

Meadows Springs



For those interested in a short day hike, the Meadow Springs hiking trail accesses a pleasant riparian area within Lake Mead National Recreation Area and offers great views of Lake Mead.



The Meadow Springs hiking trailhead is across from Blue Point Springs day use area. This hiking trail was created along the existing powerline and old road 108.

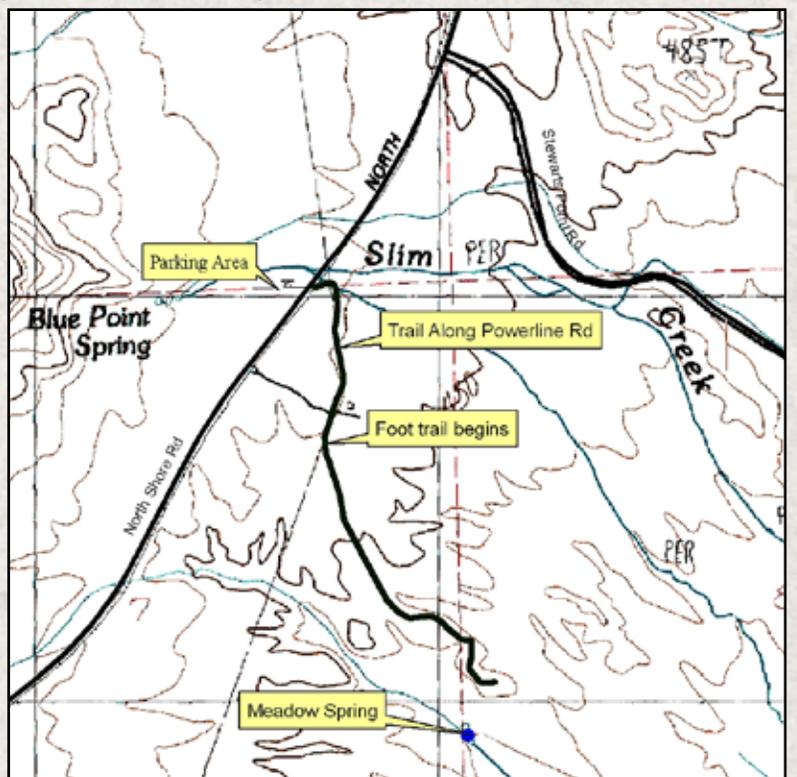
Trail Creation



Old road 108 was closed in 2002 due to public safety concerns and to protect sensitive Las Vegas bear poppy and relict leopard frog habitat. Since the road occurred in gypsum soil, which is easily erodible and unstable, it was determined that it would be safer and less costly in the long run to create a new road than to maintain the existing road. A new road was created off of Stewarts Point to provide public access to the same popular shoreline destination that old road 108 provided, but the new road was less dangerous to drive and more resource friendly.

The restoration program in cooperation with other Lake Mead personnel and Nevada Conservation Corps (NCC) restored the old gypsum soil road bed. To decompact the road, heavy equipment operators ripped the road while NCC and the Lake Mead restoration crews used hand tools to break up large soil clods and recontoured the road surface. After decompacting the road, water was sprayed on parts of the road to help create a physical crust to prevent severe wind erosion. Barriers were also put up to protect the repairing road; some of these barriers can be seen from the hiking trail. As the crews were rehabilitating the road, they set up $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the hiking trail on the existing powerline road, and created an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of trail along the old roadbed. They did this using hand tools such as rakes and shovels to shape the trail and tamp the soil. Rocks were collected to outline the trail, and waterbars were built to protect the trail from water erosion. Seed was hand collected from the area and biological soil crusts and beavertail were transplanted onto plots along the foot trail to facilitate ecosystem process recovery.

Waterbar



Map Produced by Lake Mead National Recreation Area Aridland Restoration Program