

WILDFLOWERS!

March 12, 2019

Many areas in the park have great displays of wildflowers right now. Recent cool weather and moisture may help the bloom last through late March or into April.

Heading east on Highway S-22, there is a large pullout between miles 30 and 31 with room for parking near fields of purple sand verbena.

Just west of mile marker 35, park and walk into Arroyo Salado, Coachwhip Canyon, or Ella Wash. You'll find a wide variety of flowers, including sand verbena, desert sunflower, brown-eyed primrose, desert lilies, and lupine. These flowers are blooming in response to fall storms in this area, and may be nearing their peak. **CAUTION: Dirt roads into the Borrego Badlands require four-wheel-drive!**

The **Visitor Center, Palm Canyon** and **Hellhole Canyon** areas are in bloom, too.

Drive north on **DiGiorgio Road** in Borrego Springs to see expansive fields of cheery yellow desert dandelions on private land. The dirt road extension into **Lower Coyote Canyon** is open to high clearance, 4WD vehicles only. There is room for 2WD parking at the end of the pavement. Flower seekers should walk up the dirt road for a wide variety of flowers, or explore to the EAST for a field of desert sunflowers and sand verbena. You might also find lupine, brown-eyed evening primrose, and dune primrose, as well as a few desert lilies. **PLEASE RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY adjacent to the flower fields, and stay out of the citrus orchards. Do not drive or park on the private dirt road.**

South-facing slopes above San Felipe Wash ("Texas Dip" on Borrego Springs Road just north of Highway 78) have extensive displays of yellow Parish's Poppy. The Cactus Loop Trail, across the road from Tamarisk Grove campground, has hillsides covered with poppies, along with a variety of small "belly flowers" growing low.

In the southern part of Anza-Borrego, **June Wash** is reported to have nice flowers. Park near mile marker 42 on Highway S-2 and walk up the wash. The **Carrizo Badlands Overlook** (mile marker 52) is also worth checking, along with **Blair Valley** (mm 33) and various pullouts along the highway.

Henderson Canyon Road is an area to watch! Flowers are starting to bloom there (the site of 2017's "SuperBloom"), but it is not yet in full bloom. Warm weather expected in the next few days can speed development of the bloom in that field.

For maps and directions, visit our website at www.parks.ca.gov/anzaborrego. For updates on blooming areas, call our **Wildflower Hotline: 760-767-4684**.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA experienced an outstanding winter bloom due to heavy rain in the fall. Visitors with 4WD can check out the Devil's Slide area for fields of flowers, though they are starting to fade and are past their prime at this point. Stop in at their Discovery Center (near mm 91 on Hwy 78) for maps. 760.767.5393