

4.6 Recreation: Parklands, Recreation Areas, and Wildlife Refuges

The existing and planned parklands, wildlife refuges, recreation areas, and other public lands within the Winchester to Temecula Corridor (WT Corridor) were listed and discussed in Section 3.6.

4.6.1 Methodology for Impact Evaluation

Recreational resources consisting of parks, reserves, and trails were identified through research and grouped according to jurisdiction. Recreation and wildlife resources located within the study area were identified using several geographic information system (GIS) databases, including an existing land use database from the RCIP Existing Setting Report (LSA, 1999) and the Thomas Brothers Map Guide GIS database (2001). In addition, parklands, schools, and recreational trails within individual incorporated cities were identified using City General Plans and the County Regional Trails Map. Since public school playgrounds may also serve public recreational purposes, existing and planned public school sites also were evaluated. Recreation facilities within the study area were mapped, specifically, resources within the bandwidth for each alternative and within one-half mile of each alternative. GIS mapping provided graphic representations of the alternatives within each corridor, with maps of each resource compared to the proposed alternatives. Each resource was evaluated based on its distance from the alignment. Based on this evaluation, a reduced number of resources was identified for assessment.

Direct impacts include direct effects resulting from acquisition of all or a portion of the property where a recreation resource or wildlife refuge is located. Proximity effects relate to changes in the ambient environment that affect the quality of the experience of users of the resource and include increased noise, degraded air quality, visual intrusion, or access restrictions. Potential impacts to these resources are discussed below. Properties found to be within the boundaries of an alternative (within the bandwidth) or within a 0.4 km (0.25 mi) buffer area on either side of the alternative boundary (outside of the bandwidth) may be directly or indirectly impacted.

4.6.2 Impacts

The recreation and wildlife refuge lands within each alternative are summarized in Table 4.6.A. Information regarding the trails within each bandwidth is provided in Table 3.6.C and Figure 3.6.2.

4.6.2.1 No Build Alternative (General Plan Build Out)

The No Build Alternative would not establish a new WT transportation route and, therefore, would have no impact to existing or planned parklands, wildlife refuges, or recreation areas.