



## Multipurpose Open Space

The Pass planning area 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 Pass open space system is rich and varied, and includes such features as the San Bernardino and San Jacinto mountain ranges, and watercourses such as San Gorgonio River, Millard Creek, and Jenson Creek, all of which provide natural open spaces, habitat, and recreation areas. These quality spaces encompass a variety of habitats including riparian corridors, oak woodlands and agricultural fields, as well as a number of parks and recreation areas.

This Multipurpose Open Space section is a critical component of the character of the County of Riverside and the Pass. Preserving the scenic background and the natural resources of the Pass 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, another important aspect of the Vision.



A watershed is the entire region drained by a waterway that drains into a lake or reservoir. It is the total area above a given point on a stream that contributes water to the flow at that point, and the topographic dividing line from which surface streams flow in two different directions. Clearly, watersheds are not just water. A single watershed may include combinations of forests, glaciers, deserts, and/or grasslands.



## LOCAL OPEN SPACE POLICIES

### Watersheds, Floodplains, and Watercourses

As already noted, the Pass is part of the Santa Ana River, the San Jacinto River, and the Salton Sea watersheds. Rivers and creeks flowing from the mountains such as the San Gorgonio River, San Timoteo Creek, and Smith Creek, provide habitat corridors through developed land, provide valuable habitat areas, and link a wide variety of open space. This allows wildlife the ability to move from one open space area to another without crossing developed land. The following policies preserve and protect these important watersheds.

**Policies:**

PASS 13.1 Protect the Santa Ana, San Jacinto, and Salton Sea watersheds and surrounding habitats, and provide flood protection through the adherence to the Watershed Management section of the General Plan Multipurpose Open Space Element.



A typical oak tree



### Oak Tree Preservation

The Pass contains significant oak woodland areas that provide habitat and maintain its environmental quality. These oak woodlands are found mainly in the mountain ranges surrounding the Pass. It is necessary to protect this natural resource as a valuable contributor to the character and habitat value of the area.

**Policies:**

PASS 14.1 Protect viable oak woodlands through adherence to the Oak Tree Management Guidelines and Best Management Practices adopted by Riverside County.