

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

2008 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Nevada

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	Digital Globe Inc.
Acquisition date	September 2008
Data description	True color mosaic, 1 foot resolution
Coverage gaps	Alleghany quad
Additional imagery used	USGS Landsat, September 2008, color infrared scene, 30 meter resolution

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)

None.

Personal Contacts

None.

Websites Used for Reference

Sierra College-Nevada County Campus

<http://www.sierracollege.edu/aboutus/capitalProjects/G/documents/EIR%20Supplement.pdf>

Loma Rica Ranch

<http://www.lomaricaranch.com/farm.php>

Google Maps, Street View

<http://maps.google.com/>

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 significant conversions of irrigated farmland to Urban Land this update.	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	26 changes
<p>New homes were added in the Grass Valley (~10 acres), Alta Sierra (~10 acres), and Nevada City (~10 acres) areas. Grass Valley also saw the addition of approximately 30 acres of new commercial and office buildings, including the Hills Flat Lumber Company, DeMartini RV Sales, and the Hospice of the Foothills. Finally, soccer fields were added on the Sierra College Campus in Grass Valley (~5 acres) along with a Public Safety Training Facility (~5 acres).</p> <p>A further cause of urbanization was the increased density of existing rural residential areas and the use of improved digital imagery to delineate these areas on the Grass Valley (~140 acres), Lake Combie (~55 acres), Nevada City (~25 acres), and Rough and Ready (~15 acres) quads.</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	42 changes
<p>Irrigated pasture having not been irrigated for three or more update cycles was the primary cause of conversion to nonirrigated land uses. These areas will be converted to Farmland of Local Importance or Grazing Land, depending upon if they meet criteria contained in the Farmland of Local Importance definition such as if they are areas of improved dryland pasture, contain high-quality soils or are enrolled in the Williamson Act. The majority of these areas qualified as improved dryland pasture and were converted to Farmland of Local Importance.</p> <p>The largest areas of conversion occurred on the French Corral (~560 acres), Rough and Ready (~380 acres), Nevada City (~180 acres), and Wolf (~140 acres) quads.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	11 changes
Conversions of irrigated farmland to Other Land were primarily due to the use of improved digital imagery to delineate areas of low density housing throughout the county.	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	13 changes
Conversions to irrigated farmland were primarily due to the identification of small vineyards and irrigated pastures. One exception to this was the Loma Rica Organic Farm (~10 acres) that contained orchards and row crops. Many of these changes may be attributable simply to the use of improved digital imagery that allowed us to delineate these small areas of irrigated farmland. The majority of these changes were around 10 acres in size.	
Unusual Changes	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2008 update.)	
<u>Grazing Land to Other Land:</u> These changes encompassed approximately 1,300 acres throughout the county and were primarily due to the use of improved digital imagery to delineate low density housing.	

Urban Land to Other Land: These changes were primarily due to the use of improved digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries.

Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land: These conversions were the result of areas of improved dryland pasture being converted to Grazing Land due to a history of tracking land use at the sites for multiple updates, improved digital imagery, and site visits.

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	January 6, 2010
Image interpretation, number of days	6
Ground truth dates	February 1-3, 2010
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	3

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