

Timber and Trash: A Look at Natural Resources for Earth Month

This month, the Center for Economic Development selected two maps featuring important aspects of natural resource management in California. The first map examines timber as a percentage of all natural resources and agricultural production in each county for 2012. The second map pin-points waste disposal sites by facility type throughout the state.

According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service for 2012, timber accounts for only 0.5 percent of all natural resource and agricultural production in the state of California. For the North State, however, timber holds a greater importance – accounting for 3.4 percent of all natural resource and agricultural production. The county with the highest percentage of its natural resource production in timber is located within our region – in Trinity County, timber accounts for 48.7 percent of all natural resource and agricultural production. In Plumas County, timber production accounts for 35.6 percent of its natural resource and agricultural production, making it the second highest in the state as well our region. In fact, three of the top five timber producing counties in the state are located in the CSU, Chico Service Region. It's important to note that many counties did not report any data due to a lack of harvestable timber availability.

CalRecycle's Solid Waste Information System (SWIS) is a database which provides information on waste disposal sites throughout the state of California. The second map for this month uses this information to provide a look into 196 waste disposal sites throughout the state. By far, the most common facility type is solid waste and transfer facilities, with 144 total sites. Of these, 12 sites are located in the CSU, Chico Service Region. All 20 of the state's composting facilities are based entirely in the Bay Area and southern region of the state. Of the 16 industrial or toxic waste facilities located in California, 3 can be found within the CSU, Chico Service Region. The majority of the 13 chipping and grinding facilities are located in the southern part of the state, with none located in the CSU, Chico Service Region. Overall, the CSU, Chico Service Region has a high number of solid waste and transfer facilities but relatively fewer specialized disposal sites compared to other parts of the state.

The timber as a percentage of all natural resource and agricultural production map shows how vital timber production is for many northern California communities. The waste disposal sites by facility type map shows how communities throughout the state are affected by waste management. Beyond allowing us to visualize how waste might be moving from our State's larger population centers to more rural disposal sites, it also suggests a lack of options for specialized sites such as green waste or chipping and grinding facilities within our region.

Sources:

[CalRecycle: Solid Waste Information System \(SWIS\)](#)

[USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service 2012](#)