

## IDAHO OBSIDIAN SOURCES

### BEAR GULCH

**ALTERNATE NAMES:** Big Table Mountain, Camas-Dry Creek, Centennial, Centennial Mountains, F.M.Y. 90 Group, Spring Creek, Warm Creek Spring, West Camas Creek.

**LOCATION - COUNTY:** Clark.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Bear Gulch source is located about 60 km west-southwest of West Yellowstone, Montana. Glass from the source often co-occurs in archaeological contexts with obsidian from Yellowstone National Park (although usually in smaller proportions than Yellowstone glass) and shares a similar widespread geographic pattern of distribution throughout the northern United States and southern Canada. Characterized artifacts from Bear Gulch have been identified at numerous U. S. archaeological sites in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Washington, Illinois, Iowa and have also been found in Canada in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba and as far east as Quebec. Artifacts from the Bear Gulch source were first identified during early trace element characterization studies conducted in the 1960's. At that time, the geologic source of the glass was not known and the source became known as the Field Museum Yellowstone (F. M. Y. 90) source. Later trace element studies eventually revealed that the source was located in eastern Idaho not far west of Yellowstone National Park. The intriguing history of the identification and search for the Bear Gulch source is described in more detail by Wright and Chaya (1985), Hughes and Nelson (1987), Wright et al. (1990), and Willingham (1995).

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** —.

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