

**California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM**

2008 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Modoc

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	USGS Landsat
Acquisition date	September 2008
Data description	Color infrared scene, 30 meter resolution; true color scene, 30 meter resolution
Coverage gaps	
Additional imagery used	NAIP 2005, 2 meter resolution, true color mosaic

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2008 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2006 maps)
Personal Contacts
Kim Hunter, Modoc County Planning Dept: (530) 233-6406 Modoc County Ag Commissioner Staff: (530) 233-6401
Websites Used for Reference
Google Earth, Street View: http://maps.google.com/maps?tab=w Modoc NWR: http://www.fws.gov/modoc/ Lookout Ranch: http://www.ranch-lands.com/ranchdetails/Lookout%20Ranch%20Brochure%202009.pdf
GIS Data Used for Reference

2006-2008 CHANGE SUMMARY:

Changes made during the map update are summarized by type and location. Particular attention is paid to large or unusual changes and their estimated acreages. Please note that land use type, size of land use unit, soil quality, and Farmland of Local Importance definition (if any) determines the final Important Farmland (IFL) category. [See definitions](#) at bottom of table.

Conversions to Urban Land	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	0 changes
There were no conversions of irrigated farmland to Urban Land this update.	

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	0 changes
There were no significant conversions of nonirrigated land uses and Other Land to Urban Land this update.	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	73 changes
<p>These conversions were primarily due to irrigated farmland or irrigated pasture having been fallow for three or more update cycles. The conversions were scattered throughout the county with the majority of them occurring in the Surprise Valley, Davis Creek, Tule Lake, and Alturas areas. The majority of the conversions were for 50 acres or less. Larger conversions of 100 acres or more occurred on the Larkspur Hills (~220 acres), Cedarville (~120 and 140 acres), Lauer Reservoir (~100 acres), and Alturas (~100 acres) quads.</p> <p>One further cause for the conversion of irrigated farmland or irrigated pasture to nonirrigated land uses was due to the identification of areas that have transitioned from growing irrigated crops or irrigating pasture to growing nonirrigated grain or hay crops. There were seven conversions of this type that took place primarily in the Surprise Valley area, totaling approximately 800 acres.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	6 changes
<p>Conversions from irrigated farmland to Other Land were primarily boundary adjustments that had been flagged in previous updates and were 20 acres or less. The only notable conversion occurred in the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge where the Grandma's Field wetland restoration project (~130 acres) took place.</p>	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	7 changes
<p>Additions of newly irrigated farmland (~550 acres) and irrigated pasture (~60 acres) were seen in the Canby, Alturas, and Davis Creek areas. Additions of irrigated farmland were primarily center-pivot irrigated hay fields, with larger, single conversions seen on the Canby (~ 140 acres) and Dorris Reservoir (~150 acres) quads. The addition of some wild rice fields (~70 acres) was also made nearby California Pines that is part of a much larger addition of wild rice. However, since the majority of the area encompassed by the new wild rice fields had previously been mapped as Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance due to the presence of irrigated pasture, no Important Farmland designation change will occur in the majority of the area. Finally, one addition of irrigated pasture (~60 acres) was made on the Alturas quad.</p>	
Unusual Changes	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2008 update.)	
<p>Soil Data Correction: A large conversion of Grazing Land to Farmland of Local Importance—exceeding 10,000 acres—was due to a correction in FMMP's classification of soils in the Surprise Valley. Specific soils qualifying for Modoc County's Local category had not been selected from the soil database when SSURGO soil data was incorporated in 2006. This is a correction and does not represent physical changes in the soils of the Surprise Valley area.</p>	

SURVEY AREA ADDITION: The 275,994-acre addition to the survey area consists primarily of the Big Valley area in Modoc County, including the communities of Adin and Lookout, and the mountainous areas to the west, including Day and White Horse, and to the north and east, including the Adin Pass area.

Summary of Land Use in Survey Area Addition:

Irrigated Farmland: These are primarily areas of irrigated hay (~5,300 acres), irrigated pasture (~750 acres), and wild rice (~500 acres) that will show up on the Modoc County Important Farmland (IFL) Map as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Local Importance depending upon the underlying soil type (as determined by the USDA). Irrigated hay and wild rice are primarily found in the Big Valley area, nearby the communities of Lookout and Adin. Irrigated pasture was delineated on the Timbered Crater (~150 acres), Adin Pass (~150 acres), Hermit Butte (~200 acres), and Adin (~250 acres) quads.

Nonirrigated Farmland: These are areas of nonirrigated grain production that will show up on the Modoc County IFL Map as “Farmland of Local Importance.” There were two plots on the Adin quad (~250 and ~10 acres), one plot on the Adin Pass quad (~100 acres), and one plot on the Donica Mountain quad (~20 acres).

Urban Land: These are urbanized areas that will show up on the Modoc County IFL Map as “Urban Land.” The communities of Adin (~140 acres) and Lookout (~40 acres) were delineated.

Other Land: These areas primarily consist of ranchettes (~ 130 acres) on the Day and Lookout quads and a wetland area (~700 acres) on Lookout Ranch. These areas will show up on the Modoc County IFL Map as “Other Land.” One notable area is the Whitehorse Flat Reservoir (~1,700 acres) which is an intermittent lake that was classified as Other Land due to grazing restrictions pursuant to a conservation easement between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Sierra Pacific Industries.

Water: These are year-round waterbodies that are greater than 40 acres in size and will show up on the Modoc County IFL Map as “Water.” Lower Roberts Reservoir (~540 acres) and Taylor Reservoir (~60 acres) were delineated on the Lookout quad. Ballard Reservoir (~90 acres) was delineated on the Canby quad.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2010 update, and reasons.)

Definitions:

Irrigated Farmland includes most irrigated crops grown in California. When combined with soil data, these farmed areas become the Important Farmland (IFL) categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance & Unique Farmland. Because of the nature of the IFL definitions, some irrigated uses, such as irrigated pastures or nurseries, may not be eligible for all three IFL categories.

Nonirrigated land uses include grazing areas, land used for dryland crop farming, and formerly irrigated land that has been left idle for three or more update cycles. These uses are frequently incorporated into county Farmland of Local Importance definitions.

Other Land includes a variety of miscellaneous uses, such as low density rural residential development, mining areas, vacant areas and nonagricultural vegetation. Confined animal agriculture facilities are mapped as Other Land unless incorporated into a county Farmland of Local Importance definition.

Urban Land includes residential, industrial, recreational, infrastructure and institutional uses.

For more on map categories, including Farmland of Local Importance definitions, visit the [FMMP web site](#).

LABOR ESTIMATE:

Time estimates for conducting the 2008 update.

Image interpretation, start date	August 24 th , 2009
Image interpretation, number of days	10
Ground truth dates	September 21-24, 2009
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	5

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>