



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

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 this "take". The intent of the MSHCP 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. Therefore, the MSHCP will allow the County to "take" plant and wildlife species within identified areas through the local land use planning process. 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.

Conservation Areas

The total target conservation acreage for the Elsinore Area Plan is more than 71,140 acres, 55,540 of which are existing public/quasi public lands. The remaining privately owned land has been broken into six conservation subunits, as shown on Figure 7, Western Riverside County MSHCP Reserve Areas. These subunits are a critical portion of the criteria-based conservation plan for the Elsinore Area Plan. The target conservation acreages for each subunit, and its general location, are listed below.



The following species, covered under the MSHCP, may be found within the subunits of this area plan:

- *Bell's sage sparrow*
- *California gnatcatcher*
- *orange-throated whiptail*
- *loggerhead shrike*
- *San Diego ambrosia*
- *bobcat*
- *Quino checkerspot butterfly*
- *Munz's onion*
- *many-stemmed dudleya*
- *southwestern willow flycatcher*
- *least Bell's vireo*
- *slender-horned spineflower*

Subunit 1: Estelle Mountain/Indian Canyon

Subunit 1 is located west of the Cleveland National Forest and is traversed by Interstate 15. Subunit 1 includes Lee Lake, which is located in its northwest corner. The target acreage range for new conservation on private lands within Subunit 1 is between 3,000 and 3,090 acres.

Subunit 2: Alberhill

The Alberhill Subunit has a target acreage range for new conservation on private lands from 2,620 to 2,690 acres. This subunit is located south of Interstate 15 and north of State Route 74.



Subunit 3: Elsinore

The Elsinore Subunit is located southwest of Interstate 15 and borders Mission Trail on the east. Subunit 3 is traversed by San Jacinto River in the northern area and includes the southeastern portion of Lake Elsinore. Subunit 3 also includes a small detached area adjacent to Subunit 2 and west of Interstate 15. The target acreage range for this subunit is from 1,490 to 1,520 acres.

Subunit 4: Sedco Hills

Subunit 4 is located east of Interstate 15, south of Canyon Lake, and north of Clinton Keith Road. The target acreage for new conservation on private lands is from 3,920 to 4,030 acres.

Subunit 5: Ramsgate

The Ramsgate Subunit is located south of State Route 74 and east of Interstate 15, largely within the jurisdiction of the City of Lake Elsinore, but partially within unincorporated County territory. Subunit 5 also incorporates a portion of the City of Canyon Lake in the northeastern corner. The target acreage range for this subunit is from 2,620 to 2,690 acres.

Subunit 6: Steele Peak

Subunit 6 is located east of Interstate 15 and north of State Route 74. The target acreage range for new conservation on private lands within Subunit 6 is between 1,550 and 1,580 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 reserve design criteria.

Policies:



- ELAP 15.1 Protect sensitive biological resources in the Elsinore Area Plan through adherence to policies found in the MSHCP and the Fish and Wildlife Habitat section of the General Plan Multipurpose Open Space Element.
- ELAP 15.2 Provide for connection between Santa Ana Mountains, Temescal Wash and foothills north of Lake Elsinore; existing connections are at Indian Truck Trail (buffer along Canyon Creek), Horsethief Canyon, and open upland areas southwest of Alberhill.
- ELAP 15.3 Provide northwest-southeast connection along hills between Estelle Mountain and Sedco Hills, primarily for California gnatcatchers, but also other sage scrub species. Provide core habitat for 50 or more pairs of gnatcatchers.



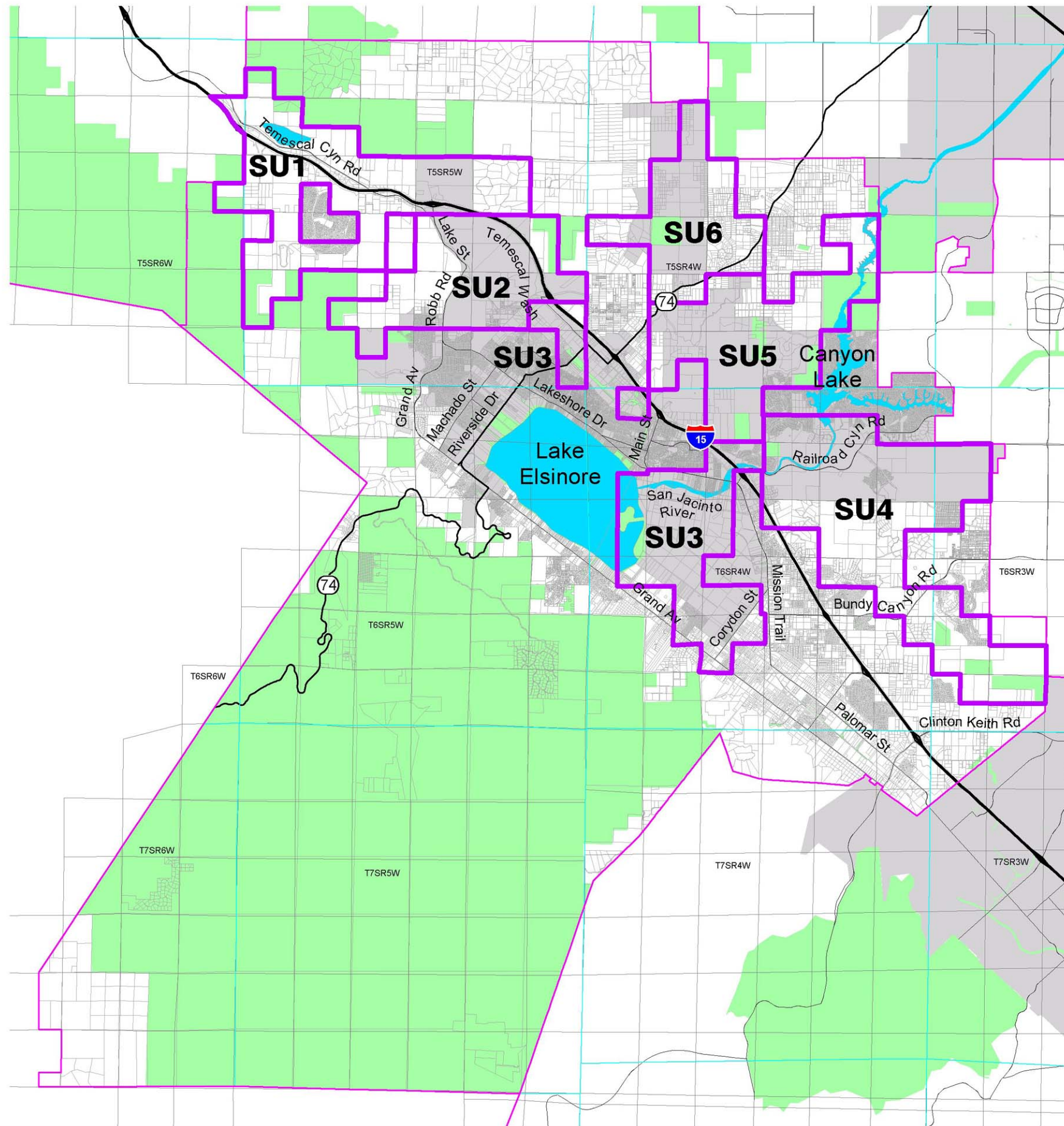
- ELAP 15.4 Conserve clay soils supporting sensitive plants such as Munz’s onion, many-stemmed dudleya, small-flowered morning glory and Palmer’s grapplinghook Munz’s onion population of approximately 7,500 heads in Alberhill.
- ELAP 15.5 Conserve wetlands including Temescal Wash, Collier Marsh, Alberhill Creek, Wasson Creek, lower San Jacinto River, (including marsh habitats and maintaining water quality).
- ELAP 15.6 Maintain upland habitat connection between North Peak Conservation Bank, Steele Peak, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands.
- ELAP 15.7 Conserve Engelmann Oak Woodlands.
- ELAP 15.8 Conserve sensitive plants, including Parry’s spineflower, prostate spineflower, Payson’s jewelflower, smooth tarplant, slender-horned spineflower, Coultde’s matijila poppy, Palomar monkeyflower, little mousetail, vernal barley, San Jacinto Valley crownscale, Coulter’s goldfields, heart-leaved pitcher sage, and the Quino checkerspot butterfly.
- ELAP 15.9 Conserve Travers-Willow-Domino soil series.
- ELAP 15.10 Conserve foraging habitat adjacency for raptors, sage scrubbed-grassland ecotone.
- ELAP 15.11 Conserve habitat in Sedco Hills to maintain connection between Granite Hills and Bundy Canyon Road.
- ELAP 15.12 Provide for connection across State Route 74 for birds and land species.
- ELAP 15.13 For Wasson Creek, maintain north-south linkage at least 750 feet wide from Wasson Creek to North Peak.
- ELAP 15.14 South of Wasson Creek, development should be limited to western and eastern slopes. County should purchase parcels from willing sellers south of Wasson Creek and north of Granite Hills homes.



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Elsinore Area Plan

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- Area Plan Subunit
- SU1** = Estelle Mountain/Indian Canyon
- SU2** = Alberhill
- SU3** = Elsinore
- SU4** = Sedco Hills
- SU5** = Ramsgate
- SU6** = Steele Peak
- Public/Quasi-Public Lands
- Area Plan Boundaries
- City
- Waterbodies

This map has been prepared by the County's MSHCP consultant, Dudgeon & Associates, Inc. for informational purposes to assist in the development of alternatives for the MSHCP. This map is the work product of the MSHCP consultant and does not represent the opinions of the County or other agencies or stakeholders. This map is an incremental step in the development of the MSHCP. Preparation of the MSHCP is an iterative public process with many opportunities for public review.

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Elsinore Area Plan

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