

3.0 Conservation Planning Process/ Description And Area Plan Criteria of the MSHCP Conservation Area



3.3 AREA PLANS

3.3.1 Introduction to Area Plans

As discussed in *Section 3.1* of this document, the MSHCP is a criteria-based plan and identification of planning units on which to base the Criteria is necessary for such a criteria-based plan. The County's General Plan Area Plan boundaries were selected to provide the broad organizational framework for the Criteria (*Figure 2-5*). While these boundaries are not biologically based, they related specifically to County planning boundaries and to the boundaries of incorporated Cities within the MSHCP Plan Area. The Area Plan framework for the criteria-based approach was selected to structure implementation strategies around established planning boundaries.

Methods

For each Area Plan within the MSHCP Plan Area, the following methodology was applied. The approach is primarily map-based and relies on existing data compiled for species and Vegetation Communities as well as conservation biology principles. Information obtained during the Habitat assessment workshops, additional communications with the Wildlife Agencies and local biologists regarding biological issues and conservation priorities, and specific project information obtained from various sources were also used in the Criteria development process.

The first steps in preparation of the Area Plan Criteria involved identification of: (1) Planning Species; (2) Biological Issues and Considerations; and (3) reserve configuration and management issues. For each Area Plan, several wildlife and plant species known to occur within the Area Plan were selected as Planning Species to provide guidance for Conceptual Reserve Design. Listed species and species with specific Habitat requirements, such as Bell's sage sparrow (requires large patches of undisturbed Habitat) or bobcat (requires ability for movement with less tolerance to human presence than other species such as coyote), were generally selected as Planning Species. Biological Issues and Considerations, such as maintenance of key Habitat blocks or Linkages, were also identified for each Area Plan. The Planning Species and Biological Issues and Considerations for each Area Plan Subunit are identified in the Area Plan texts included in *Sections 3.3.2* through *3.3.17* of this document. Reserve configuration issues were generally addressed on a Plan Area wide basis and are incorporated in the Description of the MSHCP Conservation Area in *Section 3.2* and

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in the discussion of cores and linkages in that section. In each Area Plan text, applicable cores and linkages are identified. Other general reserve configuration and management issues were also considered as appropriate for each Area Plan including the following:

- representativeness of the applicable Bioregion(s) within the particular Area Plan;
- representativeness of sensitive upland and wetland Vegetation Communities within the particular Area Plan;
- maintenance of Habitat contiguity;
- maintenance of large Habitat blocks;
- maintenance of ridgelines and riparian areas for movement of mammals such as bobcats or mountain lions as appropriate;
- minimization of Edge Effects;
- consideration of "directional" influences such as migration/dispersal patterns, rain, wind, fire;
- consideration of patch sizes and dispersal patches for Planning Species as appropriate.

For each Area Plan, a Conceptual Reserve Design was roughly sketched onto a vegetation map with Planning Species occurrence data and Biological Issues and Considerations highlighted. The concept was refined based on constraints and opportunities as represented on existing and planning land use maps, aerial photographs, topography maps, parcel maps, existing land ownership maps and edge area maps. Consideration was given to adjacent Area Plans to provide for appropriate edge matching and appropriate connectivity across planning and jurisdictional boundaries. The Conceptual Reserve Design developed during this process was used primarily for the purposes of drafting Area Plan Criteria, developing target acreage ranges for Area Plan Subunits, and developing quantitative data for the MSHCP species analyses. The conceptual designs for each Area Plan do not represent the only possible MSHCP Conservation Area that may be assembled within a particular Area Plan during the long-term MSHCP implementation process. Flexibility is incorporated in the target acreage ranges and the Area Plan Criteria to allow Reserve Assembly to be informed by project-specific data and planning as part of the MSHCP implementation process. In addition, a Criteria Refinement Process is incorporated in the MSHCP as discussed in *Section 6.5* of this document.

The following specific map resources were used in development of the Conceptual Reserve Design for each Area Plan:

- vegetation map (1"= 3,000' scale)

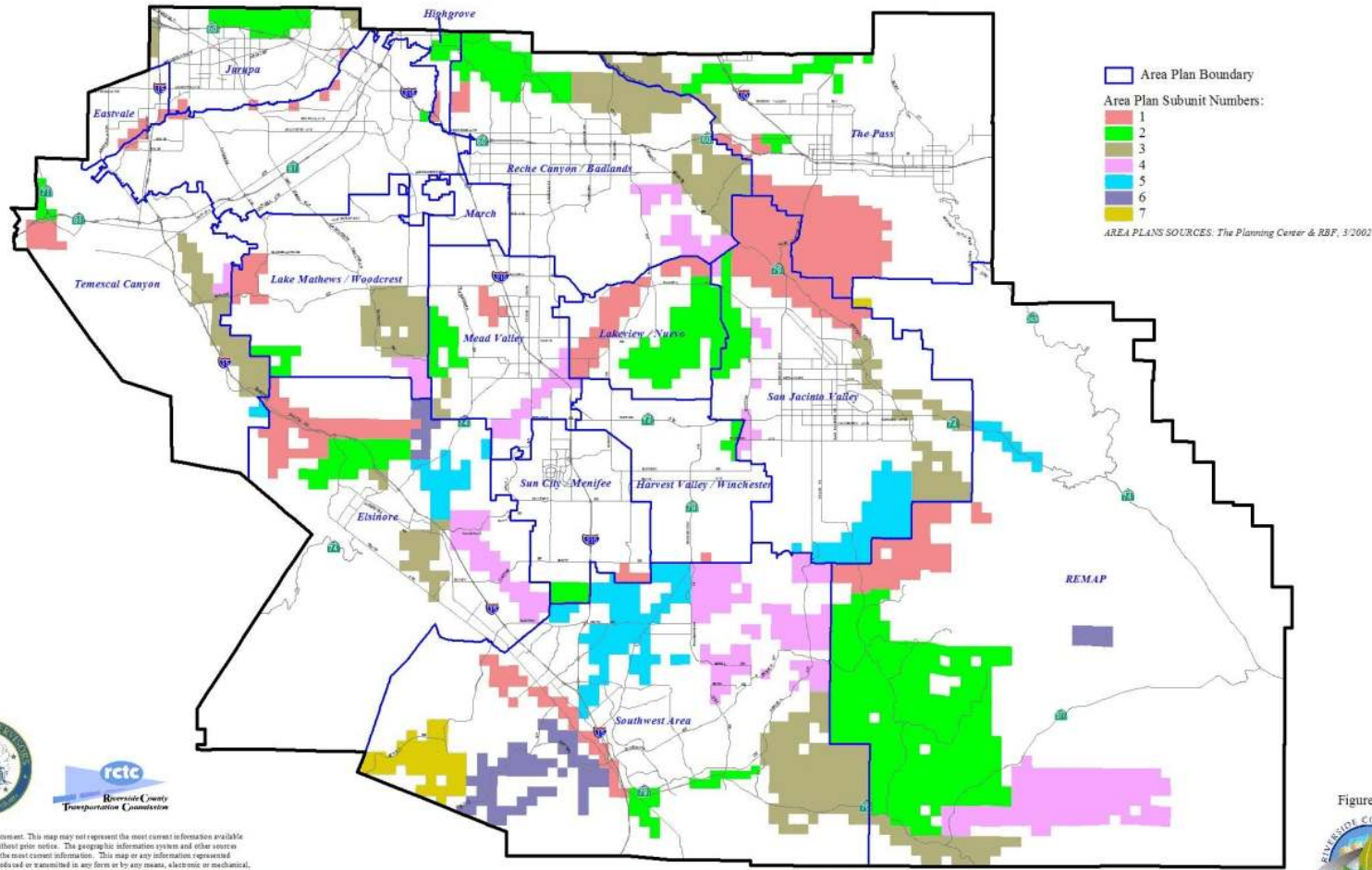
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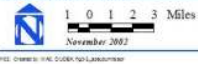
- map of Planning Species occurrences (1" = 3,000' scale)
- coastal sage scrub habitat quality map (1" = 3,000' scale)
- November 2000 DOQQs (infrared)
- soils map (Knecht 1971)
- edge area map (DUDEK 2000)
- Bioregions map (DUDEK 2000)
- topography map (USGS 7.5 minute quads)
- parcel map (1" = 3,000' scale acetate overlay)
- existing land ownership/land status map (1" = 3,000' scale acetate overlay)
- MSHCP Alternative 1 schematic (1" = 3,000' scale acetate overlay)
- General Plan Alternative 3 for planned land uses (1" = 3,000' scale acetate overlay)
- open space, trails and critical circulation study map
- site-specific mapping information with varying levels of detail and precision obtained from a variety of sources.

USGS quarter sections (*i.e.*, approximate 160-acre Cells) were then overlain on the Conceptual Reserve Design such that each Cell is an area in real space with a legal description but without being tied to a specific County assessor's legal parcel. Cells were then either aggregated into a Cell Group or retained as individual Cells depending upon the level of conservation and configuration of the particular Cell or Cell Group. Cells with conservation goals anticipated to be less than 5% were either eliminated or aggregated into a Cell Group. Cells with conservation goals anticipated to be greater than 90% were aggregated into a Cell Group. Cells and Cell Groups were then aggregated into Area Plan Subunits and each Area Plan Subunit was named and numbered. Variable target acreage ranges, Planning Species and Biological Issues and Considerations were identified for each Area Plan Subunit. The variable target acreage ranges were generally based on the difference between the area of the Criteria Area for the particular Subunit and the area of the Conceptual Reserve Design for the particular Subunit. *Figure 3-3* and *Table 3-2* depict the locations of the Area Plan Subunits and provide a summary of the target acreage ranges for each Subunit. The names of the Subunits, and Planning Species and Biological Issues and Considerations for each Subunit are presented in the individual Area Plan texts in *Sections 3.3.2* through *3.3.17* of this document.

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This map is a draft document. This map may not represent the most current information available and may be revised without prior notice. The geographic information system and other sources should be queried for the most current information. This map or any information represented on it, shall not be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording.



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Area Plans and Subunits



3-112

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TABLE 3-2
TARGET ACREAGE RANGES BY AREA PLAN SUBUNIT

SUBUNIT	Range of Acres within Additional Reserve Lands		
	Low	Midpoint	High
Cities of Riverside and Norco			
SU1 - Santa Ana River South	75	140	200
SU2 - Sycamore Canyon West	15	25	40
Subtotal within Area Plan	90	165*	240
Eastvale Area Plan			
SU1 - Santa Ana River Central	145	220	290
Subtotal within Area Plan	145	220*	290
Elsinore Area Plan			
SU1 - Estelle Mountain/Indian Canyon	4,100	5,065	6,030
SU2 - Alberhill	1,760	2,385	3,010
SU3 - Elsinore	925	1,370	1,815
SU4 - Sedco Hills	2,415	3,130	3,845
SU5 - Ramsgate	1,645	2,090	2,535
SU6 - Steele Peak	855	1,070	1,280
Subtotal within Area Plan	11,700	15,110*	18,515
Harvest Valley Winchester Area Plan			
SU1 - French Valley/Diamond Valley Lake Connection	130	135	145
SU2 - Hemet Vernal Pool West	300	380	460
Subtotal within Area Plan	430	515*	605
Highgrove Area Plan			
SU1 - Sycamore Canyon/Box Springs Central	95	140	180
SU2 - Springbrook Wash North	250	370	495
Subtotal within Area Plan	345	510*	675
Jurupa Area Plan			
SU1 - Santa Ana River North	135	190	245
SU2 - Jurupa Mountains	445	750	1,055
SU3 - Delhi Sands Area	310	440	570
Subtotal within Area Plan	890	1,380*	1,870

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TABLE 3-2 (Cont.)
TARGET ACREAGE RANGES BY AREA PLAN SUBUNIT

SUBUNIT	Range of Acres within Additional Reserve Lands		
	Low	Midpoint	High
Lake Mathews / Woodcrest Area Plan			
SU1 - Lake Mathews East	1,140	1,410	1,680
SU2 - Dawson Canyon	815	950	1,090
SU3 - Gavilan Hills West	1,175	1,825	2,475
SU4 - Good Hope West	85	155	225
Subtotal within Area Plan	3,215	4,340*	5,470
Lakeview / Nuevo Area Plan			
SU1 - San Jacinto River, Middle Reach	2,605	3,315	4,025
SU2 - Lakeview Mountains West	4,045	5,130	6,210
Subtotal within Area Plan	6,650	8,445*	10,235
Mead Valley Area Plan			
SU1 - Motte/Rimrock	315	455	590
SU2 - Gavilan Hills East	485	750	1,015
SU3 - Good Hope East	290	390	495
SU4 - San Jacinto River Lower	795	1,165	1,535
Subtotal within Area Plan	1,885	2,760*	3,635
Riverside Extended Mountain Area Plan			
SU1 - Cactus Valley	6,020	6,805	7,590
SU2 - Wilson Valley/Sage	26,205	30,815	35,425
SU3 - Temecula & Cottonwood Creeks	1,480	2,115	2,745
SU4 - Tule Creek/Anza Valley	6,415	8,515	10,615
SU5 - Upper San Jacinto River	750	985	1,220
SU6 - Tripp Flats	520	680	840
SU7 - Southern Badlands East	10	20	35
Subtotal within Area Plan	41,400	49,935*	58,470

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TABLE 3-2 (Cont.)
TARGET ACREAGE RANGES BY AREA PLAN SUBUNIT

SUBUNIT	Range of Acres within Additional Reserve Lands		
	Low	Midpoint	High
Reche Canyon / Badlands Area Plan			
SU1 - Box Springs East	175	265	350
SU2 - Reche Canyon	1,215	1,915	2,615
SU3 - Badlands North	8,270	9,580	10,895
SU4 - San Jacinto Wildlife Area/Mystic Lake	860	1,305	1,750
Subtotal within Area Plan	10,520	13,065*	15,610
San Jacinto Valley Area Plan			
SU1 - Gilman Springs	3,540	5,030	6,520
SU2 - Lakeview Mountains East	1,305	1,730	2,150
SU3 - Upper San Jacinto River/Bautista Creek	2,085	2,980	3,875
SU4 - Hemet Vernal Pool Areas East	940	1,190	1,445
SU5 - Mica Butte	3,670	4,570	5,475
Subtotal within Area Plan	11,540	15,500*	19,465
Southwest Area Plan			
SU1 - Murrieta Creek	640	1,055	1,465
SU2 - Temecula & Pechanga Creeks	365	600	840
SU3 - Vail Lake	10,065	11,500	12,930
SU4 - Cactus Valley/SWRC-MSR/Johnson Ranch	4,395	6,180	7,970
SU5 - French Valley/Lower Sedco Hills	4,360	5,880	7,395
SU6 - Santa Rosa Plateau	1,285	2,100	2,915
SU7 - Tenaja Corridor	1,390	2,115	2,845
Subtotal within Area Plan	22,500	29,430*	36,360
Sun City / Menifee Valley Area Plan			
SU1 - Warm Springs Creek/French Valley Area	395	480	565
SU2 - Lower Sedco Hills	725	875	1,020
Subtotal within Area Plan	1,120	1,355*	1,585

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TABLE 3-2 (Cont.)
TARGET ACREAGE RANGES BY AREA PLAN SUBUNIT

SUBUNIT	Range of Acres within Additional Reserve Lands		
	Low	Midpoint	High
Temescal Canyon Area Plan			
SU1 - Santa Ana River/Santa Ana Mountains	250	400	550
SU2 - Prado Basin	200	300	395
SU3 - Temescal Wash West	2,790	3,600	4,415
SU4 - La Sierra Hills/Lake Mathews West	210	285	355
SU5 - Temescal/Santa Ana Mountains	35	60	85
Subtotal within Area Plan	3,485	4,645*	5,800
The Pass Area Plan			
SU1 - Potrero/Badlands	5,570	7,420	9,275
SU2 - Badlands/San Bernardino National Forest	1,105	1,650	2,195
SU3 - San Timoteo Creek	1,865	2,160	2,455
Subtotal within Area Plan	8,540	11,230*	13,925

* Totals include acreage adjustments for the following Covered Activities in the Criteria Area:

- Trails: 810-910 acres
- Planned roadways: 2,965-4,050 acres

Total is not exact due to rounding.

The total Additional Reserve Lands will be 153,000 acres.

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Each Cell was assigned a quadrat cell identification number and each Cell Group was assigned a letter code. For each Cell or Cell Group, Criteria were drafted to provide an explicit description of the areas to be conserved and Criteria were recorded on a matrix for each Area Plan. The individual Area Plan matrices are included with the Area Plan texts in *Sections 3.3.2 through 3.3.17* of this document. The Criteria for each Cell or Cell Group provide: (1) a statement of the core and linkage features within the particular Cell or Cell Group toward which Reserve Assembly will be directed; (2) a statement of the focus of Habitat conservation within the particular Cell or Cell Group; (3) a statement of the reserve configuration or connectivity focus for the particular Cell or Cell Group; and (4) a statement of the geographic location and percentage of conservation desired within the particular Cell or Cell Group. For example, the Criteria for a particular Cell might be: "Conservation within this Cell will contribute to assembly of Proposed Core 6. Conservation within this Cell will focus on coastal sage scrub and chaparral. Conservation within this Cell will be connected to proposed conservation within Cell 1234 to the west. Conservation within this Cell will occur in the northern 30%-40% of the Cell." It should be noted that the Criteria statements for Cells and Cell Groups are intended to be considered as a whole to guide Reserve Assembly; individual Criteria statements are not intended to be used as stand-alone guidance for Reserve Assembly. The Criteria are written with the intent that a "non-technical observer" could re-create the initial MSHCP Conservation Area concept for the particular Cell or Cell Group. In the Criteria matrices for the individual Area Plans, Cell Groups are listed first in letter order (A, B, C, D, etc.) with individual Cells in a Cell Group listed in numerical order, followed by individual Cells (not in a Cell Group) listed in numerical order.

Results

The Area Plan texts in the following *Sections 3.3.2 through 3.3.17* present the Results of the application of the Methodology described above. Implementation of the Reserve Assembly guidance incorporated in the MSHCP including the guidance provided in the descriptions of the MSHCP Conservation Area, the Cores and Linkages, the Area Plan Subunit Biological Issues and Considerations and Planning Species, and the Cell and Cell Group Criteria are intended to result in a MSHCP Conservation Area configuration that provides significant blocks of Habitat, minimizes internal fragmentation and Edge Effects, and maximizes the ratio of surface area to perimeter.

During the conservation planning process for the MSHCP, a number of projects have proceeded through the entitlement process and have sometimes been modified to be consistent with the draft

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MSHCP Core and Linkage guidelines, Area Plan Subunit Biological Issues and Considerations and Cell Criteria. Several of these projects have received local and/or state or federal approvals, but have not yet commenced construction. Future construction of these projects in accordance with the relevant approvals would be considered to be consistent with the MSHCP guidelines and Criteria. Projects known to fall within this category are listed below.

Project Name*	Area Plan/Area Plan Subunit	Core or Linkage Designation	Cell(s) or Cell Group(s)	Acreage Conserved (acres)	Approval Citation
TR30052	SWAP/SU2	Proposed Constrained Linkage 24	7274, 7275	13.9	Board of Supervisors 9/25/01
SP284 (Planning Area #1) APNs: 467-240-044, 047 and 049	SWAP/SU5	Proposed Constrained Linkage 18	5572	17.7	Board of Supervisors 3/13/01
SP310	SWAP/SU 4 and 5	Proposed Constrained Linkage 17	5067, 5068, 5170, 5169	54.9	Board of Supervisors 12/18/01
TR29114/PM30239	SWAP/SU5	Proposed Constrained Linkage 18	5477	28.5	Board of Supervisors 12/11/01
TR29484/GPA521	SWAP/SU5	Proposed Core 2	5570	12.4	Board of Supervisors 8/28/01
PM29704	Sun City/Menifee/ SU1	Proposed Core 2	5066	9.0	Board of Supervisors 4/17/02
PM29228	Sun City/Menifee SU1	Proposed Core 2	5165	65.0	Board of Supervisors 7/5/01
SP323	Highgrove SU2	Proposed Linkage 4 and Existing Noncontiguous Habitat Block A	97, 101, 146, 148, 197	251.4	Board of Supervisors 4/10/01

***Note:** *The MSHCP Conservation Area lands contributed by the projects listed above were negotiated in the course of Interim Project Review (IPR). IPR used the available MSHCP information at the time and recognized that the information that gave rise to the Cells noted above and in the Draft MSHCP was still in an iterative state of refinement. In many instances, the Cells did not exist at the time of project negotiations.*

There are other projects that, while having used the recommendations of the IPR in their respective project designs and ultimate MSHCP contributions, are still being processed through the land use entitlement process and have not yet received final legislative approval. These projects are being evaluated against the best available MSHCP maps and information and Conservation acreages have been proposed and/or determined with the project applicants.