

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

**2002 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Butte

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Jan Carey

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** 2 sources

- 1) *source:* NASA-Ames Research  
*date:* 7 Sept 2001  
*scale:* 1:130,000  
*film type:* CIR  
*coverage gaps:* far eastern portion of county
  
- 2) *source:* SPOT satellite images  
*date:* 2000  
*coverage gaps:* none

**WRITTEN OR ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:** *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2000 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made while conducting the 2002 update.*

➤ *local review comments:* none  
*cities:*  
*county:*  
*others:*

➤ *personal contacts:*

USFWS: Joe Silveira, Wildlife Conservationist.  
530-934-2801, [joe\\_silveira@r1.fws.gov](mailto:joe_silveira@r1.fws.gov)

CDFG: Henry Lomeli, biologist  
530-323-2900, [hlomeli@dgf.cd.gov](mailto:hlomeli@dgf.cd.gov)

NRCS : Dennis Nay, 530-934-4601, ex 119, [dennis.nay@ca.usda.nrcs](mailto:dennis.nay@ca.usda.nrcs)  
132 B North Enright, Willows CA 95988

➤ *websites:*

<http://sacramentovalleyrefuges.fws.gov/SRNWR.htm>  
<http://chico.com/resources.shtml>

**2000-2002 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.*

**Note:** *This is the first digital update for Butte County. Using improved digital resources, more accurate boundaries were drawn. Therefore many smaller adjustments were made in all categories throughout the county.*

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land:** 5 changes

One notable conversion in this category is the addition of a housing development named Autumn Park (~45 acres), north of the city of Chico on the Nord quad (39121g8). The other changes are smaller and adjacent to existing urban areas throughout the county.

➤ **Nonirrigated, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land:** 40 changes

This category has the greatest number of urban conversions.

The most notable changes include:

- The Tuscan Ridge Golf Club (~90 acres) east of Chico (Hamlin Canyon quad, 39121f6)
- A housing addition south of Chico off Skyway Road (~75 acres)(Chico quad, 39121f7).
- And a comparable housing addition in South Oroville (~75 acres)(Palermo quad, 39121d5).

The majority of changes are due to smaller additions and urban boundary refinements for the cities of Chico (Nord, 39121g8, Richardson Springs, 39121g7, Chico quads), Oroville (Oroville, 39121e5, Oroville Dam, 39121e4, Palermo quads) Paradise, Paradise Pines, and Magalia (Paradise West, 39121g6, Paradise East, 39121g5, Cherokee, 39121f5, Hamlin Canyon quads), as well as smaller changes throughout the county.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land:** 18 changes

These changes are due to land left idle for 3 or more update cycles. The quads include: Nord, Ord Ferry (39121f8), Hamlin Canyon, Shippee (39121e6), Palermo, Bangor (39121d4), and Honcut (39121c5).

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land:** 15 changes

These changes are primarily additions to and reclassification of land to the Butte County reserve systems:

- Changes in the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge (west county, Llano Seco quad).
- Changes to the Rancho Esquon Wetlands Restoration Project (central county, Shippee quad).
- Changes in the southern reserve system include: The American Basin, Bacon, Hughes, McKorkle, Promo, and Orme reserves (Honcut quad).

There are smaller changes to this category due to low-density housing (ranchette) additions, and riparian areas throughout the county.

➤ **Nonirrigated, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland:** 27 changes

These changes include additions of irrigated agriculture (primarily orchards and rice) throughout the county. The quads include: Foster Island (39122g1), Nord, Richardson (39121g7), Paradise West, Ord Ferry, Chico, Cherokee, Shippee, Biggs (39121d6), Palermo, Pennington (39121c7), Gridley (39121c6), and Honcut.

➤ **Nonirrigated, Grazing to Other Land:** 6 changes

The changes in this category are due to additions of low-density housing (ranchettes) in the Nord, Paradise West, and Palermo quads as well as the reclassification of land in the reserves located on the Honcut quad.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2002.*

6 changes: D to I (3 changes) and D to X (3 changes) are due to boundary adjustments using improved imagery and digital update methods.

**PROBLEM AREAS:** *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2004? Why?*

The reserve systems should be tracked. There may be more land added to the existing areas as well as new designations.

**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. None.*

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

*photo interpretation, start date: 8/23/02*

*photo interpretation, number of days: 15*

*ground truthing dates: 9/17/02 to 9/19/02*

*# days for map compilation and clean up: 8*

\* **Note:** 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)