

Dead Indian Soda Springs

Mt. McLoughlin Quad.  
Jackson County *Unclassified*  
T 37 S, R 3 E, SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 22.

Two flowing springs and one seepage of soda water occur in, or immediately adjacent to, the channel of Dead Indian Creek. The seepage is located in the drain gutter of the logging road to Poole Mt. on the west bank of the creek and within a few hundred feet of the junction between the creek and the south fork of Little Butte Creek. The flowing springs are about 500 feet apart and are located in Dead Indian Creek a scant half mile above the mouth. All are within the Rogue River National Forest.

A public Forest Service camp and a Methodist camp grounds are located side by side at the mouth of Dead Indian Creek. The soda water seepage is reached by following the Poole Mountain road through the public camp. Access to the flowing springs is by a foot path extending up the east bank of Dead Indian Creek from the Methodist Camp.

The principal flowing spring is the uppermost spring on the creek. It is located in the creek channel by the east bank and is partly surrounded by a stone wall built to prevent the creek from flowing over the spring orifices during periods of high water. The spring water issues from a small concrete lined vent and from several natural rock crevices all of which are located within an area measuring about 15 x 20 feet. Streaks of orange-red precipitate, so distinctively characteristic of soda water springs, line the margins of the channel through which the discharge water trickles, but there is no associated development of spring deposited travertine. The lack of travertine is probably due to yearly erosion by the creek during flood stages.

The second flowing spring is located on the west bank of the creek approximately 500 feet downstream from the one just described. At this spring the water discharges from the soil bank about 20 feet above creek level and there is a small, steep-sided deposit of travertine extending from the discharge level down to the creek level. A natural basin of semi-stagnant water is located on the crest of the mound and fed by the seepage from the soil bank above. The sides of the mound are covered by moss which is slimy due to overflow from the pool and seepage from the saturated body of the mound as a whole.

The seepage of soda water at the mouth of Dead Indian Creek would probably not be apparent to a casual observer if it were not for the road which is cut into the bank along the margin of an overgrown, boggy area of bottom land thru which the creek flows just above its confluence with the south fork of Little Butte Creek. Orange-red precipitate serves to call attention to the soda character of the water but this is apparent only in the gutter of the road for a distance of 30 to 40 feet. The bog may be supported by other discharges of soda water, but if so, the soda water is so diluted with creek water as to not be noticeable.

All springs in this group rate as cold water springs with a temperature range between 50 and 56<sup>o</sup>F. The water from the walled upstream spring has a strong soda taste. That from the other springs has a weaker taste.

Gas is emitted in a steady stream of bubbles along with the water in the boxed vent at the developed spring. It is also given off at places where the water discharges from the natural crevices. This gas is undoubtedly carbon dioxide. The volume given off is small however, and no gas discharge was noted at either of the other springs.

The next creek west of Dead Indian Creek is named Soda Creek. In view of this name it is probable that there is a soda spring somewhere along its course. No spring is indicated on either the Forest Service map or the new Mt. McLoughlin topographic quadrangle sheet, however. Neither could the presence of any spring be confirmed by any of the older residents of the area who were interviewed. Therefore Soda Creek was not visited.

Tertiary volcanics constitute the prevailing bedrock in the Dead Indian,

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Little Butte, and Soda Creek areas at large.

Report by: N. S. Wagner  
Date of Exam; September 19, 1958  
Date reported: February 16, 1959

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Soda Creek was

McAllister Soda Spring

Mt. McLaughlin Quadrangle  
Jackson County *McAllister*  
T 37 S, R 3 E, about center of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  line, sec. 3.

This spring is located in the Rogue River National Forest on the north bank of the north fork of Little Butte Creek. Picnic facilities are being constructed at the site.

The principle spring issues from a concrete box with a pool area of about 10 x 12 inches. This is located in a fenced enclosure about one foot above the creek level as observed during late September. The spring is undoubtedly submerged during periods of high water. Other undeveloped springs extend for a distance of about 200 feet upstream from the fenced spring. These seep from a morass of cattle trampled, brush covered mud. Their location with reference to the creek indicates that they are also submerged when the creek is in flood stage.

Tertiary volcanics constitute the country rock through which the springs emerge. The water in the developed pool has a very strong soda taste and a temperature of 50 F. The distinctive red precipitate, green moss and soapy-looking standing water characteristic of most soda springs is present in the outlet of the flowing spring and along the seepage belt. No travertine was seen.

Bubbles of gas are emitted more or less continuously from the pool at the developed spring and occasionally at places in the seepage area. This is probably CO<sub>2</sub>, but no sample was taken because of the small volume of water flow and gas escape.

Report by: N. S. Wagner

Date of exam: September 18, 1958.

Date of report: February 11, 1959