

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

2004 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Yuba

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

IMAGERY:

source: NASA-Ames Research Center
date: August 11, 2003
scale: 1:130,000
film type: CIR Transparencies
coverage gaps: extreme northern portion of the county

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:* none

cities:
county:
others:

➤ *personal contacts:*

Kevin Petrick with Ducks Unlimited

➤ *websites:*

Yuba-Sutter website directory: <http://www.syix.com/yubacity/contents.html>
Yuba County: <http://www.yubacounty.org/Home/index.htm>

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 3 conversions of irrigated farmland to urban land this update. First, the Sleep Train Amphitheatre's paved parking area was expanded. Second, a small plot of irrigated agriculture that had been fallow 3 times in the Linda area was converted to urban land. This conversion was made in lieu of conversion to Other Land because the fallow plot of farmland was less than 40 acres and surrounded by Urban Land on all sides. Under FMMP mapping guidelines, an area of "Other Land" less than 40 acres and surrounded on all sides by Urban Land is considered Urban Land. The final conversion of irrigated

farmland to urban land this update consisted of the identification of a farmstead with some associated storage buildings.

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

There were 13 conversions of local, grazing or other land to urban land this update. The most significant urbanization occurred in the Wheatland area where “Wheatland Ranch” homes was a new addition (~50 acres). On the other side of the City of Wheatland, to the west of Highway 65, another 20 acres of new homes were also added. In the Linda area, a new Wal-Mart with associated parking lot was cause for another conversion (~10 acres). Meanwhile, some new homes were in evidence on Beale AFB in the Beale Heights area (~15 acres). The remaining conversions were primarily due to slightly increased density of homes in a few areas, identification of small urban additions due to improved imagery, and boundary adjustments made to linework.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Grazing Land**

There were 21 conversions of irrigated farmland to grazing land this update. All of these conversions were due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Notable conversions include a 170-acre plot north of the Beale AFB runway next to the Yuba Goldfields, a 100-acre plot to the west of Olivehurst, and a 110-acre plot a bit to the north of the Bear River along Highway 70. The rest of the conversions were much smaller and were spread throughout the county.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

There were 36 conversions of irrigated farmland to other land this update. The majority of these conversions were due to small plots of farmland that had been fallow for three or more update cycles. Either these fallow plots of farmland were too small to go into grazing land (<40 acres) or they were unsuitable due to the presence of wetlands, riparian areas, or aggregate mining operations.

Another source of conversion was due to the identification of small plots of farmsteads and rural ranchettes. Many of these conversions do not represent new development but are simply a product of improved, digital imagery.

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

There were 19 conversions of grazing or other land to irrigated farmland this update. The most significant conversion this update was the addition of some rice fields (~225 acres) to the northwest of the City of Wheatland alongside Dry Creek. The other additions of irrigated farmland this update were scattered throughout the county and consisted primarily of small additions of orchards, rice, and irrigated pasture.

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

Grazing Land to Other Land: There were 14 conversions. The majority of these conversions were due to the use of improved, digital imagery to delineate more distinct low-density housing (ranchette) boundaries.

Urban Land to Grazing, Other Land: There were 6 conversions. Many of these conversions were due to areas that had been flagged in the past as being prematurely put

into the Urban Land category. These conversions primarily took place in the forested areas of the county and were able to be resolved through the use of improved, digital imagery.

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

Possible wetland restoration project areas should be carefully checked as they can look similar to “young” rice fields that don’t have actively growing rice in the imagery.

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

photo interpretation, start date: 7/27/04

photo interpretation, number of days: 3

ground truthing dates: 8/2/04, 8/4/04, and 8/5/04

days for map compilation and clean up: 3

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

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

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp