SECTION 7
PRESERVE MANAGEMENT

The Escondido preserve will enhance the city's quality of life and provide the city with recreational and educational opportunities while conserving the city's unique biodiversity and maintaining populations of sensitive resources. To succeed in these goals, the Escondido Subarea Plan will require some land use restrictions and management practices that give special consideration to the interface between developed lands and open space. This section provides general guidelines for activities within the preserve and provides a framework for consistent and coordinated monitoring and management of the preserve.

Existing legal land uses within and adjacent to the preserve may continue, and existing ownerships will be maintained unless lands are otherwise obtained by public entities through purchase, dedication, or donation. All new public facilities will be reviewed for consistency with the subarea plan to maximize public safety and minimize management concerns and biological impacts.

7.1 PRESERVE MANAGER

Until such time as a regional management entity is established, the City of Escondido will designate a preserve manager who will be the primary point of contact and coordinator for overseeing monitoring and management of the Escondido preserve. This manager will serve as the liaison between the public, private landowners, public agencies, city departments, and the wildlife agencies. The preserve manager will update and implement the management plan, develop and implement site-specific management measures (area-specific directives), promote public education and involvement in the preserve, and be responsible for preserve habitat tracking and reporting. Every 3 years the preserve manager will submit a report to the wildlife agencies that summarizes management activities, describes management priorities for the next 3-year period, reports on restoration activities, and evaluates funding and the ability to meet resource management goals. The Escondido preserve manager will work with other preserve managers and the wildlife agencies to coordinate management and help reduce costs through sharing of resources.

7.1.1 Responsibilities on Public Lands

The city and preserve manager will be responsible (either directly or through agreements with other agencies or organizations) for the management and biological monitoring of the following public lands:

- Lands owned or under easement to the city for habitat conservation, including lands obtained as mitigation (where those lands have been dedicated in fee title or easement).

- Lands within the city that are acquired through the regional funding program.

7.1.2 Responsibilities on Private Lands

Private lands conserved through avoidance in compliance with the city's regulations may be transferred in fee title, or easement managed in perpetuity, to a government or nonprofit agency, if the landowner voluntarily dedicates the land. Public access on private lands will be allowed only where the owner grants such access through an appropriate easement or voluntarily dedicates the land in fee title to a public agency or nonprofit organization.

If land is used as mitigation for public or private project impacts, or if private land is purchased with public funds or voluntarily dedicated in fee title, habitat management will be required consistent with the Escondido Subarea Plan.

Private landowners within the preserve who are not third-party beneficiaries of Escondido's take authorizations will have no additional obligations as a result of the subarea plan for management or biological monitoring of their lands. This includes private lands designated as open space as part of an approved Specific Plan or Planned Development developed or vested prior to the effective date of the implementing agreement. Active habitat management may not occur if the landowner retains fee title. Examples include Rancho San Pasqual, Emerald Heights (Palos Vista Neighborhoods 1 and 2), and Sonata, which have large open space areas owned and maintained by the homeowner associations. Private landowners who are third-party beneficiaries will be responsible for habitat management of preserve lands they choose to retain in

private ownership to the extent required by the Escondido Subarea Plan and implementing regulations and as specified as conditions of development permits. This includes approved and proposed projects or modifications that have not vested prior to the effective date of the implementing agreement. However, no additional fees will be charged to landowners for biological monitoring unless charged on a citywide or regional basis.

7.2 FRAMEWORK MANAGEMENT PLAN GUIDELINES

This framework management plan provides an overview of management guidelines and strategies consistent with the MHCP (see Section 6 of the MHCP Plan). As lands are added to the preserve (e.g., transferred from softline to hardline), area-specific directives will be developed to ensure the city's preserve goals and objectives are met. Existing management plans such as the Daley Ranch Master Plan will remain in effect. Section 7.3 of this plan provides management goals and guidelines for the five primary preserve areas within the city and identifies high priority species populations and vegetation communities to be managed.

Fire Management

Private landowners and homeowners associations will have responsibility for brush management on preserve land they manage, while the City of Escondido will have brush management responsibility for its public lands. All firebreaks and fuel management zones necessitated by new development will be sited outside the preserve.

Habitat Restoration

Extensive habitat restoration is not a requirement for approval of the Escondido Subarea Plan. However, some habitat enhancement or restoration in key locations would help achieve biological goals of the plan and is recommended if sufficient funding is available. Also, restoration may be a mitigation requirement for specific projects impacts (e.g., impacts to cactus scrub). Where restoration is used to improve preserve function or to mitigate project impacts, a restoration plan must first be developed consistent with the guidelines in the MHCP Plan (Section 6).

Recreation and Public Access

Passive recreational activities (e.g., hiking, bird watching) are anticipated within all areas of the Escondido preserve, except on private lands. Active recreational activities such as picnicking, equestrian use, and mountain biking are appropriate only in designated areas (see Section 4.3). Active recreational uses that require new development, such as access roads, parking lots, service facilities, maintenance buildings, and landscaping, will be allowed only in designated areas of Daley Ranch, Lake Dixon, and Kit Carson Park. Construction impacts of these facilities, which may include increased traffic, auto emissions, and petrochemical runoff; pesticide and fertilizer runoff; use of outdoor lighting; and changes in local drainage patterns, will be mitigated and monitored.

Offroad vehicle use is prohibited in the preserve. Adverse impacts of offroad vehicle use include reductions in air quality due to automotive exhaust and creation of dust, soil erosion and sedimentation into local waters, noise, and habitat degradation. Disturbance from offroad vehicles can also disrupt breeding activities.

The following general management measures are recommended:

1. Locate trails, view overlooks, and staging areas in the least sensitive areas of the preserve. Locate trails along the edges of urban land uses adjacent to the preserve or the seam between land uses (e.g., agriculture/habitat), and follow existing dirt roads as much as possible rather than entering habitat or wildlife movement areas. Minimize trail use between two different habitat types (ecotones) due to the typically heightened resource sensitivity in those locations.

2. Minimize trail widths to reduce impacts to critical resources. For the most part, do not locate trails wider than 4 feet in core preserve areas or wildlife corridors. Provide trail fences or other barriers at strategic locations when protection of sensitive resources is required.

3. Limit the extent and location of equestrian trails to the less sensitive areas of the preserve. Locate staging areas for equestrian uses at a sufficient distance (e.g., 300 to 500 feet) from areas with riparian and coastal sage scrub habitats to ensure that the biological values of the preserve are not impaired.

4. Impose penalties for littering and dumping. Fines should be sufficient to prevent recurrence and also cover reimbursement of costs to remove and dispose of debris, restore the area if needed, and pay for enforcement staff time.

5. Keep wildlife corridor undercrossings free of debris, trash, homeless encampments, and all other obstructions to wildlife movement.

Predator and Exotic Species Control

Feral and domestic animals, particularly cats, prey on small, native wildlife species. Agricultural areas, livestock holding areas, and golf courses provide resources for increased populations of parasitic cowbirds, which adversely affect native songbird populations. Litter and food waste from migrant worker camps and picnickers can contribute to an increase in Argentinean ant populations, which outcompete native ants, the primary food source of San Diego horned lizards. These ants may invade preserves where urban runoff affects soil moisture and may also become established through container plantings within or adjacent to the preserve. Invasive nonnative plant species aggressively outcompete native species.

The following general management measures are recommended:

1. Establish an educational program for homeowners regarding responsible pet ownership. The program should encourage (a) keeping pets indoors, especially at night; (b) having pets neutered or spayed to reduce unwanted reproduction and long-range wanderings; (c) belling of cats to reduce their effectiveness as predators; (d) discouraging release of unwanted pets into the wild; (e) keeping dogs on leashes when walking them on trails in preserve areas; and (f) disposing of pet feces properly. Signs at entry points to the preserves should be posted to educate trail users.

2. Fence areas between selected areas of the preserve and adjacent housing to keep pets out of particularly sensitive areas.

3. Establish a feral animal removal program.

4. Document and monitor the extent of cowbird parasitism on target species nests in the preserve. If necessary, coordinate with USFWS and CDFG to establish a cowbird trapping program to increase nesting success of target species affected by cowbird parasitism.

5. Prioritize areas for exotic species control based on aggressiveness of invasive species and degree of threat to the native vegetation. Refer to Table 7-1 for a partial list of exotic plant species that could threaten native habitats.

6. Direct runoff from adjacent land uses away from the preserve.

7. Inspect container plants for Argentine ants prior to using in landscaping within and adjacent to the preserve.

Hydrology and Flood Control

1. Perform standard maintenance, such as clearing and dredging of existing flood channels, outside the breeding season of birds using the riparian habitat.

2. Where feasible contain runoff from new development on the development site using detention basins or other suitable measures and prevent runoff of contaminated waters (e.g., petrochemicals or fertilizers) into preserve areas.

Species Reintroduction

Conserve rare and endangered species onsite rather than by translocation/transplantation offsite to the degree feasible. When translocation/transplantation is necessary, individuals or populations shall be introduced into a suitable preserve area where they can be managed and monitored.

Public Education and Enforcement

Public education and involvement are critical components to ensure successful management of the preserve system. If the public is properly informed of the biological

Table 7-1

COMMON INVASIVE EXOTIC PLANT SPECIES

Acacia spp. Acacia	*Cotoneaster pannosa* Cotoneaster	*Phragmites communis* Common reed
Ailanthus altissima Tree-of-heaven	*Cynara cardunculus* Artichoke thistle	*Pyracantha angustifolia* Pyracantha
Arundo donax Giant reed	*Cynodon dactylon* Bermuda grass	*Raphanus sativus* Wild radish
Atriplex semibaccata Australian saltbush	*Dipsacus* spp. Teasel	*Ricinus communis* Castor bean
Bambusa spp. Bamboo	*Eucalyptus* spp. Gum, eucalyptus	*Robinia pseudoacacia* Black locust
Brassica spp. Mustard	*Foeniculum vulgare* Fennel	*Salsola australis* Russian thistle
Carduus spp. Thistle	*Hedera helix* English ivy	*Schinus molle* California pepper
Carpobrotus edulis Iceplant	*Lepidium latifolium* Perennial pepperweed	*Schinus terebinthifolius* Brazilian pepper
Centaurea solstitialis Yellow starthistle	*Melilotus* spp. Sweet clover	*Senecio mikanoides* German ivy
Chenopodium spp. Goosefoot, lambsquarter	*Mesembryanthemum chilensis* (Ice plant)	*Silybum marianum* Milk thistle
Chrysanthemum spp. Chrysanthemum	*Muehlenbeckia complexa* Mattress vine	*Sparteum junceum* Spanish broom
Cirsium spp. Thistle	*Myoporum laetum* Myoporum	*Tamarix* spp. Tamarisk, salt cedar
Conium maculatum Poison hemlock	*Nicotiana glauca* Tree tobacco	*Ulex europaeus* Gorse
Conyza canadensis Horseweed	*Pennisetum clandestinum* Kikuygrass	*Vinca major* Periwinkle
Cortaderia jubata Andean pampas grass	*Pennisetum setaceum* Fountain grass	*Washingtonia robusta* Fan palm
Cortaderia selloana Pampas grass	*Phoenix canariensis* Canary Island palm	*Xanthium strumarium* Cocklebur

Also refer to the California Exotic Pest Plant Council's *Exotic Pest Plants of Greatest Ecological Concern in California*. Many nonnative grasses in San Diego County are also included on this list but are too numerous to include a complete listing.

values, goals, and activity restrictions within the preserve, it is more likely that management goals and guidelines will be respected and followed. The preserve manager and personnel responsible for managing specific preserve areas will coordinate to determine the most effective methods and materials for educating the public, which may include the following:

1. Hold annual public meetings to present preserve goals, guidelines, restrictions, and compatible uses. The meetings will include maps of preserve areas and photographs and materials of sensitive and protected resources. Meetings will be led by the preserve manager along with other involved individuals, including personnel who oversee specific preserve areas, biologists, and representatives from the wildlife agencies. Meetings will provide a friendly atmosphere for questions and answers and discussions of potential management conflicts.

2. Establish a web page that provides information on the preserve, indicates how the preserve manager may be contacted, and lists locations for obtaining additional information on preserve goals and guidelines.

3. Provide signs, displays, and pamphlets that explain preserve management goals and guidelines. At each of the primary preserve areas, educational materials will be available that review general management goals and guidelines along with specific information relevant to that particular preserve area.

4. Provide tours and classes led by qualified personnel within different preserve areas that highlight important biological resources and preserve management goals.

5. Develop a volunteer program that addresses a variety of education and management issues including, but not limited to, preparation of educational materials, trail repair, erosion control, invasive species removal, native habitat and plant restoration, trash removal, biological monitoring, and management patrols.

6. Enforce, prevent, and remove illegal intrusions into the preserve, and enforce land use restrictions and recreational activities.

The primary messages that will be conveyed to the general public and residents near the preserve include:

- Stay on designated trails while hiking, mountain biking, or horseback riding.
- Keep pets on a leash in designated areas.
- Dispose of trash properly.
- Do not introduce/release exotic plants or animals.
- Keep lights and noise below levels that could disturb wildlife species.
- Do not pick or trample native vegetation.
- Practice proper fire safety.
- Report to the proper management personnel any potential problems or preserve violations.
- Do not feed the animals.
- Follow preserve regulations that were conditions of residential development.
- Do not enter the preserve if public access has not been provided.
- Do not allow runoff from hoses or other sources to enter the preserve or cause erosion.
- Do not use excess pesticides or fertilizers near the preserve. If pesticides or fertilizers are used, follow all product label instructions and state and federal laws.
- Do not dump toxic materials such as paint or petroleum products adjacent to or within the preserve.
- Do not alter the native landscape buffer zone that may be established between a residence and the preserve. Do not add invasive nonnative species to the residence landscaping that may escape into the preserve.

Adaptive Management

The adaptive management approach requires experimentally adjusting management activities to reflect changes in the populations or conditions being managed. This requires periodic updating of the information on which management decisions rely. The preserve manager will monitor populations of some covered species on a regular basis to determine their status and trends and to determine whether remedial actions are necessary.

In addition, the NCCP process and conservation guidelines require periodic surveys of covered species populations and their habitats. These surveys will supplement existing project-specific monitoring activities. The City of Escondido will participate in the subregional monitoring plan developed as part of the MHCP process. This monitoring effort is expected to be implemented and funded jointly by the wildlife agencies and regional or subregional funding source and will be coordinated with other NCCP monitoring efforts.

An adaptive management program will provide corrective actions where resources are threatened by land uses in and adjacent to the preserve, current management activities are not adequate or effective, or enforcement difficulties are identified. Following are examples of some potential actions:

1. Fence, erect signs, or redirect trails to protect habitat or species populations from trampling or other adverse, direct impacts.

2. Remove invasive exotic plant species to protect native habitats, plant populations, and wildlife values. Refer to Table 7-1 for a partial list of exotic plant species that could threaten native habitats.

3. Remove or control nonnative animal species (e.g., cowbirds, feral cats) to protect native animal populations.

4. Control erosion to protect key habitats or populations of covered species.

5. Enhance habitat to provide pollinator habitat, breeding areas for covered wildlife species, or structural diversity for covered wildlife species.

6. Restore habitat to reverse the effects of habitat disturbance, or improve habitat quality for covered species where natural regeneration processes are expected to be unacceptably slow or delayed.

7. Use prescribed burns (or alternative, mechanized methods) to revitalize senescent stands of habitat or promote germination of fire-adapted covered plant species (prescribed burns likely will be limited in urbanized portions of the preserve).

8. Enhance plant populations where preserve population numbers become so low, due to human or environmentally induced factors, as to threaten the continued viability of the population, and where suitable habitat and other factors necessary for survival still exist.

9. Reintroduce plant populations in areas where populations have been inadvertently extirpated, or into historical but unoccupied habitat where the overall number of populations is less than five (this may include San Diego thornmint and Encinitas baccharis).

10. Reconfigure preserve boundaries to include more or different habitat if a species is declining.

11. Reprioritize management and monitoring efforts.

7.3 AREA-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT GOALS AND GUIDELINES

The management guidelines presented in Section 7.2 are applicable to the overall Escondido preserve, although certain guidelines and goals will be more important to particular land areas because of the resources they support and their existing or planned land uses. This section therefore discusses area-specific management goals and guidelines for each of the five primary preserve areas within the city. Land uses and existing and proposed activities within these properties are discussed in Section 4.3.

7.3.1 Northeastern Preserve Area

Key Biological Resources. The northeastern preserve area contains the largest, contiguous block of natural habitat in the MHCP. Its size, large bodies of water, and connection to even larger areas of undeveloped land to the east make this one of the few areas in the MHCP capable of supporting such wide-ranging species as southern mule deer, mountain lion, and golden eagle. Other key resources in this area include critical locations of Engelmann oak woodlands, which support critical habitat for the Cooper's hawk. This area has the potential to support the Harbison's dun skipper. Management

goals for the northeastern preserve area should focus on maintaining the natural integrity and wilderness value of the area.

Responsibility. The Public Works Department, Lakes Division, has responsibility for day-to-day activities at Daley Ranch, Lake Dixon, and Lake Wohlford. A caretaker is onsite at Daley Ranch 24 hours per day, except Saturdays, and is responsible for access control and maintenance. Park rangers work at Daley Ranch, Lake Dixon, and Lake Wohlford.

Management programs at Daley Ranch, including habitat monitoring, trail maintenance, invasive plant removal, brush management, and fire protection, will be implemented in conjunction with the regional management plan guidelines established under the MHCP. Daley Ranch and other city-owned lands in the northeastern preserve area will be managed consistent with the regional requirements.

Recreation and Public Access. The caretaker and park rangers will monitor public access and recreational land uses. This preserve area is open to the general public for mostly passive recreational uses. Recreational activities should be controlled with signs and fences or other physical barriers to ensure these activities remain within designated areas and do not degrade or disturb adjacent natural habitats and species.

Fire Management. The Escondido Fire Department will monitor the northeastern preserve area for any fire hazards. The Daley Ranch Master Plan includes a brush removal plan that requires annual mowing and removal of grasslands, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral in designated areas. The Fire Department will coordinate the timing of mowing operations with the wildlife agencies to minimize disturbance to wildlife. Because of its large size, a natural fire regime should be encouraged in areas that don't present a potential hazard to adjacent development.

Exotic Plant Control. The exotic plant species that are targeted for control at Daley Ranch include tamarisk, wheat grass, pampas grass, giant reed, castor bean, tree tobacco, and sweet fennel. Management goals for these species include removal of nonnatives and chemically retreating resprouts within a 3-year period. Follow-up removal and control will be conducted annually in spring and late summer/fall. Specific methods for removal,

including herbicide applications, hand removal, controlled burning, and mowing, are described in the Daley Ranch Master Plan.

Habitat Restoration. Habitat enhancement or restoration is not planned for this area but may be implemented as needed to mitigate for impacts of recreational use, facility expansion, or fire, or after exotic plant removal. Use native or noninvasive species for facility landscaping within 1,000 feet of natural areas.

Additional Monitoring and Management Recommendations:

1. To encourage use of the preserve by large mammals other than humans, eliminate unnecessary fencing except where fences limit roadkills, discourage off-trail use by humans, and protect erosion control and habitat restoration efforts.

2. Patrol and monitor the oak woodlands and riparian areas to ensure that these habitats are not degraded by human intrusion, invasive species, or wildfire.

3. Monitor riparian habitat for potential use by Harbison's dun skipper. Restoration actions in riparian habitat should include establishing the dun skipper's host plant, San Diego sedge.

4. Monitor stream flow and water quality, and prohibit structures that modify stream flow.

5. Monitor for Cooper's hawks and golden eagles to define key foraging areas for these species. Monitor nest sites of Cooper's hawks to ensure they are not disturbed by human activity during the breeding season.

6. Monitor presence of mule deer and mountain lions in the area to define movement corridors and areas of highest use.

7.3.2 Eastern Preserve Area

Key Biological Resources. Coastal sage scrub, the dominant community in this preserve area, supports cactus wrens and California gnatcatchers. Cloverdale Creek runs north-

south through this area and supports patches of oak woodland and riparian habitat. This area is fragmented by residential uses, especially adjacent to the creek, making access control, land use restrictions, and habitat management especially critical. Management goals for this area should focus on maintaining and enhancing populations of cactus wrens and gnatcatchers in the coastal sage scrub and maintaining and enhancing the integrity of the riparian corridor along Cloverdale Creek.

Responsibility. The Rancho San Pasqual Homeowners Association is responsible for managing the open space within the Rancho San Pasqual specific plan area.

Recreation and Public Access. Recreational uses in the open space at Rancho San Pasqual will be limited to hiking, bird-watching, and other passive uses. It is anticipated that the primary users will be residents adjacent to the preserve. Privately owned lands north and west of Rancho San Pasqual will be restricted to public access. Preclude human access to riparian habitat along Cloverdale Creek during the breeding season (May 1 to September 15). Also prohibit activity in occupied coastal sage scrub during the breeding season (February 15 to September 15). Protect cactus scrub/coastal sage scrub by creating a single trail along the edge of the habitat so as to limit access and minimize intrusion into the interior of the preserve.

Fire Management. Brush management zones are outside the preserve area. Brush management is the responsibility of the Rancho San Pasqual Homeowners Association.

Predator and Exotic Plant Control. Monitor the preserve area, especially along Cloverdale Creek, to control invasion of nonnative plant species. Place restrictions on homeowners and landscaping adjacent to the coastal sage scrub to prevent escape of ornamental landscaping into native habitat. Implement an aggressive exotic plant removal program in these areas. Also enforce restrictions on pets as described in Section 7.2.

Habitat Restoration. Habitat enhancement or restoration is not planned for this area but may be implemented as needed to mitigate for impacts of residential use or fire, or after exotic plant removal. Habitat enhancement may also be needed as part of the adaptive management program, depending on results of biological monitoring (see below). Use

native or noninvasive species for landscaping within 1,000 feet of natural areas. Plant cactus patches to enhance scrub habitat for the coastal cactus wren.

Additional Monitoring and Management Recommendations:

1. Protect wetland, riparian, and oak woodland habitat along Cloverdale Creek by maintaining as wide a buffer as possible between the habitat and residential uses. Ensure golf course and residential activities in Rancho San Pasqual do not impact adjacent upland and riparian open space areas by routing drainage away from the preserve and controlling erosion. Monitor golf course groundwater extraction, pesticide and herbicide use, and maintenance activities to ensure native habitat protection, as required by the conditions of approval. Through use of signs, education, and fencing, discourage maintenance personnel, golfers, and residents from entering adjacent habitats, except at designated places.

2. Monitor the riparian habitat north of Rancho San Pasqual for potential use by Harbison's dun skipper. Restoration actions in riparian habitat should include establishing the dun skipper's host plant, San Diego sedge.

3. Monitor stream flow and water quality in Cloverdale Creek and prohibit structures that modify stream flow.

4. Monitor wildlife use along Cloverdale Creek to evaluate its importance as a corridor for wildlife movement.

5. Monitor use of riparian areas by breeding birds. Monitor cowbird activity in and near the riparian area, and implement a trapping program when necessary (i.e., when parasitism rates exceed 10 percent).

6. Maintain the appropriate habitat structure for least Bell's vireos and other riparian-dependent species by ensuring a mix of vegetation successional stages in riparian habitats.

7. Monitor nesting by cactus wrens and gnatcatchers.

7.3.3 Southern Preserve Area

Key Biological Resources. The coastal sage scrub and cactus scrub communities along the northern slopes of San Pasqual Valley are part of one of the largest continuous blocks of habitat in San Diego County. They support critical locations and core populations of gnatcatchers and cactus wrens. The primary biological resource goal in this area is protecting these core populations and maintaining contiguous large blocks of habitat that comprise the regional linkage along the San Dieguito River.

North of San Pasqual Valley, Kit Carson Park and adjacent private lands also support high quality coastal sage scrub habitat and a concentration of gnatcatchers. The north-south drainages through this area support riparian habitat that may be important to breeding songbirds, such as the least Bell's vireo. The primary biological resource goal in this area is maintaining the integrity of the riparian habitats along the drainages and protecting the coastal sage scrub from further fragmentation and impacts of residential and recreational use.

Responsibility. Management of natural open space on the San Pasqual properties will be determined once land use plans are resolved. Kit Carson Park is managed by the City of Escondido.

Recreation and Public Access. Public access to the San Pasqual properties will be determined once land use plans are resolved. Based on development and preserve design guidelines for this area (Section 4.4), access will be restricted to prevent any direct or indirect impacts to gnatcatcher and wren habitat. Both passive and active recreational uses are allowed by the general public in Kit Carson Park (see Section 4.3). Prohibit use in occupied coastal sage scrub during the breeding season (February 15 to September 15). Also preclude human access to riparian habitat during the breeding season for least Bell's vireos (May 1 to September 15).

Fire Management. Brush management zones on the San Pasqual Valley properties will be outside the preserve. Elsewhere in the southern preserve area, brush management zones are located outside, except along the perimeter of Kit Carson Park.

Predator and Exotic Plant Control. Monitor the tributary drainages to control invasion of nonnative plant species. Place restrictions on homeowners and landscaping adjacent to the coastal sage scrub to prevent escape of ornamental landscaping into native habitat. Implement an aggressive exotic plant removal program in these areas. Also enforce restrictions on pets as described in Section 7.2.

Habitat Restoration. Habitat enhancement or restoration is not planned for this area but may be implemented as needed to mitigate for impacts of residential use or fire or after exotic plant removal. Habitat enhancement may also be needed as part of the adaptive management program, depending on results of biological monitoring (see below). Use native or noninvasive species for landscaping within 1,000 feet of natural areas. Plant cactus patches to enhance scrub habitat for the coastal cactus wren.

Additional Monitoring and Management Recommendations:

1. Monitor nesting of gnatcatchers and cactus wrens.

2. Monitor the wart-stemmed ceanothus on Bernardo Mountain and in Kit Carson Park to determine potential changes in population size and assess potential impacts from recreational use. Route trails so as to prevent trampling, illegal dumping, and nonnative plantings.

3. Ensure Vineyard at Escondido Golf Course activities do not impact adjacent riparian open space areas. Monitor golf course groundwater extraction, pesticide and herbicide use, runoff, and maintenance activities to ensure native habitat protection. Through use of signs, education, and fencing, discourage maintenance personnel and golfers from entering adjacent habitats, except at designated places.

4. Monitor wildlife use along riparian areas to evaluate their importance for wildlife movement.

5. Monitor use of riparian areas by breeding birds. Monitor cowbird activity in and near the riparian area, and implement a trapping program when necessary (i.e., when parasitism rates exceed 10 percent). Maintain the appropriate habitat

structure for least Bell's vireos and other riparian-dependent species by ensuring a mix of vegetation successional stages in riparian habitats.

6. Monitor nest sites of Cooper's hawks to ensure they are not disturbed by human activity during the breeding season.

7.3.4 Southwestern Preserve Area

Key Biological Resources. This preserve area is dominated by chaparral and coastal sage scrub, with small patches of oak woodland and riparian habitats. The coastal sage scrub in this area is known to support at least eight pairs of gnatcatchers, although this habitat is not well connected to regionally important core populations or linkages. Encinitas baccharis, a narrow endemic species and federally and state listed species, is also known from the Mount Israel/Del Dios area. The primary biological resource goal in this area is maintaining the integrity of the chaparral and coastal sage scrub from further fragmentation and impacts of residential and recreational use.

Responsibility. Management of natural open space in hardlined areas is the responsibility of the homeowners associations. The City of Escondido manages the area within the levees of Escondido Creek.

Recreation and Public Access. Recreational uses in this preserve will be limited to hiking, bird-watching, and other passive uses. It is anticipated that the primary users will be residents adjacent to the preserve. Construct trails along the perimeter of the habitat to limit access and discourage use in the interior of the preserve. Prohibit use in occupied coastal sage scrub during the breeding season (February 15 to August 30).

Fire Management. Brush management zones will be outside the preserve. Fire management will be the responsibility of the homeowners associations or private property owners.

Predator and Exotic Plant Control. Place restrictions on homeowners and landscaping adjacent to the coastal sage scrub and chaparral to prevent escape of ornamental landscaping into native habitat. Implement an aggressive exotic plant removal program in these areas. Also enforce restrictions on pets as described in Section 7.2.

Habitat Restoration. Habitat enhancement or restoration is not planned for this area but may be implemented as needed to mitigate for impacts of residential use or fire or after exotic plant removal. Habitat enhancement may also be needed as part of the adaptive management program, depending on results of biological monitoring (see below). Use native or noninvasive species for landscaping within 1,000 feet of natural areas.

Additional Monitoring and Management:

1. Monitor nesting of gnatcatchers and cactus wrens.

2. Monitor the wart-stemmed ceanothus population on the Del Dios properties to determine potential changes in population size and assess potential impacts from recreational use. Route trails so as to prevent trampling, illegal dumping, and nonnative plantings.

3. Monitor the Encinitas baccharis population within the Del Dios properties to determine potential changes in population size and to assess potential impacts from recreational use. Route trails so as to prevent trampling, illegal dumping, and nonnative plantings. Adaptive management may include an experimental reintroduction program to adjacent open space areas.

7.3.5 Northwestern Preserve Area

Key Biological Resources. This preserve area is dominated by chaparral and coastal sage scrub and is generally isolated by residential development to the south and agricultural lands to the north and west. California gnatcatchers and San Diego thornmint are the key biological resources in this area. The thornmint population is considered to be a major population and critical location for this species. The primary biological resource goal in this area is maintaining the integrity of the coastal sage scrub from further fragmentation and impacts of residential and recreational use.

Responsibility. Management of natural open space in this area is the responsibility of the homeowners associations or property owner.

Recreation and Public Access. Recreational uses in this preserve will be limited to hiking, bird-watching, and other passive uses. It is anticipated that the primary users will be residents adjacent to the preserve. Construct trails along the perimeter of the habitat to limit access and discourage use in the interior of the preserve. Prohibit use in occupied coastal sage scrub during the gnatcatcher breeding season (February 15 to September 15).

Fire Management. Brush management zones will be outside the preserve. Fire management will be the responsibility of homeowners associations or property owner.

Predator and Exotic Plant Control. Place restrictions on homeowners and landscaping adjacent to the coastal sage scrub to prevent escape of ornamental landscaping into native habitat. Implement an aggressive exotic plant removal program in these areas. Also enforce restrictions on pets as described in Section 7.2.

Habitat Restoration. Habitat enhancement or restoration is not planned for this area but may be implemented as needed to mitigate for impacts of residential use or fire or after exotic plant removal. Habitat enhancement may also be needed as part of the adaptive management program, depending on results of biological monitoring (see below). Use native or noninvasive species for landscaping within 1,000 feet of natural areas.

Additional Monitoring and Management Recommendations:

1. Monitor nesting of gnatcatchers.

2. Monitor the San Diego thornmint population within the Emerald Heights (previously Palos Vista) open space to determine potential changes in population size and to assess potential impacts from recreational use. Route trails so as to prevent trampling, illegal dumping, and nonnative plantings. Establish a seed bank collection per established guidelines. Adaptive management may include an experimental reintroduction program to clay soils in suitable open space areas.

7.4 HABITAT TRACKING, REPORTING, AND MONITORING

Escondido will be responsible for the annual accounting of the acreage, type, and location of habitat conserved and destroyed by permitted land uses and other activities. Records

will be maintained in ledger and digital map (GIS) format. This accounting process will be used to ensure that habitat conservation proceeds in rough proportion with habitat losses to development. This information will be submitted to the wildlife agencies as part of an annual public report to demonstrate compliance with the terms and conditions of the subarea plan, implementing agreement, and take authorization. An annual public workshop will also be held in Escondido to brief interested citizens on the progress of preserve assembly.

The loss of habitat will be accounted for when the project accrues the benefits of the take authorization. For conserved lands, the conservation of habitat will be accounted for when habitat is permanently conserved (e.g., date of recordation of title transfer, recordation of a conservation easement, or execution/record of any other instrument that confers third-party beneficiary status to the project or property). The accounting information for conserved acres will also identify the protection mechanism, owner, and agency or person responsible for conservation and management, and other related information.

Every 3 years the Escondido preserve manager, along with other subarea city preserve managers, will submit a report to the wildlife agencies that summarizes management activities, describes management priorities for the next 3-year period, reports on restoration activities, and evaluates funding and the ability to meet resource management goals.

The City of Escondido will commit to participating in the MHCP regional monitoring and reporting program. Escondido will implement their own subarea monitoring and reporting program and then share and coordinate their information with the subregional monitoring entity to help determine whether the subregional plan is meeting its overall preserve goals.

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