



BLACK ROCK DESERT  
HIGH ROCK CANYON  
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

## SOLDIER MEADOWS

### The Interpretation of Soldier Meadows: “10,000 Years of Camping”

Our goal with the Soldier Meadows kit is to engage people with the thought that people have been using the natural resources that are abundant at the site for over 10,000 years. In doing this, the resources will hopefully be available to use for the next 10,000 years, and beyond. By peaking visitor’s curiosity and heightening their awareness of the fragile environment at the site, this will hopefully be accomplished. We have used the principles of Tread Lightly and Leave No Trace to invite visitors to the site to leave it as it was when they arrived. This should help in the conservation of the species of concern which find habitat in Soldier Meadows.

To interpret the theme of “10,000 Years of Camping”, we have come up with a couple of ideas. We are planning a “camping fashion” page which will include a swatch of the following fabrics, along with a description of how they were used or worn, and in what time period: faux fur, flannel, cotton, leather, “new” cotton, fleece, and denim. This will allow visitors to try and understand what it might have been like for the Paiutes to be in the high desert in the dead of winter with minimal clothes, or imagine how the emigrants felt crossing the playa in the middle of the summer in flannel. The swatches will be bound together and accompanied by a page in the kit.

We are also preparing a “camping essentials through the past 10,000 years” interpretive tool. This will be a packing list, of sorts, for the ancient people, the Paiutes, emigrants, and today. It will be laminated pictures of common items that may have been found in the packs of people from each time period. The pictures will then be puttied onto a board to show the extreme between the “camping essentials” of the past and present.

An overall theme that has been developed for every kit is the usage of the Applegate - Lassen trail by the emigrants. To interpret this theme, an Emigrant game has been developed. This game consists of two “spinner game boards”, an emigrant facts sheet, and an answer sheet. The visitors will be able to imagine how long it would have taken them to reach their destination through a variety of conditions. There are six different outcomes for each spinner board, which could lead to numerous outcomes of the game.

The last way in which we plan to interpret the Soldier Meadows site, is with the use of a word search game. This will be helpful in engaging a younger population, while still helping them to understand the major concepts of the site.

These games are laminated and will be able to be cleaned and reused at each visit.

