

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: —.

REFERENCES

- Baumler, Mark F.
1997 A Little Down the Trail: Prehistoric Obsidian Use on the Flying D Ranch, Northern Gallatin-Madison River Divide, Southwestern Montana. *Tebiwa* 26:141-161.
- Cannon, Kenneth P. and Richard E. Hughes
1993 Obsidian Source Characterization of Paleoindian Projectile Points from Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming. *Current Research in the Pleistocene* 10:54-56.
- Davis, Leslie B., Thomas A. Foor, and Donald L. Smith
1997 Cattleguard No. 3: Mitigation Excavations at the South Everson Creek Chert Quarry/Workshop Site (24BE559), Southwestern Montana. *Archaeology in Montana* 38(1):1-66.
- Henrikson, L. Suzann
2008 Going With the Flow: The Impact of Fissure Eruptions on Obsidian Source Use in Southeastern Idaho. *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 28:153-165.
- Holmer, Richard N.
1997 Volcanic Glass Utilization in Eastern Idaho. *Tebiwa* 26:186-204.
- Hughes, Richard E.
1995 Source Identification of Obsidian from the Trowbridge Site (14WY1), a Hopewellian Site in Kansas. *Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology* 20:105-113.
- 2006 The Sources of Hopewell Obsidian: Forty Years After Griffin. In *Recreating Hopewell*, edited by Douglas K. Charles and Jane E. Buikstra, pp. 361-375. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
- 2007 Provenance Analysis of Obsidian. In *Medicine Lodge Creek: Holocene Archaeology of the Eastern Big Horn Basin, Wyoming*, edited by George C. Frison and Danny N. Walker, pp. 231-244. Clovis Press, Avondale, Colorado.
- 2007 The Geological Sources for Obsidian Artifacts from Minnesota Archaeological Sites. *Minnesota Archaeologist* 66:53-68.

Hughes, Richard E. and Fred W. Nelson

1987 New Findings on Obsidian Source Utilization in Iowa. *Plains Anthropologist* 37(117):313-316.

Hughes, Richard E. and Max G. Pavesic

2005 Proximity and Provenance: A Lesson from the Sterling Cache, Idaho. *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 15:221-225.

King, Jerome

2016 Obsidian Conveyance Patterns. In *Prehistory of Nevada's Northern Tier: Archaeological Investigations Along the Ruby Pipeline*, edited by William Hildebrandt, Kelly McGuire, Jerome King, Allika Ruby, and D. Craig Young, pp. 303-327. American Museum of Natural History Anthropological Papers No. 101, New York, New York.

Nelson, Fred W.

1984 X-ray Fluorescence Analysis of Some Western North American Obsidians. In *Obsidian Studies in the Great Basin*, edited by Richard E. Hughes, pp. 27-62. Contributions of the University of California Archaeological Research Facility Number 45, Berkeley, California.

Plager, Sharon

2001 *Patterns in the Distribution of Volcanic Glass Across Southern Idaho*. Unpublished Master's Thesis, Department of Anthropology, Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho.

Raley, Patrick M.

2011 *Obsidian Procurement Area Studies: Excavations at Bear Gulch, Idaho*. Unpublished Master's Thesis, Department of Anthropology, California State University, Chico, California.

Sappington, R. L.

1981 A Progress Report on the Obsidian and Vitrophyre Sourcing Project. *Idaho Archaeologist* 4:4-17.

Scheiber, Laura L. and Judson B. Finley

2011 Obsidian Source Use in the Greater Yellowstone Area, Wyoming Basin, and Central Rocky Mountains. *American Antiquity* 76:372-394.

Willingham, Charles G.

1995 Big Table Mountain: An Obsidian Source in the Centennial Mountains of Eastern Idaho. *Idaho Archaeologist* 18(1):3-7.

Wright, Gary A. and Henry J. Chaya

1985 Obsidian Source Analysis in Northwestern Wyoming: Problems and Prospects. *Plains Anthropologist* 30(109):237-242.

Willson, Christopher A.

2005 *X-Ray Fluorescence Analysis of Obsidian Associated with Late Archaic Sites in Southwestern Idaho and Southeastern Oregon: Issues in Addressing Mobility*. Unpublished Master's Thesis, Department of Anthropology, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.

2007 A Re-Evaluation of X-Ray Fluorescence Data from Idaho and Southeastern Oregon, *Idaho Archaeologist* 30:17-26.

Wright, Gary A., Henry Chaya, and James McDonald

1990 The Location of the Field Museum Yellowstone (F.M.Y., 90) Group Obsidian Source. *Plains Anthropologist* 35(127):71-74.