

File with Umpqua Hot Spring

November 14, 1980

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Dear George:

As you suggested I made a quick trip up to the Umpqua Hot Springs to look for altered rock samples. I collected a few samples but doubt that they will be useable. This is an interesting spring about 100 ft above the North Umpqua River on a steep canyon wall. The spring orifice is in a large mound of calcareous tufa-travertine that drapes the canyon wall to just above river level. The travertine is very colorful with greens, reds, (algae), and white stalactite type growths extending down from the overhang at the river level. The water filters through the tufa mound and drips into the river. The only visible rock outcrops in the canyon walls and the river are columnar jointed olivine basalt that are most likely late Tertiary or Pleistocene intracanyon flows. I am not sure the spring issues from this rock type. Talus is also this basalt. Several smaller areas of tufa are present indicating earlier spring orifices. A small bathtub type pool on the tufa mound is covered by a small rustic shelter. It appears to be a popular soaking spot, even though it is rather isolated, and was occupied while I was there.

I am sending samples of the columnar basalt from a prominent outcrop 150 ft upstream from the spring area (#1), and from an outcrop (or large accidental mass) in the river adjacent to the spring (#2). I also collected a water sample and will keep that here in our refrigerator till I talk to you. I am also sending samples of the tufa, travertine for what its worth.

As usual I ran out of time and had to hike out in the semi-dark. I know how to get there now, so if you want to go in sometime, let me know.

Best regards,

Norm Peterson

NVP:rep  
Encls: 3 samples under separate cover (bag)