

Resource	Section 4(f)/National Register Eligibility	Use?
Archaeological Site (RIV 1077)	May be eligible	Possible. Located within bandwidth of Alternative 3
Historic Site (RIV 4707H)	May be eligible	Possible. Located within bandwidth of Alternative 5a

5.3.3 Wildlife Refuge Resources

A portion of the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve south of Temecula is within the bandwidth of Alternative 5b. A small portion of the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve is within the bandwidth for Alternative 5b. The SMER is a field station of San Diego State University, and encompasses 1,759 ha (4,344 ac). A portion of the bandwidth for improvements to SR-79/Rainbow Canyon Road at the very southern end of the WT study area encroaches onto the SMER. The acquisition of needed right-of-way from the eastern side of the existing roadway would avoid impacts to the SMER.

Table 5.3.D - Wildlife Refuge Resource

Resource	Section 4(f) Eligibility	Use?
Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve	Yes. Publicly owned area for biological resource	Yes. Alternative 5b bandwidth includes a portion of reserve

Riverside County, along with other local governments and landowners, has participated in regional planning efforts, including the development of the proposed MSHCP, to reduce and mitigate the impacts of development on sensitive species and their habitats. The MSHCP will result in the preservation of up to 153,000 ac of habitat. These efforts have been coordinated with regional planning of development to meet housing and employment goals, and the infrastructure needed to support those goals. USFWS and CDFG acknowledge that they have reviewed the location of planned roadways with regard to their effects on the habitats of identified species and on criteria habitat. The local governments acknowledge that the coordinated regional planning efforts include the cooperative planning of public parks and open space and transportation improvements set forth in the County's proposed General Plan, including the Circulation Element and County Master Plan of Arterial Highways, in a manner consistent with the cooperative planning provision of Section 4(f) (re-codified 49 U.S.C. 303) of the Department of Transportation Act and associated regulations. The MSHCP is integrated with regional open space planning that has already taken place to identify and ensure appropriate mitigation for impacts on fish and wildlife and to promote the conservation of broad-based natural communities and species diversity. Therefore, while the MSHCP is a wildlife management resource, the requirements of Section 4(f) do not apply to the subsequent highway construction on reserved right-of-way previously (or jointly) planned (FHWA Section 4(f) Policy Paper). Also, most of the lands identified for inclusion in the MSHCP that are not already preserve areas are currently privately owned, and as such do not warrant Section 4(f) status.