

MSHCP Amendment: Conservation Focus Group Biological Goals and Objectives

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desert conservation
PROGRAM



BIOLOGICAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Conservation Program:

- Defines what the HCP is trying to accomplish
- Is the foundation upon which the HCP is built

Biological Goals:

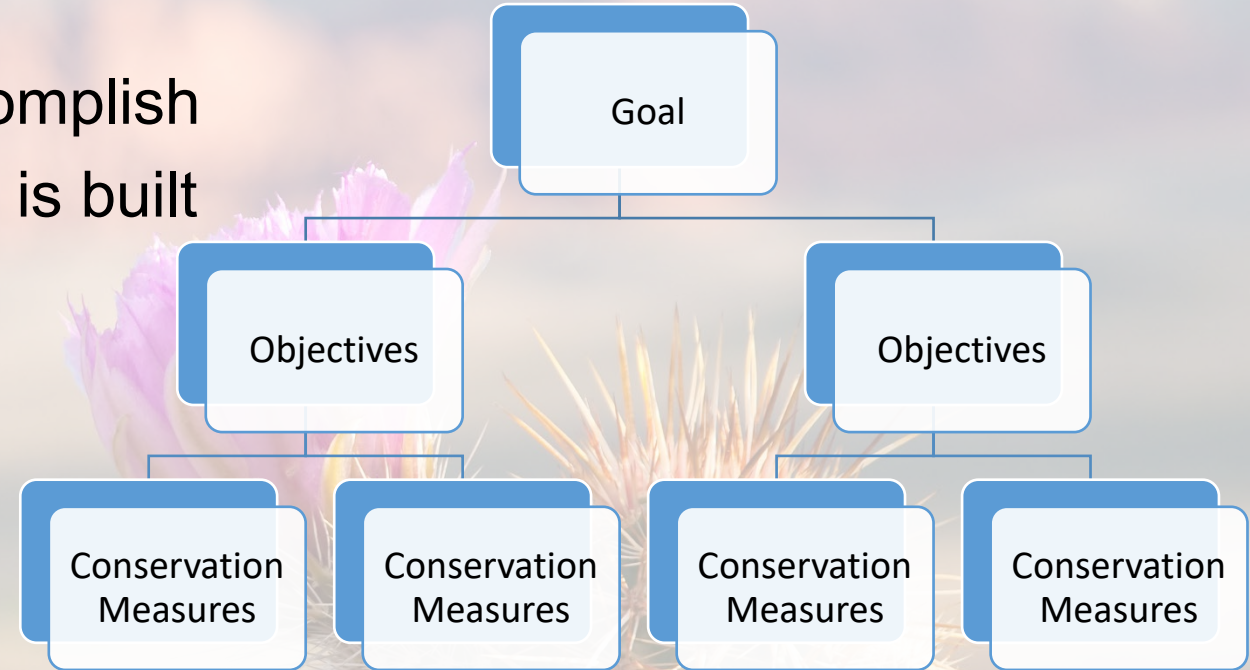
- Broadly describe the desired future conditions of an HCP in succinct statements
- Step down to one or more objectives

Biological Objectives:

- Describes how to achieve the desired future condition (goal) in measurable terms

Conservation Measure:

- The means to achieve biological goals and objectives



SMART

Specific Measurable Achievable Result-oriented Time-fixed

Current MSHCP BGO:

- Allow no net unmitigated loss or fragmentation of habitat in IMAs and LIMAs (or MUMAs where they represent the majority of habitat for the species)
- Maintain stable or increasing population numbers; and
- Develop, through the Adaptive Management Process, appropriate detailed and quantifiable population or habitat goals for each Covered Species or, if possible, quantifiable goals for an appropriate surrogate indicator (ecosystem measure or key, umbrella, flagship species)

GOAL 1

Goal 1: Maintain or improve habitat quality within Reserve System lands to promote resiliency, redundancy, and representation for Covered Species.

Objective 1.A: Manage invasive plant species to maintain a percent cover at or below baseline conditions.

1.B: Acquire, enhance, restore, or place conservation easements on riparian habitat for the Riparian Reserve System to ensure that habitat quality and quantity for riparian-dependent Covered Species is maintained or increased, relative to impacts from Covered Activities in the Plan Area, as they occur, and as measured by the landscape-level habitat quantification assessments and site-specific Restoration Crediting Methodology.

GOAL 1



Goal 1: Maintain or improve habitat quality within Reserve System lands to promote resiliency, redundancy, and representation for Covered Species.

1.C: Protect and increase the quantity and quality of suitable habitat for Covered Species, using habitat suitability models and Restoration Credit Methodology to document change in quantity and quality.

1.D: Incorporate natural ecological and hydrological processes into restoration design and implementation. On an annual basis, review all restoration projects to determine appropriate natural processes are being included in all projects and document in annual reporting..

GOAL 2



Goal 2: Avoid and minimize impacts to maintain the quality of habitat for Covered Species within the Plan Area.

Objective 2.A: Ensure the best available scientific and commercial information is being incorporated into habitat management efforts for Covered Species including use of, but not limited to, current distribution and habitat suitability models.

2.B: Project designs that minimize indirect effects of Covered Activities will be adopted into County and City planning codes by the end of the first year of implementation, including lighting, runoff and erosion, and other edge effects for Covered Activities at the boundary with undeveloped habitats.

GOAL 2

Goal 2: Avoid and minimize impacts to maintain the quality of habitat for Covered Species within the Plan Area.

2.C: Identify sediment sources for plant Covered Species that are dependent on specific substratum including threecorner milkvetch and sticky buckwheat, and avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to the sediment sources as feasible.

2.D: Support invasive species early eradication efforts in the Plan Area.



GOAL 2

Goal 2: Avoid and minimize impacts to maintain the quality of habitat for Covered Species within the Plan Area.

2.E: Maintain and update the Connectivity Management Plan every 10 years. The Plan and each update shall identify the connectivity and genetic exchange improvements to be targeted for implementation over the next 10 years.

2.F: Limit development in areas of occupied and potentially suitable habitat for gypsophile species to 10% of baseline occupied and potentially suitable habitat within the Plan Area.



GOAL 3



Goal 3: Maintain stable or increasing populations of Covered Species occurring within Reserve System lands.

3.A: Average population sizes of Covered Species are maintained over time. Population trends will be characterized over 5-10 years depending on the species and associated monitoring approaches.

3.B: Identify and protect maternity roosts of spotted bat. If a Townsend's big-eared bat roost is detected in the Reserve System and potentially impacted by Covered Activities, it shall be protected.

3.C: Identify and protect essential populations of plant Covered Species and their habitat.

GOAL 4



Goal 4: Foster community and stakeholder engagement to benefit covered species.

4.A: Ensure input is obtained from key partner agencies on mitigation/restoration project plans being implemented on jointly managed land.

4.B: Educate the public about the desert ecosystem in Clark County and promote responsible recreation and development to avoid and minimize impacts to the environment.



GOAL 4

Goal 4: Foster community and stakeholder engagement to benefit covered species.

4.C: Deter unauthorized land use by patrolling at least 3,120 hours of the Reserve System Units each year. DCP planning documents shall include activities to deter unauthorized use.

4.D: Project proponents and construction personnel follow best management practices for Covered Species and associated reporting procedures.

