

TABLE 1.—APPROXIMATE PROPOSED CRITICAL HABITAT AREA (HA (AC)) BY COUNTY AND LAND OWNERSHIP—Continued
[Estimates reflect the total area within critical habitat unit boundaries]

County	Federal *	Local/State	Private	Total
Total	18,350 ha (45,380 ac) ...	7,530 ha (18,630 ac)	174,715 ha (431,785 ac)	200,595 ha (495,795 ac).

* Federal lands include Bureau of Land Management, DoD, National Forest, Tribal, and Fish and Wildlife Service lands.

TABLE 2.—APPROXIMATE PROPOSED CRITICAL HABITAT AREA (HA (AC)), ESSENTIAL AREA, AND EXCLUDED AREA

Area considered essential	307,545 ha (760,075 ac).
Area not included because of special management or protection (MCAS, Miramar)*	2,725 ha (6,740 ac).
Area excluded under 4(b)(2) (Camp Pendleton, preserve lands under the San Diego MSCP and the Orange County Central-Coastal NCCP, and Tribal lands of the Pala Band of Mission Indians).	104,225 ha (257,540 ac).
Proposed Critical Habitat	200,595 ha (495,795 ac).

* Data for individual HCPs are not available.

TABLE 3.—HCPs AND NCCP AREAS WITHIN THE GENERAL AREA CONTAINING THE PROPOSED CRITICAL HABITAT

NCCP/HCP	Planning area	Preserve area
San Diego MSCP	236,000 ha (582,000 ac)	69,573 ha (171,000 ac).
Central-Coastal Orange County NCCP/HCP	84,463 ha (208,713 ac)	15,677 ha (38,738 ac).
Proposed Northwestern San Diego MHCP	453 square kilometers, 175 square miles (111,908 ac).	8,064 ha (19,928 ac).
Proposed Southern Subregion NCCP/HCP Orange County (pending).	51,800 ha (128,000 ac)	5,666 ha (14,000 ac).
Proposed Western Riverside MSHCP	530,000 ha (1.3 million ac)	61,919 ha (153,000 ac).

Unit 1: South San Diego County

Unit 1 encompasses approximately 10,155 ha (25,100 ac) within the MSCP planning area. Lands essential to the conservation of the gnatcatcher within the cities of Chula Vista, El Cajon, and Santee; major amendment areas within the San Diego County Subarea Plan; the Otay-Sweetwater Unit of the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex; and water district lands owned by Sweetwater Authority, Helix Water District, and Otay Water District are included. Lands proposed contain core populations of the species, sage scrub and areas providing connectivity between core populations and sage scrub. Populations in this unit occur in high quality coastal sage scrub and persist in high densities. Lands in the eastern section of this unit are also some of the least fragmented within this portion of the range in the United States and therefore less subject to edge effects which negatively influence habitat quality. Lands in this unit are also located adjacent to the U.S./Mexico border, and populations located there may serve to promote demographic and genetic interchange with populations in Mexico. We have considered, but have not proposed lands within the MSCP, MHPA, and preapproved mitigation areas in the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, La Mesa, and Poway and essential lands on MCAS, Miramar.

Unit 2: Upper San Diego River and El Capitan Linkage

Unit 2 encompasses approximately 6,490 ha (16,075 ac) in the upper San Diego River drainage. This unit includes a core population of coastal California gnatcatchers on the Cleveland National Forest south of State Route 78 near the upper reaches of the San Diego River, as well as canyons and corridors that provide linkages to MHPA lands adjacent to this unit. This population is the easternmost and one of the highest in elevation known. Individuals within this population likely contain unique genetic or behavioral adaptations that allow them to persist, which is likely to be important to the species as environmental conditions change through time. Also included within this unit is City of San Diego lands adjacent to El Capitan Reservoir, which serves as a corridor connecting the adjacent core population on Cleveland National Forest lands to populations located at lower elevations to the west (in Unit 1).

Unit 3: North San Diego County Multiple Habitat Conservation Plan (MHCP)

Unit 3 encompasses approximately 13,140 ha (32,465 ac) within the MHCP planning area in northwestern San Diego County. Included are lands within the cities of Carlsbad, Encinitas, Escondido, Oceanside, San Marcos, Solana Beach, and Vista. Lands

proposed contain the last significant coastal California gnatcatcher populations remaining south of Camp Pendleton abutting the coast. Coastal populations have been found to be more dense than inland locales (Preston *et al* 1998). These coastal populations are therefore essential for supporting more inland locales through emigration (*i.e.*, Unit 5). This unit also provides connectivity between core populations at Camp Pendleton (Unit 6), MSCP reserve areas (Unit 1), and populations in northern San Diego County (Unit 5).

Unit 4: Fallbrook Naval Weapons Station

Unit 4 encompasses approximately 3,515 ha (8,690 ac) on Fallbrook Naval Weapons Station in northern San Diego County. This unit contains high quality habitat and a core gnatcatcher population that supports adjacent populations on Camp Pendleton (Unit 6), northern San Diego County (Unit 5), and in southwestern Riverside County (Unit 10). The Santa Margarita River, on the northern boundary of this unit, also functions as an essential linkage connecting coastal populations of coastal California gnatcatchers with inland populations in San Diego and Riverside counties.