anything further.

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

photo interpretation, start date: September 20, 2000

photo interpretation, number of days: 11

ground truthing dates: 2

days for map compilation and clean up: 3

*** Note:** P = Prime Farmland; S = Farmland of Statewide Importance; U = Unique Farmland; L = Farmland of Local Importance; G = Grazing Land; D = Urban and Built-up Land; X = Other Land; W = Water Areas; I = Irrigated Farmland; N = Nonirrigated

Farmland

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

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp

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

2000 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Butte (southern half)

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

PHOTOGRAPHY:

source: NASA-Ames Research Center

date: 14 September 1999

scale: 1:130,000

film type: CIR transparencies

coverage gaps: Gaps exist in eastern part of county- Clipper Mills, Cascade, American House, and Strawberry Valley quads.

WRITTEN OR ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 1998 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made while conducting the 2000 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

cities:

county:

others: none as of 9/20/00

➤ *personal contacts:* I tried to get ahold of Stacy Cepello of DWR Environmental Restoration Division to find out if he had any information on the extensive wetland being constructed on the Honcut quad. His number is (530) 529-7352 if you would like to try to contact him.

➤ *websites:*

1998-2000 CHANGES*: *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) 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.*

➤ I → D: There were only 3 incidences of irrigated farmland being urbanized in this update. The first being the addition of a new subdivision on the southwestern urban fringe of Gridley in an area with a lot of old orchards. The rest of the urbanization of irrigated farmland in this update occurred on the Biggs quad where new housing on the southern urban fringe of Biggs and boundary adjustments accounted for the rest of the urbanization.

➤ N→ G: All of the land undergoing a change in use from nonirrigated agriculture to grazing land was located on the Honcut and Palermo quads. One 50-acre plot and two 100+ acre plots of land which had been fallow for some time were shifted to grazing land in the northern part of the Honcut quad. The last change of this type was another incidence of land going fallow in the Palermo quad.

➤ N, G, X → D: There were 7 changes representing this kind of urbanization, mostly on the Oroville and Palermo quads. In the Oroville area this included a new self-storage lot. The Palermo quad had the most changes with the fairly new Oroville Airport Business Park, a new church on the eastern urban fringe of Palermo, a new gas station, and the Feather River Casino along with some adjacent housing..

➤ I → X: There was a modest amount of conversion of irrigated farmland to “other lands,” mostly in the Shippee and Penington quads. A notable change in the Shippee quad was the conversion of 400+ acres of irrigated farmland to a large wetland area. In the Penington quad, an extension of the Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area apparently occurred. Most of the other changes from irrigated farmland to “other lands” were due to plots of land less than 40 acres having been fallow for 3 updates.

Finally, there is a fairly massive wetland construction project going on along Middle Honcut Road in the Honcut quad. I was not sure of the extent of the project so I flagged the area for the next update—pay special attention to this area!

➤ I → N, G: There were 13 changes of irrigated farmland to nonirrigated or grazing land, mostly on the Honcut and Palermo quads. The vast majority of the changes occurred to irrigated fields which were surrounded or bordered by grazing lands and had been fallow for three or more updates. One exception to this was an olive orchard which had previously been categorized as being irrigated which turned out to be an old, nonirrigated orchard upon field inspection.

➤ N, G, X, → I: Irrigated agriculture accounted for much of the conversion seen this update with 37 changes of nonirrigated, grazing, or “other lands” to irrigated agriculture! New irrigated agriculture was seen all over the southern part of the county with the Palermo quad showing the biggest increase in irrigated ag. Most of the changes were due to new orchards and new or replanted rice fields. Irrigated pasture is also making a good showing as more rural ranchettes are built and pasture is irrigated for the resident’s horses and cattle.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2000.*

I did want to note a new water-ski lake in the Shippee quad which was a conversion of grazing land to “other land.”

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2002? Why?*

Special attention should be given to nonirrigated polygons in the next update to make certain of their irrigation status during the next field check. Also, careful inspection

of olive orchards in the hills should be done to confirm irrigation status.

OUT OF DATE BASE MAPS: *Please list any base maps used for update or publication of this county which are woefully out of date due to extensive new development, road construction, etc.*

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

photo interpretation, start date: 8/30/00

photo interpretation, number of days: 8

ground truthing dates: 9/12/00-9/15/00

days for map compilation and clean up: 3

* **Note:** P = Prime Farmland; S = Farmland of Statewide Importance; U = Unique Farmland; L = Farmland of Local Importance; G = Grazing Land; D = Urban and Built-up Land; X = Other Land; W = Water Areas; I = Irrigated Farmland; N = Nonirrigated Farmland

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

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp

Special Changes to Butte County:

This update was the first “heads-up” review for Butte. While Mike and Kerri did the field work and identified all true changes to Butte Co., DP then took their work and made additional changes, having the advantage of scanned photos as a backdrop. The usual boundary adjustments were made, including the redrawing of most Urban polygons. The big change worthy of noting is the revision of the river boundary along the Western edge of the county. While we had parts of the river in the Water category already, our linework was not particularly accurate in the 1998 file. It was decided that a wholesale change to the river boundary would be made during this update, and corresponding changes will be made to the neighboring counties. Since there was a rather significant change to the water boundaries, it was decided to back the changes into the 1998 file to keep the change from affecting the conversion numbers.