



Features

The Riverside County Vision builds heavily on the value of its remarkable environmental setting. That characterization certainly applies here. REMAP offers vistas in every direction and is, itself, a backdrop for much of western Riverside County and the Coachella Valley. This section describes the setting, features, and functions that are unique to REMAP. These defining characteristics are shown on Figure 2, Physical Features.

SETTING

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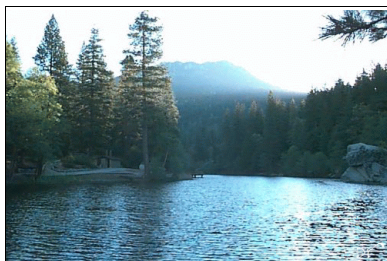
We value the unusually rich and diverse natural environment with which we are blessed and are committed to maintaining sufficient areas of natural open space to afford the human experience of natural environments as well as sustaining the permanent viability of the unique landforms and ecosystems that define this environment.

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- RCIP Vision

REMAP contains some of the most picturesque scenery in all of Riverside County, including high mountain peaks, rolling foothills, rock outcroppings, numerous springs and streams, valleys, and a wide variety of plant life ranging from desert scrub to pine forests. Its animal habitat is similarly rich. Some of the more prominent areas of scenic interest include the rugged mountainous terrain of the San Jacinto Mountains, San Bernardino National Forest and the Mount San Jacinto State Wilderness, Lake Hemet and the Garner Valley along State Route 74, Lake Riverside, the Anza Valley, the Santa Rosa Wilderness, the Anza Borrego Desert State Park, and numerous passive recreational areas. Scenic highways traverse the varied terrain, which ranges in elevation from approximately 500 feet to over 10,000 feet at the summit of Mount San Jacinto. The remoteness and ruggedness of the land precludes the type of urban densities found in other parts of the County, although several communities are scattered throughout the plan area, varying in size, character, and extent of available facilities and service.

UNIQUE FEATURES



Lake Fulmor

San Bernardino National Forest/San Jacinto Wilderness

The San Bernardino National Forest, with its diverse mountainous landscape, serves as one of the major outdoor recreation areas of southern California, offering stunning scenic vistas, picnic areas, family and group campgrounds, hundreds of miles of hiking trails, including a stretch of the Pacific Crest trail, the Santa Rosa National Monument, off-road vehicle trails, and hunting and fishing opportunities. The Forest, which also includes the San Jacinto Wilderness, is managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and is governed by its own Land and Resources Management Plan.

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument encompasses more than 272,000 acres and overlaps the boundary between the REMAP and Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan. The Federal Bureau of Land Management administers the Monument cooperatively with the U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Game, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, California Department of Parks and Recreation, county-city regional agencies, private land owners, and the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy.