

# **A. MSHCP Conservation Area Description**

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More than 50% of five of the vegetation types would be conserved under the MSHCP: riparian, playas and vernal pools, Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub, juniper woodland, and meadows and marshes. The remaining four - chaparral, grassland, coastal sage scrub, and woodlands and forests - would have less than 50% conservation. Overall Conservation in the Bioregion would be 24%. However, excluding Agriculture and developed, overall conservation is 41%.

All of the natural vegetation types would be slightly to moderately over-represented in the MSHCP Conservation Area. Coastal sage scrub shows the largest relative increase, comprising 30% of the MSHCP Conservation Area compared to 16% of the Bioregion. The over-representation of natural vegetation in the MSHCP Conservation Area mostly is a result of the low percentage of Agriculture and developed in the area.

### **3.3.4 San Jacinto Foothills Bioregion**

The San Jacinto Foothills Bioregion comprises 9% of the Plan Area and supports nine of the eleven generalized vegetation types within the area (*Table 8*). All of these types would be represented in the MSHCP Conservation Area.

Almost 50% of the Bioregion is chaparral, and chaparral and coastal sage scrub together comprise about 73% of the cover in the Bioregion. Grassland accounts for about 11% of the cover. As would be expected in this generally rugged and rural area, Agriculture and developed only account for about 9% of the total cover.

Overall conservation levels of natural Vegetation Communities in this Bioregion are high. With the exception of woodland and forest, the MSHCP Conservation Area includes more than 50% of each vegetation type. Overall conservation is 65%. Excluding Agriculture and developed, overall conservation is 68%.

Representativeness of the natural vegetation types in the MSHCP Conservation Area ranges from slightly under-represented (grassland at -2.5%) to slightly over-represented (coastal sage scrub at +3.5%), but generally representation in the MSHCP Conservation Area is consistent with representation in the Bioregion.

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**TABLE 8  
CONSERVATION OF VEGETATION COMMUNITIES  
IN THE SAN JACINTO FOOTHILLS BIOREGION**

Vegetation Community	Additional Reserve Lands and Existing Public/Quasi-Public Lands		Bioregion		Percent Conserved under MSHCP	Change in Relative % Distribution
	Acres	Relative % Distribution	Acres	Relative % Distribution		
Chaparral	36,324	50.3	54,220	48.5	67.0	1.8
Coastal Sage Scrub	20,330	28.1	27,497	24.6	73.9	3.5
Grassland	6,142	8.5	12,264	11.0	50.1	-2.5
Desert Scrubs	2,161	3.0	2,227	2.0	97.0	1.0
Agricultural Land	1,790	2.5	5,592	5.0	32.0	-2.5
Developed or Disturbed Land	1,417	2.0	4,155	3.7	34.1	-1.7
Riparian Scrub, Woodland, Forest	1,411	2.0	1,699	1.5	83.0	0.5
Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub	1,212	1.7	1,378	1.2	88.0	0.5
Woodlands and Forests	710	1.0	1,953	1.7	36.4	-0.7
Water	662	0.9	678	0.6	97.6	0.3
Meadows and Marshes	83	0.1	84	0.1	98.8	0.0
Peninsular Juniper Woodland and Scrub	2	0.0	2	0.0	100.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72,243</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>111,750</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>65%</b>	

### 3.3.5 San Jacinto Mountains Bioregion

The San Jacinto Mountains Bioregion comprises 15% of the Plan Area. Ten of the eleven generalized vegetation types are present in the San Jacinto Mountains Bioregion. All of these types are also represented within areas to be conserved under the MSHCP (*Table 9*).

Similar to the other montane Bioregions, the San Jacinto Mountains Bioregion is largely dominated by chaparral vegetation, with this type accounting for 68% of the cover. Montane coniferous forest and woodlands and forests are sub-dominant vegetation types in the Bioregion, covering about 23% of the area. In contrast, coastal sage scrub and grassland, which are large upland components in the lowland and foothill Bioregions, account for only 5% of the Bioregion. Also reflecting the natural landscape of this Bioregion, Agriculture and developed account for only 1.4% of the cover.