



Multipurpose Open Space

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The open space system and the methods for its acquisition, maintenance, and operation are calibrated to its many functions: visual relief, natural resources protection, habitat preservation, passive and active recreation, protection from natural hazards, and various combinations of these purposes. This is what is meant by a multipurpose open space system.

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- RCIP Vision

Jurupa contains a variety of open spaces that serve a multitude of functions, hence the open space label of “multi-purpose.” The point is that open space is really a part of the public infrastructure and should have the capability of serving a variety of needs and diversity of users. The pattern of hills, valleys, and slopes provide open space, habitat, and recreation spaces alike. These open spaces encompass a variety of habitats including riparian corridors, oak woodlands, and chaparral habitats. Examples include features such as the Jurupa Mountains, the Santa Ana River, and the Pedley Hills. In particular, The Santa Ana River—a major riparian corridor—flows through the southern portion of this area plan, and many native and narrow endemic species thrive on the habitat this river provides.

This Multipurpose Open Space section is a critical component of the character of the County of Riverside and the Jurupa area. Preserving the scenic background and the natural resources of Jurupa gives meaning to the “remarkable environmental setting” portion of the overall Riverside County Vision. Not only that, these open spaces also help define the edges of and separation between communities (such as Sunnyslope and Belltown), which is another important aspect of the Vision.

It is of the utmost importance to maintain a balance between growth and natural resource preservation throughout Jurupa to help preserve the overall character of this special environment.

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.



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

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 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 Western Riverside County 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. Those properties within the Elsinore Area Plan are identified by subunit on Figure 7, Western Riverside County MSHCP Reserve Areas.

Conservation Areas

The total target conservation acreage for the Jurupa Area Plan is more than 6,000 acres, 3,560 of which are existing public/quasi public lands. The remaining privately owned land has been broken into three 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 Jurupa. 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:

- loggerhead shrike
- least Bell's vireo
- San Bernardino kangaroo rat
- Cooper's hawk
- California gnatcatcher
- Bell's sage sparrow
- southwestern willow flycatcher
- sharp-shinned hawk
- Santa Ana River woolly-star
- many-stemmed dudleya
- bobcat

Subunit 1: Santa Ana River - North

Subunit 1 is located along the southern edge of the Jurupa area, along the Santa Ana River corridor. The target acreage range for new conservation on private lands within Subunit 1 is between 115 and 120 acres.

Subunit 2: Jurupa Mountains

Subunit 2 has a target acreage range for new conservation on private lands from 2,160 to 2,230 acres. The subunit is located in the Jurupa Mountains in the northern portion of the Jurupa area.

Subunit 3: Delhi Sands Area

The Delhi Sands Area subunit is in the Mira Loma area west of Interstate 15 as well as the Agua Mansa area in the northeastern corner of the Jurupa planning area. The target acreage range for this subunit is from 460 to 470 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 process. Refer to the MSHCP Implementing Agreement for reserve specific design criteria.



Policies:

- JUR 16.1 Conserve existing wetlands and wetlands functions and values in the Jurupa Area Plan portion of the Santa Ana River, with a focus on conserving existing habitats in the river.