

**The Arid Land Restoration Program** seeks to make Lake Mead National Recreation Area a more beautiful place by preventing and restoring ground disturbances. Using proven restoration techniques we plan to make the recreation area more aesthetically pleasing to visitors and more hospitable to wildlife and vegetation. Restoring and

unifying the habitat further enhances visitors' experiences at Lake Mead NRA. Much of the damage the restoration program restores occurs from illegally used *off-road vehicles* (ORV). If ORV use is not curtailed their tracks become more visible, encouraging further use and destruction of the precious resources at Lake Mead.



**Before Restoration**



**After Restoration**

Barriers are installed in areas of high ORV use to protect vegetation, biological and physical soil crusts, cultural resources and to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Whenever possible, wooden barriers are used, but in areas where the wooden posts are stolen and used for firewood, metal posts are used.



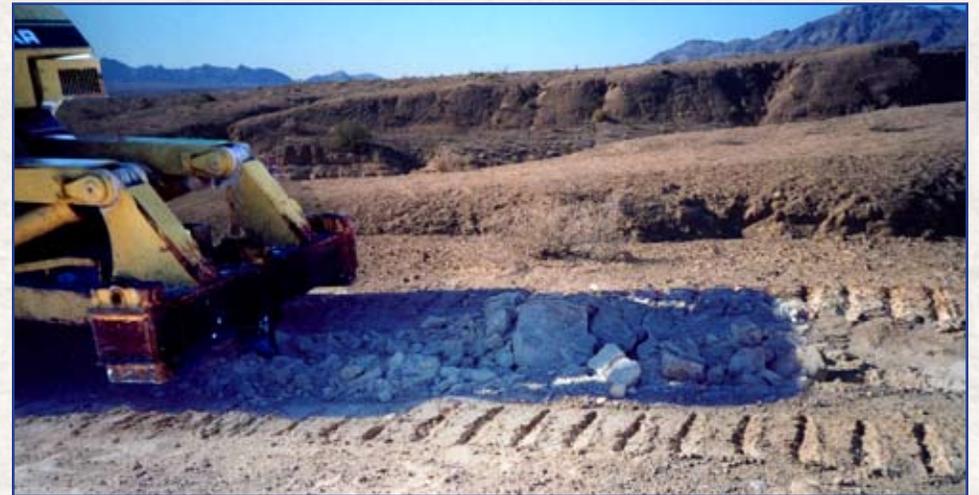
**Installing metal post barrier**



**Wood post barrier**



The restoration program re-contours, decompacts and applies soil surface treatments to help restore old roads and illegal tracks.



After decompacting the road, the restoration crew created a hiking trail along the old road (top). For these large projects the restoration crew uses rippers to decompact the soil (bottom).



For most projects the restoration crew uses hand tools such as mcleods and rakes to decompact the soil.

# Graffiti Removal



**After**



**Before**

The restoration program further works to beautify Lake Mead National Recreation Area by removing graffiti.

## Re-vegetation

Although most of the restoration involves soil manipulation, barrier installation and graffiti removal, the restoration program is also conducts re-vegetation projects. Due to the lack of water in the desert re-vegetation is difficult. Because of challenges involved, the restoration program has chosen to limit its re-vegetation efforts to a few areas where it is determined to be an appropriate restoration technique. Some examples of re-vegetation include Lakeshore Drive Overlooks, vegetation salvage and re-planting near road work and post-fire re-vegetation.



*The restoration program seeks to educate recreational users about the impact of disturbing the fragile desert ecosystem and to encourage personal responsibility in keeping Lake Mead National Recreation Area biologically and visually beautiful.*

