

Thank you volunteers! You helped to give Burrowing Owls a Second Chance.



On Saturday, May 12th, Sierra Club volunteers joined volunteers from Sulphur Springs Valley Young Birders Club and other volunteers from the region to help Greg Clark from Wild at Heart erect release tents for burrowing owls. Artificial burrows had been constructed previously by volunteers from a variety of groups, including Sierra Club. Erecting the tents is the second step in the process. The final step is releasing the owls from the tents with the hope that they will

make these burrows their homes. They are released near agricultural fields as there is a lot of food – insects, rodents, etc.

Thank you to everyone who is helping to give these owls a new home and especially to Wild at Heart and the farmer.

Volunteers first gather for a brief overview from Greg Clark on the natural history of burrowing owls and why their numbers are declining. Next they are given step by step training on erecting the tents. This is important to make sure the owls are secure, but also are not injured by sharp edges or cracks where their banded feet can get stuck.



After constructing the frame, pulling the screening over the frame is a real team effort, especially on a windy day like the one we had. Later, the friendly driver of a front-end loader adds some dirt to keep the tent well anchored.

The last thing for volunteers to do relative to erecting release tents is to watch as the owls are documented and then released into the tents. It is a fitting reward for a dusty day of hard work.

Thank you to all who help the owls and continue to help with this and other wildlife conservation projects.

