

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

2004 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Butte

FIELD MAPPER(S): Rain Ananael

IMAGERY:

source: National Agricultural Imagery Program

date: 2004

scale: 2 meter

film type:

coverage gaps: none

additional imagery: NASA-Ames Research 1:130,000 CIR, July 21, 2004

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2002 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2004 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

cities:

county:

others:

➤ *personal contacts:*

- *websites:* <http://www.buttecounty.net>
<http://sacramentovalleyrefuges.fws.gov/SRNWR.htm>
<http://chico.com/resources.shtml>
<http://buttecreekwatershed.org/>
<http://www.ducks.org/>

➤ *GIS data referenced:* DFG lands, USFWS federal lands, USGS 1:24 k DRG's, FEMA floodplains, GDT roads, water holding ponds.

2002-2004 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.*

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land**

There were 13 changes in this category. The majority of these changes occurred in Nord and Chico. These conversions include: a small expansion to the Durham Golf Course, the Husa Ranch Estates and the Sterling Oaks development. In Nord, the addition of the Rose Wood Estates added approximately 80 acres of new urban. Several smaller developments in and around Chico and Nord also went in during this update.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land**

There were 23 changes in this category. The majority of land that converted from grazing to urban occurred in the northeast portion of the county, primarily in Richardson Springs and Chico. Marcan Homes added portions of Yosemite Phase II. Agassi Homes and Hancock Park Homes had projects built in the Richardson Springs area. In and around Chico, the Husa Ranch Estates and Sterling Oaks developments added acreage as did the Hartford Park Apartments. In Hamlin Canyon, new urban was added as part of a golf course expansion. Conversion from other land to urban occurred throughout the county due to increased housing density and the addition of new homes and new industry.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land**

There were 8 changes in this category. The most significant conversions occurred in the Richardson Springs and Nelson quads due to land left idle for three or more update cycles.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

There were 26 changes in this category. Most of these conversions were the result of farmland going idle for three or more updates. In addition, over 1,000 acres of irrigated farmland has been converted to wetland in and around the Llano Seco Wildlife Area. The majority of these changes were also fallowed for three or more updates.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

There were 49 changes in this category. 33 of these changes converted grazing or non-irrigated agriculture to irrigated agriculture. The largest changes in this category of conversion occurred in Palermo, Shippee, Hamlin Canyon, Nord and Paradise West, where additions of irrigated pasture, orchards as well as irrigated grasses and feed crops were predominant. Smaller conversions, primarily to orchards and irrigated pasture, occurred throughout the county.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2004.*

Soil data was available from NRCS for the first time, thus the 2004 map is being upgraded from Interim to Important Farmland status.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2006? Why?*

Special attention should be given to the continued identification of irrigated pasture and non-irrigated trees because of the new NRCS soil survey inclusion. Wetland conversions for flood control, wildlife, and recreation should continue to be monitored.

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

photo interpretation, start date: 10/1/05
photo interpretation, number of days: 16
ground truthing dates: 11/21/05-11/23/05
days for map compilation and clean up: 7

* **Note:** **Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland; **Local** = Farmland of Local Importance

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

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp