



Land Use Element, and those policies in the Water Quality section of the General Plan Multipurpose Open Space Element.



A major thrust of the multipurpose open space system is the preservation of components of the ecosystem and landscape that embody the historic character and habitat of the County, even though some areas have been impacted by man-made changes.



- RCIP Vision

## MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

Regional resource planning to protect individual species and habitats such as the Stephens Kangaroo Rat and Coastal Sage Scrub habitat has occurred in Riverside County for many years. Privately-owned reserves and publicly-owned land have served as habitat for many different species. This method of land and wildlife preservation proved to be piecemeal and disjointed, resulting in islands of reserve land without corridors for species migration and access. To address these issues of wildlife health and habitat sustainability, the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Program (MSHCP) has been developed. The MSHCP comprises a reserve system that encompasses core habitat, habitat linkages, and wildlife corridors outside of existing reserve areas and existing private and public reserve lands into a single comprehensive plan that can accommodate the needs of species and habitat in the present and future.

### MSHCP Program Description

The Endangered Species Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered species. Taking is defined as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect" listed species. "Harm" includes destruction of a listed species' habitat. The Wildlife Agencies have authority to regulate the "take" of threatened, endangered or otherwise sensitive species. The intent of the plan is for the Wildlife Agencies to grant a "take authorization" for otherwise lawful actions that may incidentally take or harm species or habitats outside of preserve areas, in exchange for supporting assembly of a coordinated reserve system. In addition to the conservation and management duties assigned to the County and other agencies, a property-owner initiated habitat evaluation and acquisition negotiation process has also been developed. This process applies to property which may be needed for inclusion in the MSHCP Reserve or subjected to other MSHCP criteria. In this area plan these properties are identified by subunit on Figure 7, Western Riverside County MSHCP Reserve Areas, and total more than 300 acres.

### Conservation Areas

Habitat lands in the Eastvale area lie primarily along the Santa Ana River. The river serves several habitat functions, including the accommodation of wildlife corridor movement. Though Eastvale is primarily an agricultural region with a strong existing open space character, increasing urbanization in the area will have significant long-term impacts on biological resources in the area, including habitat lands along the river.

The total target conservation acreage for Eastvale is more than 1,000 acres, 730 of which are existing public/quasi public lands. The remaining privately-owned land is encompassed within one conservation subunit as shown on Figure 7,



The Wildlife Agencies include The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)



The following species, covered under the MSHCP, may be found within the subunit of this Area Plan:

- southwestern willow flycatcher
- least Bell's vireo
- Santa Ana woolly-star
- loggerhead shrike
- bobcat
- Santa Ana sucker



Western Riverside County MSHCP Reserve Areas. This subunit is a critical portion of the criteria-based conservation plan for Eastvale. The general location and target conservation acreages for each subunit are listed below.

### Subunit 1: Santa Ana River - Central

Subunit 1 is located along the southern edge of Eastvale, within the Santa Ana River corridor. The target acreage range for new conservation on private lands within Subunit 1 is between 350 and 390 acres.

### Key Biological Issues



The habitat requirements of the listed species, combined with sound habitat management practices, have shaped the following policies, which apply to areas within identified subunits. These policies provide general conservation direction for the MSHCP reserve assembly process. Refer to the MSHCP Implementing Agreement for specific design criteria.

#### Policies:

- EAP 12.1 Conserve existing wetlands and wetlands functions and values in the Santa Ana River, with a focus on conserving existing habitats in the river.
- EAP 12.2 Provide for and maintain a continuous linkage along the Santa Ana River from the eastern boundary of the Eastvale Area Plan to Prado Basin and Chino Hills to the west.
- EAP 12.3 Conserve riparian scrub/woodlands/forests in the Santa Ana River for the benefit of southwestern willow flycatcher and least Bell's vireo.
- EAP 12.4 Conserve alluvial fan sage scrub associated with the Santa Ana River to support Santa Ana woolly-star.
- EAP 12.5 Conserve foraging and breeding habitats occurring in grasslands adjacent to the Santa Ana River to support sensitive bird species such as loggerhead shrike.