

OREGON OBSIDIAN SOURCES

DRY CREEK



Lens of obsidian in a welded tuff matrix. The top of the key in the photo is about 3 cm long.

ALTERNATE NAMES: Peyerl Tuff; West of Fort Rock (McKee et al. 1975).

LOCATION - COUNTY: Lake.

GEOLOGIC SETTING: Lenses of obsidian (fiamme - see figure above) occur in a widespread rhyolitic ash-flow tuff exposed along the Dry Creek drainage. For more information about fiamme, see Bull and McPhie (2007), Gibson and Tazieff (1967), and Ross and Smith (1960).

AGE: A K-Ar age of 3.34 +/- 0.44 my is reported by McKee et al. (1975) and MacLeod et al (1975) for obsidian from the tuff.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE: In a June 2021 visit, nodules of glass were not observed in the colluvium below outcrops of tuff or seen weathering from top of the ash-flow outcrops. Swisher, however, reports the presence of obsidian nodules in the tuffs and on the surface below outcrops at numerous locations. Geochemical studies of artifacts from the Fort Rock Basin suggest that this sources was likely not one that was a very significant local prehistoric toolstone source.

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