

OREGON OBSIDIAN SOURCES



Outcrop of obsidian at the top of Tam McArthur Rim, Three Sisters Wilderness Area, Oregon High Cascades - the North Sister and Middle Sister are visible in the left background. The ground surface in the vicinity of the figure is covered with small nodules of non-cultural obsidian.

TAM MCARTHUR

The topmost flow in the cliffs a short distance west of the Lookout Station is notable as the only obsidian erupted by any of the older group of volcanoes. Its crust and bottom consist of black and varicolored, streaky glass; the inter, on the other hand, is composed of dense, lithoidal lava so closely jointed parallel to the banding as to appear from a distance like slate. (Williams 1944:45)

ALTERNATE NAMES: –.

GEOCHEMICAL SOURCE: Tam McArthur.

LOCATION - COUNTY: Deschutes.

LOCATION - GIS: -121.64, 44.09.

ACCESS AND OWNERSHIP: Deschutes National Forest. Access limited by snow in winter months.

GEOLOGIC BACKGROUND/SETTING: Mapped as unit PsRdLa6 by Taylor (1978) and as part of unit Qr by Taylor et al. (1987).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The toolstone quality of the glass is marginal. Trace element studies of artifacts from archaeological sites in this region have failed to identify any instances of glass from this source.

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REFERENCES

Taylor, Edward M.

1978 *Field Geology of the S. W. Broken Top Quadrangle.* Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Special Paper 2, Portland, Oregon.

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1987 *Geologic Map of the Three Sisters Wilderness, Deschutes, Lane, and Linn Counties, Oregon.* U. S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Field Studies Map MF-1952, scale 1:63,360.

Williams, Howel

1944 Volcanoes of the Three Sisters Region, Oregon Cascades. *University of California Publications in Geological Sciences* 27:37-84.