



BLACK ROCK DESERT
HIGH ROCK CANYON
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

HOT SPRINGS

EMIGRANTS THOUGHTS

- Trego Hot Springs lies approximately 14 miles southwest of Black Rock Hot Spring on the Nobles' Trail.
- The Nobles' Route had initially split from the Applegate-Lassen Trail at Black Rock Hot Spring and headed southwest towards Granite Springs, three miles north of present day Gerlach.
- In 1854, William Nobles, the original trailblazer of the route, approached Congress proposing that they approve funding for the development of his route into a good wagon road.
- Congress eventually passed the bill, which granted \$300,000 for improvements of the road.
- While work was being done on the trail, Trego Hot Spring, which was once called "Hot Sulphur Springs," was discovered in 1856. It too was improved by the bill passed by Congress.
- A dam was built, diverting the water into a large man-made reservoir. Once the water reached the reservoir, it was cool enough so that it could be used for cooking, bathing, and watering livestock.
- By improving Trego Hot Springs and other hot springs on the Nobles' Route, emigrants now had a shorter trail to take to California, which also had water and food sources available for both the emigrants and their livestock.

"It was night when I saw the springs and therefore could not have a good view of them although I had the sense of feeling and the water one could keep warm [in] comfortably especially if he should be fortunate enough to tumble into the seething cauldron for I could compare it to nothing else..."

Mary C. Fish, 1860

