

# FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT

By Mary Wilson

April 20, 2017

## Poppy Reserve

There are still poppies at the reserve but they are starting to fade. They are completing their growing cycle and starting to form their seed pods.



There has been a lot of off trail damage with all the visitors. The photo below is all that is left of the vegetation on the top of the Valley Vista Point Trail. No plants to grow to maturity and produce the seeds for the seed bank for the next wildflower season. Please stay on the trails.



## Ripley Desert Woodland

In bloom are: linear leafed goldenbush, blue sage, Mormon tea – male catkins and female seeds, comet blazing stars, cheese bush, cotton thorn bush, Anderson thorn bush, tidy tips, the wild cucumbers are starting to produce the fruit, and scarlet bugler.

If you go to Ripley you might try and find the male and female characteristics of the plants below. I never had to leave the trail to find these male and female plants.



◀Male



Female▶

The photos above are of the male (catkins) and female (seeds) of the Mormon tea. These plants are gymnosperms that are seed-bearing plants and do not produce flowers.



◀Male



Female▶

Juniper trees produce cones. The male cones will open and the wind will blow the pollen to the female tree receptors. The female will then produce berries (female cones).



◀Occasionally a Juniper tree will have both the male and female cones like the one at the left. However this is fairly rare—it is estimated that only about 2% of the trees will do this. They have also been known to change from a male tree to a female tree and vice versa.

## Lone Pine Canyon

On August 2016 the Blue Cut fire burned through the Lone Pine Canyon and it seemed to have destroyed everything in its path. However, nature is making a comeback. The photo below was taken on April 19th and not only are the mountains yellow with goldfields and coreopsis but you can see a few of the Lord's candles are coming back.



In the photo above, the Lord's candle has produced its flowering stalk and is producing flowers. There are two more by it that are producing the stalk.



The photo above is the new growth of the cylindrical flowering stalk that will eventually produce the cream-colored flowers. The yellow flowers behind it are sun cups.

**Burrowing Owls are growing up!**



Standing tall to check out the horizon.



Learning to navigate with long legs.



Walking and running on the ground.



Getting good at flying.