



BLACK ROCK DESERT
HIGH ROCK CANYON
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

SOLDIER MEADOWS

Frequently Asked Questions:

How did Soldier Meadows get its name?

- It is called Soldier Meadows because the soldiers that were stationed at Camp McGary would come to the hot springs during winter.

How long were the soldiers at Soldier Meadows?

- ~5 years. The fort was built in 1865 and ranching began in the Soldier Meadows area in the early 1870's.

Why did the soldiers leave? Why is there no fort here now?

- There was no need for a fort after about 1870.

How hot is the hot spring?

- The temperatures range from 64-104 degrees Fahrenheit.

Are all the hot springs the same temperature?

- No, Double Hot Springs is the hottest with temperatures that can reach areas between 140-180 degrees Fahrenheit.

Can I bathe in the hot springs?

- It is advisable not to do so because hot springs are dangerous. Although some of the hot springs at Soldier Meadows are not too hot, they may contain bugs, viruses, etc. Also there are sensitive species in the area and human disturbance has pushed all of these species closer to extinction. Do not use shampoo, sunscreen, insect repellent or soap, because it will hurt the species of concern that live in the hot springs. Also, do not dam the springs or construct pools, as this will also cause harm to the species in the springs. Note: The springs are hottest near the spring heads – where the water originates on the surface.

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Frequently Asked Questions Continued:

How long did the emigrants stay in Soldier Meadows?

- Emigrants probably stayed for a day or two. This was a good place to rest and get water and graze animals.

Are we sure that the emigrants actually passed through Soldier Meadows?

- No, we can't be sure, because the spring at Mud Meadows has been recently dammed, so the emigrants may have just traveled through Mud Meadows.

How did the desert dace get into the hot springs?

- It is believed that they got there from the prehistoric Lake Lahontan. When the lake dried up the fish went towards the springs, and now they are trapped there.

How can I help? Are there volunteer opportunities?

- Yes, check the volunteer opportunities section of the kit.

Where is the Wilderness?

- Soldier Meadows is surrounded by Wilderness. Access to and around Wilderness is available on a system of designated roads. No Motorized use is prohibited in the Wilderness.

Where is the Emigrant Trail?

- It heads south west to Fly Canyon and southeast towards Double Hot Springs.

What are the rules for camping? Where can I camp?

- There are designated sites near the springs and at cabins. There are several existing sites outside the area. Check the camping etiquette page.

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