

4.0 Assembling the MSHCP Conservation Area



➤ Mitigation for Federal and State Projects

Consistent with existing law, federal and state agencies will mitigate the impacts of their projects within the MSHCP Plan Area through the purchase and/or protection of Habitat within the Criteria Area. Potential federal and state projects that would require mitigation include state and federal highways and off-road vehicle recreation areas.

4.5 ACTIONS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Riverside County's previous experience with Conservation planning has convinced local residents and elected officials that, to be successful, responsibility for implementing the Plan must be broad based. Local jurisdictions and stakeholders recognize their responsibility in planning for the region's future and in addressing species Conservation through their funding of a proportionate fair share of the MSHCP costs. The MSHCP balances the requirements of species Conservation with the protection of private property rights.

The MSHCP's strategy for assembly of the MSHCP Conservation Area takes a balanced approach; it allocates responsibility for assembling the MSHCP Conservation Area equitably among the County of Riverside, the 14 cities in Western Riverside County, and private and public entities engaged in construction activities that potentially impact Covered Species. It sets forth the obligations of local projects, both public and private, to mitigate for their impacts on species. The implementation strategy relies heavily on incentives to encourage private property owners to conserve their lands. Where incentives are not sufficient, Conservation will require the purchase of properties from willing sellers. The local permittees will carry out the following actions:

- Contribute approximately 64,330 acres of existing locally owned Public/Quasi-Public Lands to permanent Habitat Conservation and management
- Acquire approximately 56,000 acres of privately owned Habitat lands from willing sellers to be incorporated into the MSHCP Conservation Area
- Contribute approximately 41,000 acres for permanent Habitat Conservation and management by working with proposed Development projects; using incentives and existing local, state, and federal regulations; and identifying physical and topographical constraints to Conservation
- Manage and monitor the local share of the MSHCP Conservation Area.