IDAHO OBSIDIAN SOURCES

COAL BANK SPRING



Range of visual variability for obsidian nodules collected in the Coal Bank Spring vicinity. The specimen on the right was assigned to the Coal Bank Spring source and the item on the left was correlated with the Browns Bench source.

ALTERNATE NAMES: Coal Bank.

LOCATION - COUNTY: Cassia.

GEOCHEMICAL AND VISUAL CHARACTERISTICS: Trace element analysis of 15 source samples from the Coal Bank Spring vicinity initially suggests the presence of two geochemical sources. One of these groups shows systematically elevated amounts of yttrium and zinc and is provisionally assigned to the Coal Bank Spring source while the other group appears to belong to the well-known Browns Bench source. Both chemical groups, however, appear visually atypical from most Browns Bench source samples in our reference collection. At the present time, this source occurrence remains somewhat enigmatic and will require additional study.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Suzann Henrikson.

REFERENCES

Bailey, Jeff

1992 X-Ray Fluorescence Characterization of Volcanic Glass Artifacts from Wilson Butte Cave, Idaho. Unpublished Master's Thesis, Department of Anthropology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Beck, Charlotte and George T. Jones

2011 The Role of Mobility and Exchange in the Conveyance of Toolstone During the Great Basin Archaic. In *Perspectives* on *Prehistoric Trade and Exchange in California and the Great Basin*, edited by Richard E. Hughes, pp. 55-82. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, Utah.

NORTHWEST RESEARCH OBSIDIAN STUDIES LABORATORY WWW.OBSIDIANLAB.COM

Holmer, Richard N.

1997 Volcanic Glass Utilization in Eastern Idaho. Tebiwa 26:186-204.