



BLACK ROCK DESERT
HIGH ROCK CANYON
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

HOT SPRINGS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I swim in the hot springs?

- No, you cannot swim in the hot springs. Although people have in the past, due to accidents within the past couple of years, entering the hot springs is no longer allowed within the NCA. Please enjoy their natural wonder and beauty from a distance.

What is the average temperature of the hot springs?

- Trego, Black Rock and Double Hot Springs vary in temperature. The hot springs along this fault are usually 130° to 170° F, with temperatures up to 202° F, which is near boiling for this elevation (4,000 feet).

Are all natural springs hot?

- No, there are some natural springs that contain cool water. There are some reported cool water springs located within the NCA; however they are on private land.

How does the water get hot?

- The middle of the earth is called the core. The core is made up of melted rock or "magma." The core is the hottest part of the whole planet and therefore heats other rocks that surround it. These rocks that are heated by the magma, then heat the water that is deep within the earth's surface. Once this water gets hot enough and gains enough pressure, it makes its way to the surface in the form of geysers and hot springs.

If these hot springs were used for drinking, bathing and livestock watering as the emigrants came through on their way to California, what are they used for today?

- The hot springs today are used for irrigation and continued watering of livestock.

How does the water get to the surface from deep within the ground?

- The springs are along a major range-boundary fault that extends north from Black Rock Point to Soldier Meadows, which is approximately 35 miles. South of Black Rock Point, this fault joins with a fault associated with the hot springs at Trego. These faults, or cracks in the earth's crust, allow a pathway for the hot, pressurized water to make its way to the surface.

