



Watercourses are the corridors of streams, rivers, and creeks, whether permanent or seasonal, natural or channelized.

Policies:

HAP 18.1 Protect the watercourse and floodplain areas, and provide recreational opportunities and flood protection through the adherence of the General Plan Land Use and Multipurpose Open Space Elements.

MULTIPLE-SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN



For further information on the MSHCP please see the Multipurpose Open Space Element of the General Plan.

One of the major challenges confronting Riverside County is the fact that it presently contains a huge proportion of the remaining southern California natural habitat—and a very diverse one at that. While these rich mountain, valley, riparian and desert resources contribute much to the “remarkable environmental setting” that underlies the Riverside Vision, they also encompass extensive privately owned lands. Thus, a balancing of long-term habitat viability and private property interests is an essential feature of the RCIP and must be reflected in this Area Plan.



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

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 comprehensively core habitats linkages, and wildlife corridors resources. This includes territory outside of existing reserve areas and folds existing private and public reserve lands into a single comprehensive plan that can accommodate the present and future species and habitat needs.

With its rich and varied landscape, the Highgrove area accommodates several ecological habitats, from grasslands and hillside sage scrub to wetlands and riparian corridors. Though the Highgrove Land Use Plan preserves the existing open space and rural character of the area, future urban development could have detrimental effects upon habitat areas, including the Springbrook Wash and the Box Springs Mountains. Preserving habitat not only aids in sustaining species’ survival, but also maintains the quality of life in the Highgrove area and promotes tourism.

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 this "take". The Wildlife Agencies have authority to regulate the acquisition and preservation of threatened, endangered or otherwise sensitive species. The intent