



BLACK ROCK DESERT
HIGH ROCK CANYON
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

HOT SPRINGS

- **EMIGRANTS THOUGHTS**
- Double Hot Springs was the next hot spring the emigrants passed while traveling through the NCA after the Black Rock Hot Spring.
- Double Hot is about 5 1/2 miles north of Black Rock Hot Spring on the Applegate-Lassen Trail. Along the route between the two are numerous hot springs, some of which the emigrants camped at when Black Rock Spring was too congested.
- Because of its runoff and extensive grass, Double Hot Springs became a major emigrant camping area. There were often a couple hundred wagons reported staying in the area.
- Many of the emigrants found it interesting that the water of the hot spring was actually boiling. Because of this many of them boiled their food and made tea and coffee with the hot water.

"Yesterday when I was at the springs several persons were cooking, some were making coffee, others boiling meat, rice, fruit etc. Their coffee pots were either set on the branch below or hung into the spring by a pole and string. The meat, rice etc., were put into a bag and hung into the water where it appeared to boil most."

Israel Foote Hale
August 25, 1849

- Double Hot Springs was described by the emigrants as not as big as Black Rock Spring, but there were more springs in the area. "The water in the springs was clear and deep...Near them was one of lukewarm water, another of magnesia, and one that was quite cold. All these were within the space of a quarter of an acre" Alonzo Delano, 1849.
- Double Hot Springs has been known to reach temperatures of up to 180° F. Skin gets scalded in 3 seconds in 140° water. The temperature was sometimes overlooked and became fatal to many livestock who were excited to see a water source.

"Next, on left, observed a cluster of hot Spring mounds, with their circlets of marsh and tall grass. In one lay a dead ox, apparently fell there yesterday; one hind leg in the basin of hot water, which had so well cooked it, that naught but white bones & tendons were left of that limb as high as the water had influence."

J. Goldsborough Bruff, 1849



Hot
Hot
Double
Double