

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

2014 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Modoc

FIELD MAPPER(S): Andrew McLeod

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP)
Acquisition date: Summer 2014
Data description: True color mosaic, 1 meter resolution
Coverage gaps: None
Additional imagery used: None

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2014 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2012 maps)
None
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps
GIS Data Used for Reference
Modoc County Base Map California City Boundary Layer

2012-2014 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
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There were no significant conversions from irrigated farmland to Urban Land this update.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	2 changes
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The most significant change from nonirrigated land to Urban Land occurred approximately 4 miles northeast of Alturas, with the construction of new homes increasing the density of an existing small development and resulting in a change of approximately 15 acres.

**Conversions from Irrigated Farmland
aside from urbanization**

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	133 changes
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Conversions in this category were either due to irrigated farmland or irrigated pasture having been fallow for three or more update cycles or to the production of nonirrigated grain crops for three updates on formerly irrigated land. The largest such change took place on the Lake City quad with approximately 590 acres of contiguous fields converted to nonirrigated use. The largest conversions from irrigated farmland to nonirrigated land included approximately 330 acres on the Lauer Reservoir quad, approximately 275 acres on the Snake Lake quad and approximately 260 acres on the Cedarville quad. Changes of approximately 150 acres occurred on the Willow Ranch, Mahogany Ridge, Alturas, Leonards Hot Springs and Canby quads. The Fort Bidwell quad saw a pair of changes, each approximately 120 acres in size. There were numerous smaller changes throughout the county.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	8 changes
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These changes were generally the result of land left fallow for three update cycles that was not suited to grazing. The largest such change was located in the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge and was approximately 100 acres.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	69 changes
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The largest cluster of conversions to irrigated farmland and irrigated pasture this update occurred on the Adin quad with new crops accounting for changes of approximately 210 acres and 150 acres, while an area of new irrigated pasture covered approximately 240 acres. Elsewhere in the county, noteworthy changes to irrigated farmland included approximately 310 acres on the Infernal Caverns quad, 240 acres on the Cedarville quad, 180 acres on the Timbered Canyon quad and 150 acres on the Halls Canyon quad. The largest conversion from nonirrigated to irrigated pasture this update occurred on the Washington Mtn. quad, with a change of approximately 190 acres.

Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2014 update.)

There were approximately 430 acres of change involving the conversion of irrigated pasture to irrigated cropland, located on the Eagleville quad. This change was the result of clear imagery of harvesting throughout the area, with irrigation continuing.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2016 update, and reasons.)

There was substantial new fallowing of irrigated pastures along Rattlesnake Creek, west of Alturas, both north and south of CA-299. This area should be watched closely for further fallowing or renewed irrigation.

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 2014 update.

Image interpretation, start date: 6/17/2016
Image interpretation, number of days: 8
Ground truth dates: August 16-18, 2016
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 4

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>