

California gnatcatcher and a variety of other species benefit from conservation of the remaining patches of intact habitat on the western slopes and mesas of the Santa Ana Mountains.

Murrieta Creek Constrained Linkage. Murrieta Creek supports wetland species and provides habitat connectivity from Cole Creek to the confluence with Temecula Creek, Pechanga Creek, and the Santa Margarita River. Murrieta Creek also is key to supporting wildlife movement along the lower reaches of Warm Springs, Tualota, and Santa Gertrudis Creeks.

Temecula Creek Constrained Linkage. The conservation and enhancement of riparian habitat within the creek would support several sensitive species and provide for wildlife movement between the Santa Ana Mountains and Vail Lake Core Area. Species of special interest include two-striped garter snake, cactus wren, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, yellow warbler, Los Angeles pocket mouse, coyote, bobcat, mountain lion, arroyo chub, and potentially arroyo toad.

Pechanga Creek Constrained Linkage. Pechanga Creek provides habitat for wetland species and functions as a wildlife corridor between Aqua Tibia Wilderness and the Santa Ana Mountains.

Tenaja Linkage. The Tenaja linkage is a potential conservation area, which would conserve mountainous areas for large mammal movement, such as mountain lion, between the Santa Ana and the Palomar mountain ranges. Key planning species are arroyo chub, two-striped garter snake, California gnatcatcher, coyote, bobcat, and mountain lion.

Sedco Hills/Wildomar Linkage. This habitat linkage is critical for California gnatcatcher conservation. Other species of interest are Bell's sage sparrow, rufous-crowned sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, golden eagle (nesting), northern harrier, loggerhead shrike, white-faced ibis, Stephen's kangaroo rat, black-tailed jackrabbit, San Diego pocket mouse, desert wood rat, bobcat, southern grasshopper mouse, California newt, San Diego horned lizard, spadefoot toad, red-diamond rattlesnake, orange-throated whiptail, Quino checkerspot butterfly, Riverside fairy shrimp, rainbow manzanita, and long-spined spine flower.

3.11.12.3 Existing Public/Quasi-Public Lands

Salt Creek Constrained Linkage. Salt Creek is maintained by RCFCWD and is an earthen diked channel barely within the WT Corridor. Willow and Domino soil series were mapped in the floodplain of Salt Creek. Narrow endemic plant species may still occur within the flood control channel. Species that potentially occur within the Salt Creek drainage from the San Jacinto Valley to Domenigoni Valley are San Jacinto Valley crownscale, Davidson's saltscale, Parish's brittlescale, little mousetail, California orcutt grass, and spreading navarretia. The lower reaches of Santa Gertrudis and Murrieta Creeks are also maintained by RCFCWD.

AD161. Conservation easements and preserve areas within Assessment District 161 (AD161) are Johnson Ranch Preserve, UCR property, Murrieta Springs, and Allison Ranch parcels. Preserved lands within individual development projects include Buie Communities, Obed Properties, Silverhawk, Lincoln Ranch, Roripaugh Ranch, and Murrieta Valley Unified School District. Listed species covered under the HCP are California orcutt grass, Riverside fairy shrimp, Quino checkerspot butterfly, and California gnatcatcher. The HCP will also provide habitat for other species of special interest. These species are Palmer's grapplinghook, long-spined spineflower, western spadefoot toad, San Diego horned lizard, orange-throated whiptail, rufous-crowned sparrow, Bell's sage sparrow, peregrine falcon, Cooper's hawk, golden eagle, merlin, and sharp-shinned hawk.

Southwestern Riverside County Multiple Species Reserve. The reserve includes lands surrounding Lake Skinner and Diamond Valley Reservoir. Key planning species are bobcat, coyote, mountain lion, California gnatcatcher, and Quino checkerspot butterfly. Additional land acquisitions south and east of the reserve would provide for habitat connectivity from French Valley through Sage to Wilson Creek core habitat areas.