

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

2006 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Modoc

FIELD MAPPER(S): Kerri Kisko

IMAGERY:

source: National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP), USDA

date: summer 2006

scale: 2 meter resolution

film type: true color mosaic

coverage gaps: none

additional imagery: NAIP from 2005 (1 meter resolution) and Infrared Landsat data (2005, 15 meter resolution)

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:* none

cities:

county:

others:

➤ *personal contacts:* none

➤ *websites:*

Modoc County: www.modocounty.us

Modoc National Wildlife Refuge: www.fws.gov/modoc

Tulelake National Wildlife Refuge:

www.fws.gov/klamathbasinrefuges/tulelake/tulelake.html

➤ *GIS data referenced:*

Municipal boundary layer for the State of California (MUBCAXXX_albers.shp)

Street layer for the County of Modoc (GDT_mod.mdb\ Street)

2004-2006 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.*

The first time availability of digital soil data in the Surprise Valley area had significant impact on conversion statistics during the 2006 update, including a net increase of 574 acres in the survey area. Conversion acreages between farmland categories are large and represent both the improved resolution of the soil information and technical reclassifications to soil units. There were large areas of irrigated pasture that formerly qualified as Farmland of Statewide Importance but due to NRCS technical reclassifications are now mapped as Farmland of Local Importance.

The conversions discussed below address situations where land use conversion did occur, which had a smaller impact on the overall change than the digital soil incorporation. In addition to this field report, see land use conversion table for footnotes.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land:** 1 conversion

Due to improved digital imagery this update, an area of water control ponds (~10 acres) was identified near the town of Fort Bidwell.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land:** 9 conversions

The majority of these changes were due to increased density of housing in the northern part of the City of Alturas. The improved digital imagery used this update made housing density easier to identify. There was approximately 200 acres converted to Urban Land by this type of change.

In the town of Likely, the Likely Links Golf Course was expanded by approximately 10 acres. In the town of Newell, buildings were added at the State of California highway maintenance station (~15 acres).

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land:** 93 conversions

The majority (78) of these changes were due to Irrigated Farmland being fallow for three or more update cycles. These changes primarily occurred in the Pit River (Alturas area) and Surprise Valleys. A few of the changes occurred in the Klamath Basin (Tulelake area). Most of the changes were between 10 to 30 acres. Larger conversions of 100 acres or larger occurred on the Canby (~585 and 685 acres), McGinty Point (~205 acres), Rattlesnake Butte (~135 acres), and Warren Peak (~335 acres) quads.

Other conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. These changes were fairly small (~15-60 acres) and were scattered throughout the Pit River and Surprise Valleys. One large change occurred on the Hansen Island quad (~105 acres).

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land:** 23 conversions

Low density housing (ranchettes) and agricultural staging areas (gravel lots with equipment storage) accounted for the majority of the changes. These changes primarily occurred in the Klamath Basin and near the City of Alturas. All of these conversions were less than 30 acres each. Other changes were due to the identification of small water bodies, a wetland expansion south of Goose Lake (~ 120 acres) and a dairy.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland:** 96 conversions

The majority of the Irrigated Farmland was added in the Pit River and Surprise Valleys. Most of the changes were 10-30 acres in size and consisted of alfalfa and irrigated pasture. Large conversions of 100 acres or greater occurred on the Alturas (3), Canby (1), Fort Bidwell (1), Hansen Island (1), Lauer Reservoir (1), Warren Peak (2), and Washington Mountain (1) quads.

➤ **Grazing Land to Other Land:** 66 conversions

Low density housing (ranchettes) accounted for the majority of the changes to Other Land. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily less than 30 acres each. Other changes were due to small water bodies scattered throughout the county, wetland areas, and mining facilities.

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

New Digital Soil Survey: The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) released a new digital soil survey of the Surprise Valley area in 2006. The incorporation of this new survey resulted in large conversions between Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Local Importance, and Grazing Land. See box on page 2 for more information.

Grazing Land to Local: There were 61 conversions to Local due to the identification of nonirrigated grain throughout the county. The majority of these changes were less than 50 acres in size. Conversions larger than 100 acres occurred on the Dorris Reservoir (1), Lauer Reservoir (1), Newell (1), and Surprise Station (1) quads.

Urban Land to Other Land: Urban Land was converted to Other Land in the California Pines community (~200 acres) due to lack of density. The improved digital imagery used this update and a site visit made this delineation possible.

Water Conversions: Water was converted to Other Land due to a lake being dry for several update cycles and reclassified as intermittent. Grazing, Local, and Other Land was converted to water due to the identification of Boggs Reservoir as a permanent water body (wet for several update cycles) and the improvement of the boundary of the Davis Creek Orchards Reservoir due to improved digital imagery.

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

None.

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

photo interpretation, start date: August 6, 2007

photo interpretation, number of days: 11

ground truthing dates: September 4-7, 2007

days for map compilation and clean up: 10

* **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