



MHCP in San Diego County

Balancing Economic Development and Wildlife Conservation

The Multiple Habitat Conservation Program (MHCP) is one of three, large multiple-jurisdictional habitat planning efforts in San Diego County, each of which constitutes a subregional plan under the State of California's Natural Community Conservation Planning Act of 1991. The MHCP's comprehensive conservation planning approach will help identify priority areas for conservation and other areas for future development in northwestern San Diego County, ultimately contributing to the region's quality of life. The San Diego Region has more rare, threatened and endangered species than any comparable land area in the United States. It is a major "hot spot" for biodiversity and species endangerment.

The benefits provided by this MHCP are:

- 1) Creation of an ecosystem preserve system that protects, manages, and monitors lands in perpetuity;
- 2) Serves as an umbrella document to guide in the preparation of subarea plans. It contains the overall conservation strategy for the subregion and documents conservation actions that will guarantee the protection of species covered by the individual subarea plans; and
- 3) Designed to be implemented through individual subarea plans prepared by the participating cities

Just the Plan Facts:

- Plan was approved in 2004 – 50 year permit
- Participating jurisdictions: 7 cities: Carlsbad, Encinitas, Escondido, Oceanside, San Marcos, Solana Beach and Vista
- Carlsbad is the only city so far to complete a subarea plan
- Planning area covers 111,908 acres
- Plan creates a preservation area totaling 19,871 acres
- While 60 different species are proposed for coverage under the MHCP, the City of Carlsbad's plan covers 54 out of those 60, of which 19 are federally listed
- Habitat and species covered under the plan include: coastal sage scrub/ chaparral mix, riparian and estuarine habitats, coastal California gnatcatcher



Thread-leaved brodiaea
David Zoutendyk, USFWS

Carlsbad Field Office
A resource for people and their environment
April 2011