WYOMING OBSIDIAN SOURCES

OBSIDIAN CLIFF

A view of Obsidian Cliff, Yellowstone National Park, perhaps the most well-known obsidian source in North America.

ALTERNATE NAMES: F.M.Y. 150 Group, Obsidian Cliffs, Yellowstone Cliff.

LOCATION - COUNTY: Park.

ACCESS AND OWNERSHIP: Yellowstone National Park. Collection permits are required for the removal of any samples from the park.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The spectacular Obsidian Cliff source in Yellowstone National Park was one of the first obsidian sources to be described in modern scientific literature (Holmes 1879; Iddings 1888). Many archaeological sites in the northern United States and southern Canada have yielded artifacts correlated with this Yellowstone source. The geology, geochemistry, and prehistoric use of obsidian from Obsidian Cliff are best summarized and described by Davis et al. (1995).

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REFERENCES


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