



Coachella Valley MSHCP

Balancing Economic Development and Wildlife Conservation

The Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) is the most recent regional HCP completed in southern California. It represents a successful partnership among public and private landowners, and the Service to establish a **permanent habitat reserve and perpetual land management program** while accommodating for urban development and recreational use in central Riverside County. In the planning stages for more than a decade, this regional HCP includes large tracts of adjoining lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, National Park Service, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

The benefits provided by this MSHCP are:

- 1) Provide streamlined environmental reviews;
- 2) Provide long-term conservation of native species and their habitats;
- 3) Lands conserved through implementation of the plan may provide for additional public recreation opportunities;
- 4) Newly designated conservation lands will now complement over 550,000 acres of already existing, conserved or publicly-owned lands and be monitored and managed together, in perpetuity, by permittees under the same guidelines and processes outlined within this plan; and
- 5) Enhanced predictability about future Federal, state, and local regulations.

Just the Plan Facts:

- Plan was approved in 2008 – 75 year permit
- Participating jurisdictions: 8 cities, County of Riverside, and several local agencies and organizations
- Planning area covers 1.1 million acres
- Plan creates 125,000 acres of new conservation lands for the preserve system bringing the total sum of conservation lands to over 680,000 acres
- 27 different species are covered, of which 10 are federally listed
- Additional anticipated conservation lands by partner agencies will bring the grand total to over 720,000 acres
- Lands for the reserve system are to be acquired from willing sellers over the next 30 years
- Habitat and focal species covered under the plan include: sand dune systems, desert scrub communities, chaparral, marsh communities, riparian ecosystems, Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, Coachella Valley milk-vetch, desert tortoise, Peninsular bighorn sheep, burrowing owl, least Bells vireo, and southwestern willow flycatcher.



Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard
USFWS/JBuegge

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