

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

**2000 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Modoc

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

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**

*source:* SPOT (satellite)  
*date:* 98-2000 (various)  
*scale:* n/a  
*film type:* n/a  
*coverage gaps:* none

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & 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 or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2000 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

*cities:* none  
*county:* none  
*others:* none

➤ *personal contacts:* Chris or Marlene at CFSA office, Alturas ((530) 233-4391), for viewing of color slides encompassing Tule Lake area (used 2000 slides this update).

➤ *websites:* n/a

➤ GIS data referenced: **soils:** p:\modoc\_soils\but\_val\_m.dgn and p:\modoc\_soils\mod\_al\_m.dgn  
**State refuge info:** o:\vector\agency\_data\dfg\dfg\_lands.dgn

**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.*

➤ P, S, U → D      none

➤ L, G, X → D

There was only one incidence of the conversion of "other" land to urban land this update as a hangar or building was noted at the Alturas Municipal Airport.

➤ P, S, U → L, G

There were 18 conversions of farmland to local or grazing land this update. These conversions were fairly evenly distributed throughout the county, all of them due to farmland having been fallow for three or more updates. Some of these conversions may have been overdue due to lack of photo coverage in this county until the current update.

One notable conversion was approximately 230 acres of farmland that was converted to grazing land just southwest of Cedarville. Another notable change was 210 acres of farmland that went out of production on the western fringe of Surprise Valley. Lastly, a conversion of 240 acres of farmland between a canal and the highway south of the City of Alturas was another notable change this update.

➤ P, S, U → X

Only one conversion of farmland to “other” land was in evidence this update. This conversion took place just east of Fort Bidwell where an area of farmland smaller than 40 acres which had been fallow for three updates along with a small “pond” was shifted to the “other” land category.

➤ L, G, X → P, S, U

The conversion of local, grazing, or other land to farmland was the biggest category of change with 33 conversions taking place this update. The majority of new farmland consisted of alfalfa or hay, many fields being circular with center-pivot irrigation. New agricultural fields were identified throughout the county, with approximately half of the new fields found on the Willow Ranch (4), Washington Mt. (3), Alturas (5), and Dorris Reservoir (4) quads.

One notable conversion was the approximately 230 acres of agriculture and irrigated pasture noted in the Warm Springs Valley near “River Ranch.” Also, a 140-acre agricultural field was noted on the northeastern fringe of the City of Alturas. Furthermore, 200 acres of alfalfa or hay were noted south of New Pine Creek. Finally, a large expansion was noted in the vicinity of the Lynetta Ranches where one center-pivot irrigated field became three, with an increase of approximately 300 acres of agriculture.

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

Modoc County’s unique definition of Farmland of Local Importance presents some difficulty for the field mapper. Next update, consideration should be given to making refinements in the mapping of Farmland of Local Importance in Modoc County.

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

The Modoc NWR will need careful checking in 2002. It seems that many types of practices, including farming, are allowed in parts of the wildlife refuge. The next field mapper should pay special attention next update to refine the NWR boundary and determine which areas allow farming and grazing.

**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.*

N/a

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

<i>photo interpretation, start date:</i>	10/16/01
<i>photo interpretation, number of days:</i>	4
<i>ground truthing dates:</i>	10/29-11/2, 2001
<i># days for map compilation and clean up:</i>	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](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp)