

CALIFORNIA OBSIDIAN SOURCES

GF/LIW/RS (GRASSHOPPER FLAT/LOST IRON WELL/RED SWITCHBACK)

ALTERNATE NAMES: Glittering Mountain, Grasshopper Flat, Grasshopper Group, Lost Iron Well, Red Switchback.

LOCATION - COUNTY: Modoc.

GEOCHEMICAL NOTES: The Grasshopper Group is a combined Medicine Lake Volcano geochemical group consisting of the Grasshopper Flat, Lost Iron Well, Red Switchback (GF/LIW/RS) and East Medicine Lake (Yellowjacket and Stoney Rhyolite Core) obsidian source localities. Trace element studies of source material by Northwest Research indicate that the GF/LIW/RS and East Medicine Lake groups are geochemically very similar, although zirconium abundances can usually be used to distinguish between the two groups. When analytical and other factors of uncertainties for X-ray fluorescence analyses (such as small physical sample size) are considered, however, there is some potential for overlap in zirconium values between the two groups. Artifacts that fall into this potential overlapping range of trace element composition are assigned to a combined Grasshopper Group.

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