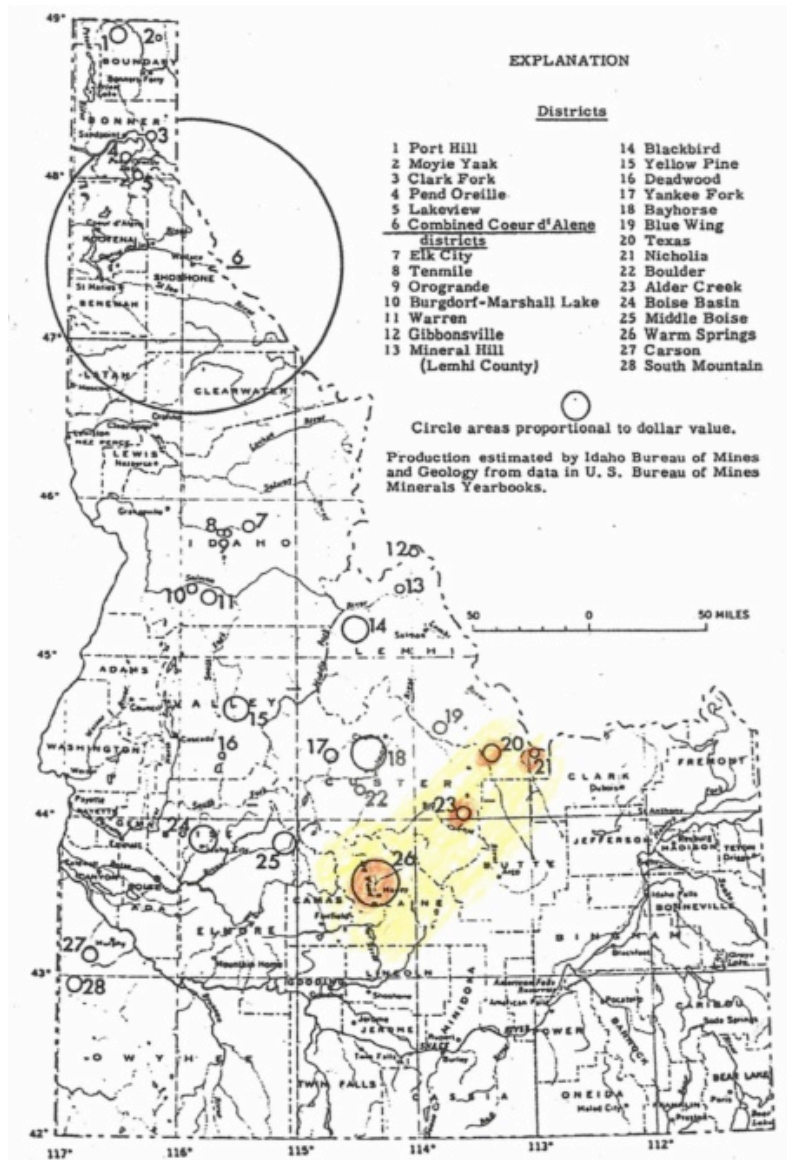


South Central Idaho



Minerals & Ores in the case are from Mining Districts:

Wood River ● Muldoon ● Mackay ● Lava Creek ● Gilmore
Camas ● Sawtooth ● White Cloud Mountains Districts and Vicinity

The most productive mines in this region have been located in the Wood River and Camas Districts around Hailey, Bellevue, and Ketchum. The discovery of rich silver-lead ore in the Wood River area in 1879 touched off a rush to the area that resulted in a number of mines being developed. Some of these shipped ore and concentrates to Utah smelters for many years. Other districts northeast and north of Wood River include Muldoon, Mackay, Lava Creek, Gilmore, and several others in the White Cloud Mountains. Lead, zinc, and silver have been important products of many of these mines. Gold was important in the Camas District and was also produced from a number of mines elsewhere. Copper was the principal product of mines in the Mackay (Alder Creek) district.

A wide variety of sedimentary rocks are exposed in this region, most being of Paleozoic age. There are also intrusive igneous masses of Eocene age in many places, commonly in the mining districts or very near them. Some ores, particularly copper, are associated with contacts between intrusive igneous rocks and limestone.

Tertiary volcanic rocks are present in many areas, largely related to the episode of Eocene volcanism that produced the large volcanic field near Challis. This region lies largely east of the Idaho Batholith and is dominated by a series of north-northwest trending elongate mountain ranges that are bounded on one side or the other by Basin-Range block faults. One of these faults along the west base of the Lost River Range near Mount Borah produced an earthquake on October 28, 1983, that ruptured the surface for about 22 miles and had a maximum displacement of nearly 9 feet.

This region lies immediately north of and adjacent to the eastern arm of the Snake River Plain and Craters of the Moon National Monument. Basalt lava flows cover most of the eastern Snake River Plain and at Craters of the Moon the basalt flows are known to be younger than 20,000 years. Many of these very young flows are related to northwest trending rifts that may reflect extensions of some of the faults that bound the mountain ranges to the north.

South Central Mining Districts