

# REPORT FROM THE FIELD

November 22, 2015

## Poppy Reserve

On October 15th the Poppy Reserve received 2.37 inches of rain and November has had .47 inch. You can definitely see green on the hillsides. It is the season for the Rubber Rabbitbrush and they are bushes you see with the yellow flowers. The flowers are looking a little more golden in color because of the freezing temperatures and they are starting to go to seed. The grasses are up to 2-inches and there is fiddleneck.



Yes there are poppies. There were poppy cots that came up after the October 25<sup>th</sup> rain, but we have had some nights of “hard freezing” where the temperatures stayed below freezing for several hours. Went down to 28°. The freezing temperatures have killed some of the poppies. The plants that are left have the first true leaves.

On November 20th went to check on the poppies and we did loose some but there are a lot of young plants along the trails, one the east side and a lot on the west side of t he park.

Photo on left is a poppy rosette.

**The 2016 wildflower season has started!**

## Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodlands State Park

With a four-year drought it was a surprise to find the Juniper trees had a great year of producing their cones and berries. The male trees were the color of brown from all the cones and the female trees are now loaded with gray berries.

The rain storm on October 15<sup>th</sup> produced a nice amount of rain, then there were Santa Ana winds and freezing night time temperatures. This has made a difference in the dieback (dead branchlets) on the trees. Some trees that had a lot to moderate dieback now have little or very little dieback. The trees are looking green again.

The photo below was taken on November 11, 2015 from Ripley looking to the snow that had fallen on the Tehachapi Mountains.



## BURROWING OWLS

### CHARACTERISTICS



Round heads  
Bright yellow eyes  
Broad white chins  
White eyebrows  
Flattened facial disk  
Spotted and barred with brown and white feathers  
Long narrow wings  
Short tail  
Long legs  
9 to 11 inches tall  
The white "chin" patch can be expanded and displayed during behaviors such as distress or expressing excitement and bobbing of the head when agitated.  
Wingspan is 20-24 inches  
Weigh about 5.7 ounces  
Typical lifespan is 6 to 8 years  
Male and females are about the same size and have similar plumage.  
They are one of the smallest owls in North America

