



## San Diego County MSCP

### Balancing Economic Development and Wildlife Conservation

The San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) was developed in concert with the State of California's Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) program, and is designed to balance urban growth in California with protection of fish, wildlife, and plants. It is the first of four comprehensive habitat conservation planning programs that will be completed in San Diego County. The MSCP covers southwestern San Diego County from the San Dieguito River Valley to Mexico, and eastward from the Pacific Ocean to national forest lands.

#### The benefits provided by this MSCP are:

- 1) Creates a more efficient and effective preserve system providing better long-term conservation for rare, threatened and endangered plants, animals and their habitats
- 2) Establishment of a funding program to acquire lands for the preserve system, and to implement adaptive management and other mitigation measures
- 3) Provides for a streamlined process to authorize incidental take permits (ITP) associated with urban development



Mexican flannelbush – Otay Mountain  
Jonathan Snapp-Cook/USFWS

#### Just the Plan Facts:

- Plan was approved in 1997 – 50 year permit
- Participating jurisdictions: 9 cities and a portion of San Diego County's unincorporated area; 5 subarea plans have been approved which encompass 206,000 acres
- Total planning area covers approximately 582,000 acres
- Plan establishes a preserve system totaling 171,900 acres
- 85 plant and animal species are covered, of which 28 are federally listed
- Habitat and focal species covered under the plan include: coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and coastal California gnatcatcher
- As a result of a legal challenge to the MSCP, a court ruling was issued in October 2006 that has enjoined the ITP issued to the City of San Diego for 7 vernal pool species. No other covered species or participating jurisdiction is affected by the court ruling

#### Carlsbad Field Office

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