Disturbed Lands Restoration

Geologic Resources Division
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Road Restoration Project

Before

After

Campground Restoration Project

Before

During

After

NPS Disturbed Lands Program

Several hundred thousand acres throughout the U.S. National Park System have been disturbed by recent human activities. Human disturbances of the physical landscape affect all aspects of natural systems because of the complex interactions between physical and biological processes. Many of these disturbances conflict with the mission of the NPS and the mandates of National Park System units. The NPS *Strategic Plan* identifies two critical components of broader restoration activities, which are found in Goal Ia1A - 10% of targeted acres of parkland, disturbed by development or agriculture, are restored; and Ia1B – 10% of the exotic vegetation on targeted acres of parkland are contained. As part of the NPS Natural Resource Challenge, new funding is directed specifically to the restoration of disturbed areas.

Project Funding Support

Natural Resources funds are distributed to parks based primarily on the ranking of the competitive proposals. NRPP - Disturbed Lands funds target park projects designed to accelerate the recovery of disturbed areas and their effects to conditions that function naturally, and/or to eliminate public safety hazards**.** Program staff review project work plans for technical adequacy and provide oversight in relation to cost accounting, accomplishments reporting, and the preparation of technical guidance.

Examples of Projects funded in 2002:

- Off Road Vehicle Damage Restoration - *Lake Mead NRA*
- Restore Caps Creek/The Schultz Ponds Project - *St. Croix NSR*
- Develop Mitigation Strategy to Address Runoff from Park Roads - *Buffalo NR*
- Nine Point Draw Watershed Restoration - *Big Bend NP*
- Reclaim Abandoned Road and Re-route Trail in Turbid Lake Area - *Yellowstone NP*
- Old Pinnacles Road Restoration - *Pinnacles NM*

Technical Support

The Natural Resources Program Center's Restoration Technical Advisory Group (RTAG) includes natural systems restoration expertise from:

- Biological Resource Management Division
- Environmental Quality Division
- Geologic Resources Division
- Natural Resource Information Division
- Water Resources Division

These specialists work cooperatively within the NRPC, with other NPS staff, and with outside specialists to provide parks with:

- site assessments
- abandoned mine safety, closure & engineering
- restoration planning
- designs, technical specifications, scopes-of-work
- proposal assistance
- technical transfer and guidance
- project implementation supervision.

Assistance may be obtained through the annual Natural Resources Technical Assistance Call.

Partnerships

Enable access to funding opportunities and outside expertise:

- Professional Societies (SER, ESA)
- Universities (CESU's and others)
- Other Federal Agencies (BLM, OSM, USGS, USFWS, USFS, NRCS, DOE)
- State AML Programs
- Local Watershed Groups
- U.S. Military
- Army Reserve
- Army National Guard

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