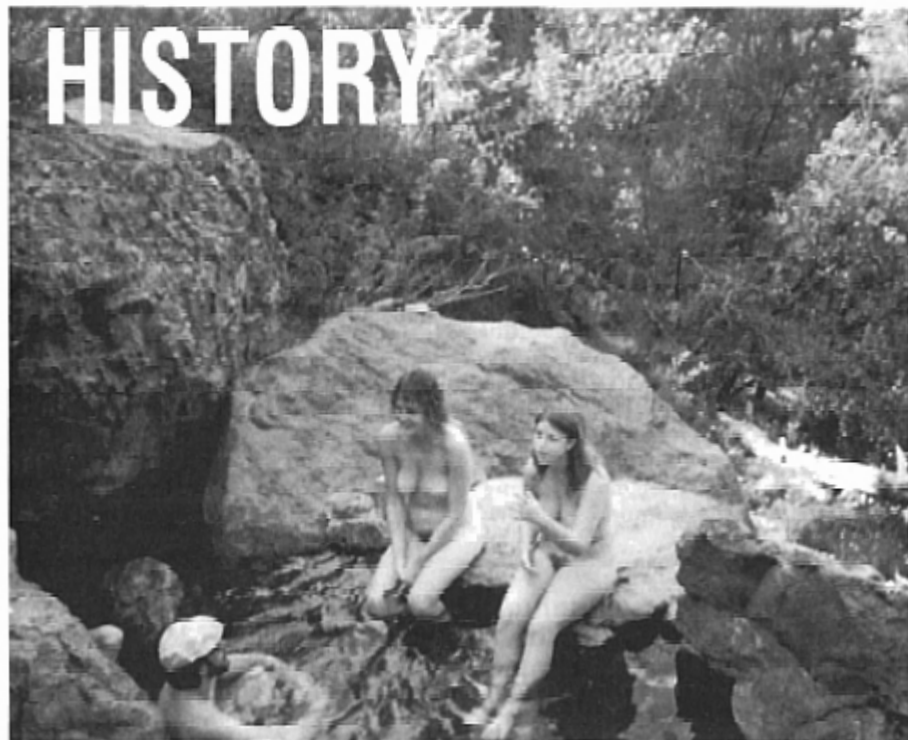


THE BENEFIT OF SIGNAGE



TOP: Bathers at Spence Hot Springs in 1981. TOP Right: the actual 'bathing schedule' posted by USFS, starting in 1975.

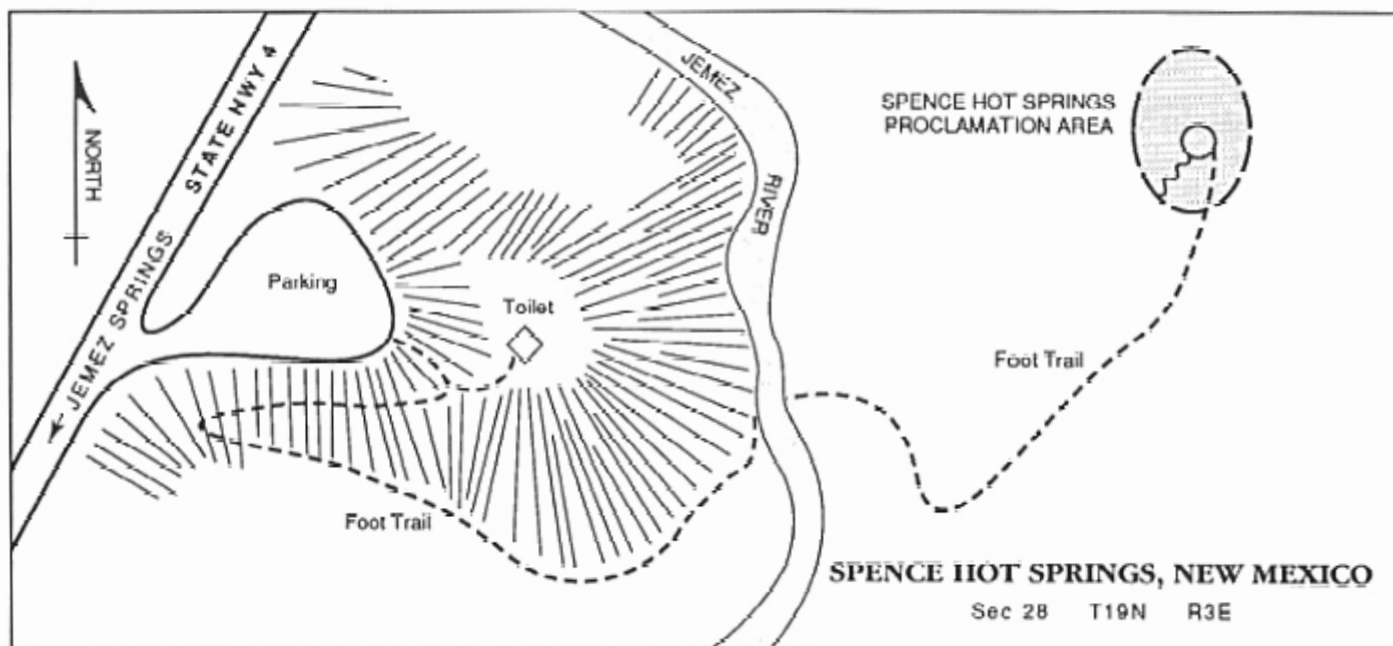
SPENCE HOT SPRINGS BATHING SCHEDULE

- BATHING SUITS NOT REQUIRED •
SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
- BATHING SUITS REQUIRED •
THURSDAY FRIDAY
SATURDAY

The First Federal Signage For Nudity: 1975

Spence Hot Springs, New Mexico

SIGNAGE ANNOUNCING "NUDITY AHEAD" has come a long way in two decades.



PROCLAMATION
BATHING SCHEDULE NOW IN EFFECT

WHEREAS, SPENCE HOT SPRINGS IS A POPULAR BATHING HOT SPRING, AND

WHEREAS, SPENCE HOT SPRINGS BELONGS TO ALL PEOPLE OF THE NATION AND SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO EACH PERSON WITHOUT CONFLICT WITH OTHERS, AND

WHEREAS, ALL PERSONS, REASONABLY MAY CHOOSE TO BATH EITHER WEARING BATHING SUITS, OR TO BATH IN SOME OTHER MANNER,

NOW THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE'S REGULATIONS, 35 CFR 253.25, AND 36 CFR 263.111 IN ORDER THAT PUBLIC WELFARE AND CONVENIENCE IS PROVIDED FOR IN BATHING IN SPENCE HOT SPRINGS, IT IS ESTABLISHED THAT THOSE WHO BATH IN THE SPRING, OR OCCUPY THE AREA SURROUNDING THE SPRING SHOWN ON THE MAP, ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR BATHING SUITS OR BE CLOTHED ON THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY OF EACH WEEK; THAT THERE ARE NO REQUIREMENTS FOR BATHING SUITS ON SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND WEDNESDAY OF THE WEEK; THAT VIOLATIONS OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR BATHING SUITS ON THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY WILL BE PROSECUTED AND ARE PUNISHABLE BY A \$25 FINE.

A BATHING SUIT IS DEFINED AS CONSISTING OF NONTRANSPARENT WEARING APPAREL WHICH COVERS THE BUTTOCKS AND GENITALIA OF THE MALE AND FEMALE HUMAN BODY, AND THE BREASTS OF THE FEMALE HUMAN BODY.

THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1975.

THIS ORDER SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL RESCINDED.

9/1/75


CHRISTOBAL B. ZAMORA
FOREST SUPERVISOR
SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST

U.S. FOREST SERVICE promulgates clothing-optional rules at Spence Hot Spring in 1975.

On Sept. 1, 1975, Christobal B. Zamora, the Forest Supervisor of the Santa Fe National Forest, posted the first federal rules explicitly recognizing social nudity.

This was done with little fuss at remote Spence Hot Springs above the Jemez River in New Mexico [see *World Guide*, p. 74]. The rules serve at the same time to accommodate the anxious concerns of those persons not tolerant of nudity.

Robert L. Quadi, speaking for Zamora, then responded with this "clarification" to a policy inquiry submitted by Lee Baxandall in January 1976:

"Our policy is not based on whether nude bathing is good or bad. The bath-

ing, in whatever state of dress, is done by people who own the land. Spence Springs is on public land, is open to bathing, and therefore, the people have the right to bathe in it as they choose so long as it does not deprive others of similar desire.

"There was a conflict between those of an inhibited and less inhibited nature. It was necessary therefore to set up a bathing schedule. Bathing suits are required on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of each week; are not required on other days of the week.

"This schedule was based on the history of use of the hot spring. It generally fits bathers' needs. We enclose xerox copies of the sign posted near the spring.

"What it boils down to is people are different; they are tolerant of their neighbor; and if given a reasonable chance to fulfill his own desires and accommodate those of others, he will."

SIX YEARS AFTER the Spence Springs rule posting, an intramural query regarding nudity policy was received from the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. Replied Santa Fe National Forest Service Supervisor James L. Perry on March 26, 1981:

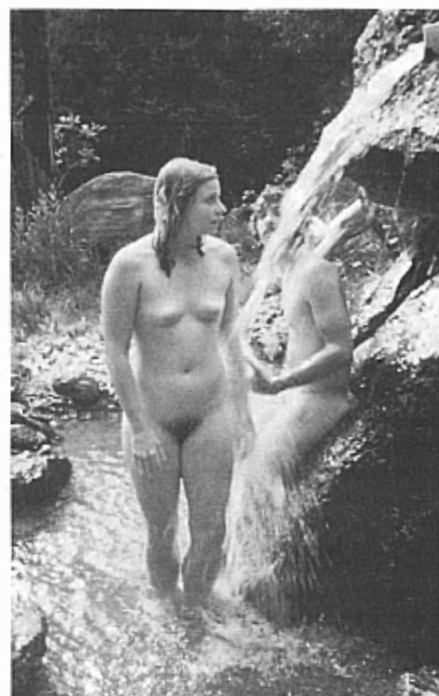
"Spence Hot Springs is ... a small rock-bound pool situated on a steep slope and is accessed by an unimproved trail from a small parking lot beside the highway.

"In the mid-70's, the uninhibited lifestyle of the hippie culture essentially prevented other bathers from using the pool. Our solution at the time was to institute nude bathing and suited bathing days each week. This measure apparently satisfied both parties. Enforcement was done on a sporadic, unplanned basis.

"There are few, if any, conflicts about this matter these days. Apparently, there has been acceptance of each other by both cultures.

"Basically, the problem was one of intolerance. Once each side recognized the preferences of the other, and agreed to abide by a bathing schedule, the problem became inconsequential. It is interesting to note that the traditional or 'suited bather' segment apparently lost interest in using the site. Use now is principally by nude bathers. We no longer press enforcement."

What the inspired U.S. Forest Service official, Christobal B. Zamora, did, was subsequent to somewhat similar posting for nudity at Oregon's Rooster Rock State Beach on the Columbia River,



SPENCE SPRINGS OUTFLOW provides waterfall.

half an hour east of Portland. However, the USFS signage was eventually to echo more widely, and it remains to this day in force, a model of flexibility.

OREGON

Sauvie Island Beach Is Officially Recognized As Clothing-Optional

Boulden Griffith

PORTLAND'S FOSICOB—the Friends of Sauvie Island Clothing-Optional Beach—faced a deep crisis in Winter and Spring of 1993. Our foes asked for closure of the nude beach. Oregon Fish & Wildlife officials threatened to restrict access, ban alcohol and reduce parking—and some nude beach regulars volunteered to pay extra user fees in hopes it would help us to obtain better treatment. We were truly on the defensive (*N* 13.1, pp. 63-72).



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