

U.S.F.S. Bear Valley Ranger
District map and the scheduled
Canyon City No. 3 topographic map.
Grant County
T 17 S, R 31 E, about on line
between S $\frac{1}{2}$'s of sections 11 & 12.

Silvies River Soda Springs

This group of springs is comprised of three separate spring sites from which soda water trickles. Two of the springs are situated on the east side of the Silvies River, and at the south end of a long alluvial-based meadow. The third spring is located on the steep west bank, between the railroad tracks and the river and directly across stream from the other two springs. The east bank springs are within 500 or 600 feet of U. S. Highway 395, at a point 2.4 miles south from Seneca but visitation to the west bank spring entails a hike of nearly two miles from a point near Seneca, due to a lack of means of crossing the river at the spring site.

One of the east side springs is located in the meadow 100 to 200 feet from the river. The other is located on the margin of the meadow adjacent to the river bank. Both emanate from pools of near-stagnant water confined within natural, circular-shaped pot holes, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 feet in diameter respectively, in travertine. The water temperature is 58° F in the large pool and 60° in the small one.

The spring on the west bank was at one time rock walled and actively flowing, and according to local reports, boasted a foot bridge and a well beaten trail during prohibition days. It now merely seeps from an overgrown morass of soil and rock rubble.

The distribution of travertine fragments and travertine soil on the meadow surface indicates that the hot springs were most abundant on the east side of the river and that they once emanated over an area of perhaps four acres. At the present time, however, the springs rate as nearly inactive, although there may be, and undoubtedly is, some subsurface leakage to the river through the alluvial gravels which underlie the meadow surface. The river is entrenched in a steep cut some 10 or more feet deep.

Jurassic sediments constitute the bedrock in the region according to mapping by Lupper (G.S.A. Bulletin, Vol 52, No. 2, 1941). The springs can be considered to rise thru these sediments up to the point where the veneer of surface alluvium is met.

Both of the east bank springs bubble gas sporadically and there are one or two places in the river from which a succession of delicate bubbles can be seen to rise at times. This gas is probably carbon dioxide. The amount given off is small and it seems unlikely that there is much unrecognizable dry leakage over the meadow surface as if a more widespread discharge did exist, escape at the springs and in the river would in all probability be far greater and more persistent than is now observable.

Existing maps show a Soda Mountain a mile south and about a quarter east of these springs. Despite the name, inquiries failed to provide leads pointing to the existence of any other soda springs in this area. Since many informants refer to the hills immediately south and east of the Silvies River springs as the Soda Hills, it seems likely that there is considerable variance in local usage with respect to the boundaries of the mountain. The Silvies River Springs, as they are named here, may, therefore, be the springs after which the hills and "mountain" were named.

Reported by: N. S. Wagner

Date of Exam: August 25, 1958

Date of Report: February 19, 1959

Soda Spring Camp

Grant County
T 16 S, R 29 E, on Wickiup
Creek close to the northern
quarter corner, Sec. 10.

This camp is not listed on the new Izee Quadrangle or the new U.S.F.S. Bear Valley Ranger District maps. However, the camp is shown on many older maps, and is placarded on the road. Because of this a visit was made to the area; hence the following report.

The camp was found to consist of a small grove of pine trees on a soil-covered alluvium flat adjacent to Wickiup Creek which is entrenched in the alluvium to a depth of four to five feet in the camp area. No flowing spring of any sort was found, but eight or ten chunks of travertine were picked up from the debris of badger holes in the grove, and a slight band of orange-brown coloration about two inches wide and five feet long did occur at water level along the west bank of the creek, indicating seepage of soda water.

According to descriptions secured later from several native informants, the spring is located in the creek bottom and is visible only during years when the creek flow is very low. At such times the spring is reported to be strong and persistent, yielding cold water that tastes very highly of soda. In years past, the spring was marked by a section of culvert set vertically in the creek bottom and the place was a favorite camp ground of road crews and hunters.

Sediments of Triassic and Jurassic age constitute the prevailing bedrock in the camp area and throughout many surrounding sections (Izee-Logsdell quad Mineral Investigation map, MF 82, Wallace & Calkins, USGS, 1956). It is through these sediments that the spring waters undoubtedly arise.

Despite the reportedly strong soda taste of the water, no bubbles of escaping gas could be seen in the creek, either at the approximate spring site or elsewhere in the vicinity of the camp.

Report by: N. S. Wagner

Date of exam: Sept. 12, 1958

Date of report: Feb. 20, 1959