



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

Policies:

RCBAP 12.1 Protect the watercourse and floodplain areas, and provide recreational opportunities and flood protection through adherence to policies in the Open Space, Habitat & Natural Resources Preservation section of the General Plan Land Use Element, and the Watershed Management section of the General Plan Multipurpose Open Space Element.

Mining Operations

The Reche Canyon/Badlands Land Use Plan designates the current Valley Rock & Sand Company mining operations on Jack Rabbit Road as Open Space-Mining. Mining operations are expected to continue through the 20-year planning horizon of this area plan.

Policies:

RCBAP 13.1 Limit the future conversion of mining operations to uses that are compatible with the surrounding area.

**MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT
CONSERVATION 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 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 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 Reche Canyon/Badlands area is more than 33,000 acres, 22,500 of which are existing public/quasi public lands. The remaining privately owned land has been broken into three conservation subunits as shown on Figure 8, Western Riverside County MSHCP Reserve Areas. Because the Reche Canyon/Badlands area only covers land within the unincorporated portion of Riverside County, this plan does not identify target conservation acreage within subunits that overlap the City of Moreno Valley. These subunits are a critical portion of the criteria-based conservation plan for the Reche Canyon/Badlands area. The general location and target conservation acreages for each subunit are listed below.

Subunit 1: Sycamore Canyon/Box Springs East

Subunit 1 is located in the northwest portion of the Reche Canyon/Badlands area, adjacent to the Box Springs Mountains. This subarea also contains portions of the City of Moreno Valley. The target acreage range for new conservation on private lands within Subunit 1 is between 1,430 and 1,470 acres.

Subunit 2: Reche/Badlands North

Subunit 2 has a target acreage range for new conservation on private lands from 7,080 to 7,300 acres. The subunit is located in the heart of the Badlands area, north and east of the City of Moreno Valley. The subunit encompasses public land within the Badlands area south of State Highway 60.

Subunit 3: San Jacinto Wildlife Area/Mystic Lake

The San Jacinto Wildlife Area/Mystic Lake subunit is in the southwest corner of the Reche Canyon/Badlands planning area, south of Subunit 2 and Gilman Springs Road. The target acreage range for this subunit is from 2,260 to 2,330 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 specific design criteria.



Policies:

RCBAP 14.1 Conserve habitat that captures the diversity of the Riverside Lowlands bioregion within the Reche Canyon/Badlands area. The Reche Canyon/Badlands region includes substantial areas of remaining natural habitat within the Riverside Lowlands



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

- loggerhead shrike
- least Bell's vireo
- cactus wren
- peregrine falcon
- mountain plover
- thread-leaved brodiaea
- bobcat
- Stephen's kangaroo rat
- granite spiny lizard
- orange-throated whiptail
- California gnatcatcher
- Bell's sage sparrow
- arroyo toad
- smooth tarplant
- San Jacinto Valley crownscale
- Coulter's goldfields
- Wright's trichocoronis
- Davidson's saltscale
- spreading navarretia
- California Orcutt grass