

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

2006 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Sierra Valley

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

IMAGERY:

source: National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
date: 2005
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:*

➤ *websites:* <http://www.grizzlyranch.com/> Grizzly Ranch Golf Course

<http://ulibimage.ucdavis.edu/speccoll/east01/full/B-4388.jpg>

<http://ulibimage.ucdavis.edu/speccoll/east01/full/B-4389.jpg>

University of California online archive, old photos of Loyalton Mill site

➤ *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**

There were no land use conversions from Irrigated farmland to Urban land, but there were three adjustments to urban boundaries that added Urban acreage. All three were very small, less than five acres each.

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

There were seven changes of Local, Grazing, or Other going to Urban. Adjustments to the boundary around the water treatment plant near Loyalton added 10 acres. Similarly, adjustments to the Loyalton landfill on Garbage Pit Road added another 7 acres. In Chilcoat, approximately five acres of homes along Frenchman Lake Road were dense enough to map as Urban. The most significant change was the Grizzly Ranch Golf Course near Beckwourth, where 165 acres was converted from Grazing land to Urban land. This single change accounted for most of the new Urban acreage this update.

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

Only eight changes of this type; seven of them were smaller than 10 acres. One large change involved over 300 acres of irrigated pasture that had gone fallow for five update cycles. The pasture was on center pivot irrigation north of Loyalton and inaccessible by car, therefore allowed to go fallow for that long verifying land use status.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

None.

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

There were 27 changes of Local, Grazing, or Other going to Irrigated farmland. Most of the changes went to irrigated pasture throughout the valley. The largest change to irrigated pasture was almost 350 acres on Heriot Lane. That particular area appeared to be sub-irrigated pasture in the field check. Another big change of 230 acres was nearby and inaccessible, but very convincing in the photo. Three more large changes to irrigated pasture ranged between 50 and 100 acres. A few changes involved alfalfa; including over 30 acres planted to the crop on the northeast edge of Loyalton, as identified during the field check. Another 60 acres irrigated by center pivot was also added northwest of town on Beckwourth Road. Over by Chilcoat, 130 acres of alfalfa was also irrigated by another center pivot system.

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

The alfalfa that was field checked northeast of Loyalton also created a change from Urban land to Irrigated farmland. This converted 6 acres and seemed necessary to ensure an accurate urban and agriculture boundary. The Loyalton Sierra Pacific Lumber Mill site also lost some Urban acreage. Almost 10 acres of new alfalfa was identified near the end of Railroad Ave. Another 10 acres of Urban was changed to Grazing land when the mill pond was identified by historical photos on the University of California online photo archive website. The pond was flagged for abandoned urban uses, and appeared very marshy or filled with sediment and plants on the photos. The condition of the pond shows many years of neglect while internet searches indicate that the site is going through a redevelopment.

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

Problem areas include the boundary between Grazing land and dryland pasture,

which can look similar in the photos. Of course, the sub-irrigated pastures will always be challenging to photo interpret as well. Large areas mapped as irrigated pasture have been marked fallow for the first update. This could indicate a decline in use or just the latest water table levels.

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

photo interpretation, start date: 10/5/2007

photo interpretation, number of days: 2

ground truthing dates: 10/10/2007

days for map compilation and clean up: 2

* **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