



Quarterly Report December 2021-February 2022

Administration

- Reserve Manager has applied for the California Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grant Program which focuses on reducing greenhouse gases and increasing community resiliency. The grant application request included an assessment of oak trees in Lopez Canyon and Rawson Rift Management units by a Certified Arborist/Forester, and a tractor with attachments to assist with flashy fuel reduction.
- Reserve Manager hosted a meeting with California Conservation Corps (CCC) to discuss fuel reduction projects on the reserve including tamarisk removal in Tualota creek and roadside weed abatement. Once scope of work is approved by grant administrator, CCC will send in crews until June 30th.
- During the reporting period, two Research Use Applications were submitted to the Reserve Manager. Senior Biologist Mia Ingolia from San Francisco Public Utilities Commission will sample Chocolate Lily (*Fritillaria biflora*) and compare genetic structure to Hillsborough Chocolate Lily (*Fritillaria biflora* v. *ineziana*) endemic to the bay area. California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Western Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan's Biological Monitoring Program were approved to conduct annual Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) surveys.
- Reserve Manager and CalFire revised the 10-year Vegetation Management Plan (VMP), which will be sent out in March to property owners to sign the RM-75. Management units scheduled to be burned this year include Lopez Canyon, West Oxley, and Entrance.

Natural Resources Management

- Six wildlife cameras are currently installed within the Reserve. During the reporting period, cameras located in Rawson Creek and Tualota Creek were triggered by a mountain lion.
- Tualota Creek tamarisk treatment and habitat restoration is ongoing. Staff propagated an additional 100 native plants. The goal of clearing existing tamarisk with the CCC crew will help accelerate this project.
- Reserve Manager hosted the annual Christmas Bird Count for the Diamond Valley Circle. The circle is a 15-mile-wide area established by the National Audubon Society

and encompasses the entire Reserve. During this year's count, there were 6 participants, 2762 birds observed, and 108 species identified. Areas surveyed included both lakes, Rawson and Crown Valley units, and the eastern portion of the Reserve.

- Annual Burrowing owl artificial burrow maintenance was completed in all management units. Several sites needed basic maintenance due to erosion caused by rain. Currently, there are 3 owls seen regularly on the Reserve.
- Reserve staff inspected the DVL North Hills burn unit for regrowth of native plants and assess for invasive species. Due to lack of rainfall, staff have not observed any issues with Sahara mustard, stinknet, or other zero tolerance weed species. However, small populations of native forbs are starting to bloom and regrowth of native shrubs was observed.
- Reserve Manager has begun conducting rare plant surveys. Due to lack of rainfall, most flowering plants are not germinating or are significantly less than previous years. Covered rare plant species have not been observed this year.
- Quino checkerspot butterfly surveys are being completed by the Western Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan's Biological Monitoring Program. The first larvae observations were seen on 2-14-22.

Ranger Patrol

- During the reporting period, Reserve Ranger and Lake Skinner staff made contact with a helicopter flight school attempting to train within the Reserve and Lake Skinner Recreational Area. The school had planned on conducting several hundred unapproved landings to certify new pilots.
- Vehicle and mountain bike activity continues to increase on Rawson Road. However, trespass is not being observed. During the reporting period, one fence was cut near East Benton Road.

Interpretation

- RivCo Parks has hired a new Park Interpreter for the Alamos Schoolhouse. He has begun the process of cleaning and organizing the Schoolhouse in preparation of opening to the public. He started to develop an interpretive theme for displays and different areas of the schoolhouse including a children's interactive area and a MSR themed display case that features some of the reserves covered species.