

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

**2006 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Mendocino

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

**IMAGERY:**

*source:* National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP)

*date:* summer 2005

*scale:* 2 meter resolution

*film type:* true color mosaic

*coverage gaps:* none

*additional imagery:* NASA; July 21, 2004; 1:130,000; Color Infrared Transparencies.

Used as a color infrared reference in the agricultural areas.

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:** *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2004 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2006 update.*

➤ *local review comments:* There is no 2004 data. Not Applicable.

*cities:*

*county:*

➤ *personal contacts:*

Leif Farr, GIS Coordinator of Mendocino County (707-463-6397,  
[farrl@co.mendocino.ca.us](mailto:farrl@co.mendocino.ca.us))

Gary Pritchard-Peterson, Field Manager of the King Range National Conservation Area (707-986-5400, [ca338@ca.blm.gov](mailto:ca338@ca.blm.gov))

Margo Royal, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lake Mendocino (707-462-7581)

➤ *websites:*

Anderson Valley Winegrowers: [www.avwines.com](http://www.avwines.com)

City of Ukiah: [www.cityofukiah.com](http://www.cityofukiah.com)

City of Fort Bragg: <http://ci.fort-bragg.ca.us>

County of Mendocino: [www.co.mendocino.ca.us](http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us)

Harwood Products: [www.harwoodproducts.com](http://www.harwoodproducts.com)

King Range National Conservation Area: [www.blm.gov/ca/arcata/kingrange](http://www.blm.gov/ca/arcata/kingrange)

Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens: [www.gardenbythesea.org](http://www.gardenbythesea.org)

Mendocino Land Trust: [www.mendocinolandtrust.org](http://www.mendocinolandtrust.org)

Mendocino Woodlands Camp Association: [www.mendocinowoodlands.org](http://www.mendocinowoodlands.org)

Official City Cites: <http://officialcitysites.org>

Willits California: [www.willits.org](http://www.willits.org)

➤ *GIS data referenced:*

Assessor Parcel Data from Mendocino County GIS (men.Parcel\_4\_05.dgn, Parcels\_4\_05.shp)

California Waste Management Board: SWIS landfill/waste facility reference file (swis.dgn)

**2006 Categories:** *Please summarize the most common categories on the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of category encountered.*

**This report describes the draft 2006 Important Farmland data. Changes may be made as a result of the local review process and decisions regarding the optional Farmland of Local Importance category.**

➤ **Irrigated Farmland**

Irrigated Farmland consists of irrigated cropland, irrigated pasture, and nurseries. The majority of the irrigated farmland occurs in the five main agricultural valleys and along the southern coast near Point Arena.

In the Anderson Valley (includes Boonville, Navarro, and Philo) the majority of the irrigated farmland consists of vineyards and orchards (apple and pear). Potter Valley (northwest of Ukiah) has a mixture of vineyards, orchards, alfalfa, and irrigated pasture. The Redwood Valley (north of Ukiah) has mainly vineyards and irrigated pasture with some field/vegetable crops. In Round Valley (Covelo area) there is a mixture of irrigated pasture, orchards, field/vegetable crops, and nurseries. The Yokayo Valley (includes Ukiah and Hopland) has mainly vineyards with some orchards (mostly pear) and irrigated pasture.

Along the southern coast near Point Arena there is primarily irrigated pasture with some alfalfa and a few small vineyards. Near Laytonville there are vineyards scattered throughout the hills and some irrigated pasture near Highway 101. In Little Lake Valley (Willits area) there is a small amount of irrigated pasture. There are small areas of vineyards scattered throughout the county.

➤ **Urban Land**

Urban land is developed land that is used for residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and public administrative purposes. This includes dense housing, shopping centers, cemeteries, schools, developed parks, airports, golf courses, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment plants, water control structures, and lumber mills.

The cities of Ukiah, Willits, and Fort Bragg and their suburbs have the largest urban areas. The coast has many developed towns stretching from Westport in the north to Gualala in the south (includes Inglenook, Cleone, Caspar, Mendocino, Albion, Elk, Manchester, City of Point Arena, Fish Rock, and Anchor Bay). There are many developed communities along the Highway 101 corridor as well (Hopland, Redwood Valley, Laughlin, Brooktrails, Laytonville, Leggett, and Piercy). Other areas of development include the towns in Anderson Valley (Boonville, Navarro, and Philo), the Community of Covelo in Round Valley, and other towns scattered throughout the county.

There are seven urban airports in the county (small dirt runways are not mapped as urban). These include the Ells-Willits, Fort Bragg, Mendocino County, Ocean Ridge, Round Valley, and Ukiah Municipal airports. A paved landing strip in Eden Valley is also mapped

as urban.

There are five large sanitary landfills located in the Branscomb (Harwood Products), Caspar, Leggett, Ukiah, and Willits areas. Three sewage treatment facilities were also noted in the communities of Covelo and Westport and the City of Ukiah. The Brooktrails, Little River, and Ukiah Municipal golf courses were also noted.

Other large developments include the Harwood Products lumber mill in the town of Branscomb, the old Georgia-Pacific lumber mill site (most buildings and pavement intact) and the College of the Redwoods in the City of Fort Bragg, the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (formerly the Mendocino State Hospital) in Talmage, Mendocino College in the City of Ukiah, and the Fetzer Winery in the community of Hopland.

#### ➤ Other Land

Other land is divided into three main categories: Rural Residential/Rural Commercial, Vacant or Disturbed Land, and Nonagricultural or Natural Vegetation.

Rural Residential/Rural Commercial lands in Mendocino County are primarily areas of low-density housing (ranchettes). The majority of the ranchette areas are 50 acres or less in size and are scattered throughout the county. Larger areas of ranchettes include housing on the Round Valley Indian Reservation, low-density housing near the City of Fort Bragg, the Redwood Valley Rancheria, the Potter Valley Rancheria, and low-density housing in the hills near Ukiah and Hopland. Rural commercial lands include the Underwood Park and Drive-Thru Tree near Leggett, equipment storage areas with gravel lots, low-density camping areas with gravel/grass lots, dirt landing strips, low-density shops (usually mixed with ranchettes), the Hopland Field Station, and a water ski lake near Hopland.

Vacant or Disturbed Land consists of mining areas, vacant or gravel areas near industrial developments, and disturbed areas near airports. The majority of the vacant or disturbed land is the result of gravel mining. These areas are fairly small in size (most are 10-15 acres). Gravel mining is primarily located along the Eel River near Piercy, Mill Creek near Covelo, Broad dus Creek near Willits, Eel River near the Van Arsdale Reservoir, and along the Russian River near Ukiah and Hopland. Large vacant areas occur at an abandoned lumber mill near Covelo, the old Georgia-Pacific lumber mill in Fort Bragg, and in an industrial area of Willits. The Ocean Ridge and Mendocino County airports both have disturbed areas at the end of the runways.

Nonagricultural and Natural Vegetation consists of riparian areas along rivers and creeks, small water bodies (less than 40 acres), state and federal lands (such as parks and recreation areas) where grazing is prohibited, sand dunes and beach areas, dense forest or steep terrain unsuitable for grazing, and marsh or wetland areas. Some examples of these areas include the King Range National Conservation Area, the Eel River riparian corridor, the large beach area at Mackerricher State Park, the Lake Mendocino Recreation Area, Manchester State Beach, the Laguna Marsh wetland, and Walker Lake.

#### ➤ Grazing Land

Grazing land is land on which the existing vegetation is suited to the grazing of

livestock. This generally includes grasslands, savanna-oak woodlands, open forest with a grass/herb understory, abandoned cropland, and, potentially, nonirrigated grain and irrigated pasture on poor soils. Grazing land covers a large proportion of the county.

➤ **Potential Farmland of Local Importance**

We mapped two land use categories that can potentially be classified as Farmland of Local Importance; nonirrigated grain and confined livestock.

Nonirrigated grain is typically winter wheat, barley, and oats. There are 15 areas designated as nonirrigated grain in Mendocino County. Along the southern coast there are three areas ( $\approx$  10, 25, and 90 acres) on the Mallo Pass Creek quad, two areas ( $\approx$  10 and 15 acres) on the Point Arena quad, and one area ( $\approx$  15 acres) on the Elk quad. In the Round Valley there is a large area of approximately 115 acres on the Jamison Ridge quad, two smaller areas ( $\approx$  10 and 60 acres) on the Covelo East quad, and an area of approximately 30 acres on the Covelo West quad. Near Laytonville there are two areas of nonirrigated grain along the Hwy 101 corridor; an approximately 60-acre area on the Laytonville quad and an approximately 30-acre area on the Cahto Peak quad. Elsewhere in the county, there is a small area of nonirrigated grain near the town of Piercy ( $\approx$  10 acres) on the Piercy quad and two areas ( $\approx$  60 and 50 acres) near the town of Boonville on the Ornbau Valley quad. If this land use is not adopted as part of the Farmland of Local Importance definition it will be classified as Grazing Land in the final version of the map.

Confined livestock consists of four dairies in Mendocino County. Three of these dairies are located on the Point Arena quad ( $\approx$  10, 15, and 35 acres). The other dairy is located on the Boonville quad and is approximately 10 acres. If this land use is not adopted as part of the Farmland of Local Importance definition it will be classified as Other Land in the final version of the map.

➤ **Water**

Water bodies greater than 40 acres are classified as Water. There are four lakes that qualify. A lake near Eden Valley ( $\approx$  45 acres) on the Jamison Ridge quad, Van Arsdale Reservoir ( $\approx$  45 acres) on the Van Arsdale Reservoir quad, the lake at the Wente Boy Scout Reservation ( $\approx$  65 acres) on the Willits quad, and Lake Mendocino ( $\approx$  1, 980 acres) on the Ukiah quad.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2006.*

The Mendocino National Forest is not covered by the NRCS Soil Surveys of Mendocino County (specifically ca687 Mendocino County, Eastern Part and Southwestern Part of Trinity County, California). Therefore, the Mendocino National Forest area is not mapped by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.

**PROBLEM AREAS:** *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2008? Why?*

The Round Valley area has a large amount of irrigated pasture mixed in with other

irrigated crops. The distinctions between these two categories can be hard to see on the imagery. Extra fieldwork may be necessary in this area.

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

*photo interpretation, start date:* July 13, 2006

*photo interpretation, number of days:* 20

*ground truthing dates:* August 28- September 1, 2006

*# days for map compilation and clean up:* 12

\* **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](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp)*