

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

2006 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Siskiyou

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

IMAGERY:

source: National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA

date: 2005 & 2006

resolution: 2 meter

color type: true color

coverage gaps: none

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*

cities:

county:

others:

➤ *personal contacts:* e-mail to Thomas Anderson (Director of Airports) regarding agriculture around Siskiyou County Airport.

➤ *websites:*

➤ *GIS data referenced:* none

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.*

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land**

Siskiyou County had a small amount of urbanization occurring on Irrigated farmland. Only seven changes of this type and nothing exceeded twenty acres. Most of the changes were a house or two added to adjacent Urban land. In the Scott Valley town of Fort Jones, an auto body shop and a few industrial buildings were field checked. Not too far from Fort

Jones, a cemetery was found while driving to another field site. The cemetery converted 16 acres of Irrigated farmland.

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

This type of change was also very rare. There were a total of 14 changes and some represented boundary adjustments to refine the urban lines around some of the towns and cities. In the City of Mount Shasta, athletic fields were identified for a school near the north end of the city. South of the city in Azalea, over 20 acres of new homes were added. In Deetz, near Interstate 5 and Black Butte, approximately 60 acres of homes were mapped as urban due to the increased density of houses. There were two additions to expanding landfills as well, but these were both under 5 acres each. Lastly, along the Klamath River on the way to Iron Gate Reservoir, a 12 acre developed RV campground was found.

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

Irrigated farmland going fallow for three or more updates was very common this update. Just over 170 changes occurred, some very large and yet some very small. The largest was over 500 acres near Klamath Lake due to inclusion in the wildlife refuge and bird habitat. Other very large changes that exceeded 200 acres were allowed to go fallow 5 update cycles because they were inaccessible and also part of the refuge. Many of the areas that exist on the fringe of center pivot irrigation fields were also fallowed out. Overall, most of the changes were between 10 and 100 acres.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

The conversion to Other land was very rare in Siskiyou county mainly because farmland that has gone fallow for three or more update cycles qualified for Farmland of Local Importance. So consequently, only 6 conversions to Other land occurred. These were the result of identifying new or expanding farmsteads and they were all less than 20 acres each.

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

Irrigated farmland coming into production was nearly as significant as the removal of Irrigated farmland. Almost 100 total changes and several of them were over 100 acres. One change in particular was over 400 acres for new alfalfa near the town of Mt. Hebron. Although alfalfa wasn't the only type of crop in Siskiyou, it was by far the dominant crop.

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

There were a handful of adjustments to the urban boundaries but they were very small in acreage. One change from Urban land to Irrigated farmland was due to alfalfa grown at the end of the runway at the Siskiyou county airport and this was field checked. The land around the airport is being leased to a farmer according to Thomas Anderson who was contacted via e-mail. Portions of the airport that are currently mapped as Urban may be changed to Irrigated Farmland in future updates as soon as imagery verifies the situation. Many of these suspected areas were inaccessible during the field check.

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

The biggest problem may be the suspected rotation of alfalfa and irrigated pasture. Many center pivot irrigation fields were found to have alfalfa on the photo and irrigated pasture in the field check, and vice versa. This is relevant because it could affect whether the land is classified as potentially Unique farmland or Farmland of Local Importance.

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

photo interpretation, start date: 6/11/2007

photo interpretation, number of days: 25

ground truthing dates: 8/14 – 8/16/2007

days for map compilation and clean up: 5

* **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