



## 10-Year Anniversary Event and Annual Tour

About 80 committee members and agency representatives took advantage of a beautiful fall day at the Las Vegas Wash on Nov. 17 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC). After a bus ride from the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) offices, members walked through the Clark County Parks and Recreation Nature Preserve, across the newly installed bridge over the Upper Diversion Weir, and gathered under an awaiting tent to listen to several speakers and eat lunch complete with anniversary cake.

### Upcoming Meetings

**Las Vegas Valley Watershed Advisory Committee**  
Dec. 9, 2008 • 3 p.m.



LVWCC members surround the sandstone monument commemorating the committee's 10th anniversary.

The event was emceed by Pat Mulroy, general manager of SNWA, who introduced Michael Fannozi, representing Senator Harry Reid's office to present the LVWCC with a certificate of commendation. Jayne Harkins, Lower Colorado deputy regional director of the Bureau of Reclamation, and Allen Biaggi, director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, also addressed the participants and discussed the many accomplishments of the LVWCC, congratulating all the participating groups and agencies on a decade of commitment and collaboration.

The thousands of native trees and shrubs planted at the Wash Green-Up event in September served as a fitting backdrop for the event. Following the program, participants got their hands dirty by planting a commemorative plant in a garden area east of the Upper Diversion bridge. The garden, surrounded by a split rail fence, contains a large sandstone monument that is inscribed with each LVWCC member agency and organization.

After the anniversary celebration event concluded, attendees toured a few areas of the Wash, which highlighted some of the projects that have taken place over the last year.

## Feeding the Flames of Revegetation

Under the watchful eyes of fire crews from the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) and Clark County Fire Department, the LVWCC conducted the sixth controlled burn at the Las Vegas Wash during the last week of October. More than 12,000 cubic yards of woody debris, which was stockpiled in eight piles -- called windrows -- was burned. The material represented approximately 10 acres of plant material, most of which was tamarisk removed for native plant restoration. The remaining debris consisted of willows removed over the winter by a Bureau of Reclamation construction crew. The removal of the willows was necessary because the vegetation had grown so dense and large it posed a potential risk to the weirs.



Fire crews keep a close watch during October's controlled burn.

Although controlled burns require a lot of detailed planning and collaboration among several agencies, trying to predict the weather to meet ambient temperature and humidity requirements can be even more challenging. Luckily, Mother Nature was willing to cooperate.

Because of the costs involved in transporting large amounts of vegetation to a landfill, controlled burning is a preferred method for disposing of downed tamarisk. By utilizing federal grant money awarded by the Bureau of Reclamation, the controlled burn program has saved the LVWCC hundreds of thousands of dollars and has played an important role in removing invasive species from the Las Vegas Wash. NDF fire crews are also able to use the event as a training exercise in preparation for fighting wildland fires.