

U. S. Forest Service, Bear Valley
Ranger District.
Grant County
On the East Fork of Canyon Creek
T 15 S, R 32 E, NW¹ Sec. 29.

Soda Spring

A thin veneer of travertine is plastered on the rubble of Triassic sediments comprising the steep southeast wall of the East Fork valley. Seepage begins at the contact of the alluvial valley bottom and re-appears at several places up a narrow draw incised in the valley wall. The summit of the travertine deposit is occupied by a spring now issuing from a large, bottomless pottery crock cemented in what was originally a natural discharge vent.

The water tastes mildly of soda and has a temperature of 48°F. The rate of discharge is small. Gas is given off weakly and only at intervals. No sample was taken but gas given off under similar conditions at a travertine spring on Indian Creek, about 12 miles distant to the northeast, contained 94.5 percent nitrogen and only 1.5 percent carbon dioxide. It is altogether probable that the gas here would prove to have a similar analysis.

A Forest Service lookout by the name of Dry Soda Lookout is located on the hill three miles due south of Soda Spring. A gulch by the name of Dry Soda Gulch extends north from the lookout and joins main Canyon Creek about a mile upstream (east) from the East Fork junction.

According to a native informant, soda water issues from a number of small seepages located at intervals in the actual channel of main Canyon Creek, beginning at the East Fork junction and extending upstream therefrom past Dry Soda Gulch for a distance of several miles. These seepages are described as small, undeveloped, recognizable only by associated red-colored precipitation at times when the creek level is abnormally low, and poorly visible even then.

Despite the occurrence of these seepages along the course of main Canyon Creek, no informant, neither the one who knew about the Canyon Creek seepages, nor any of several other individuals who are acquainted with the area, knew of any definite soda spring on Dry Soda Gulch. It may be, therefore, that the gulch was named because of a seepage located at its mouth.

In view of the negligible rate of discharge of water and gas observed at the East Fork spring, the weakness of the reported seepages described in the Canyon Creek channel, and the reported lack of any spring on Dry Soda Gulch, the area was considered not worthy of extended examination.

Report by: N. S. Wagner

Date of exam: Sept. 23, 1958

Date of Report: Feb. 18, 1959.