



Western Riverside County MSHCP

Balancing Economic Development and Wildlife Conservation

To date, the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) is the largest and most complex of the regional HCP plans developed in southern California. The premise behind this regional planning effort was to identify and **conserve high quality habitats** and the species that depend on them while integrating and providing for future land use, transportation and wildlife conservation to residents of western Riverside County.

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 compliment the 350,000 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



Gavilan Hills Tony McKinney, USFWS



Just the Plan Facts:

- Plan was approved in 2004 – 75 year permit
- Participating jurisdictions: 16 cities and Riverside County
- Planning area covers 1.26 million acres
- Plan creates new conservation lands for the preserve system totaling 153,000 acres bringing the total sum of conservation lands to 510,000 acres
- 146 different species are covered, of which 26 are federally listed
- Lands for the reserve system are to be acquired from willing sellers over the next 25 years
- Habitat and focal species covered under the plan include: riparian/riverine/vernal pool ecosystems, coastal sage scrub, uplands, vegetative communities, least Bells vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, western yellow-billed cuckoo, Quino checkerspot butterfly, fairy shrimp

Carlsbad Field Office

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