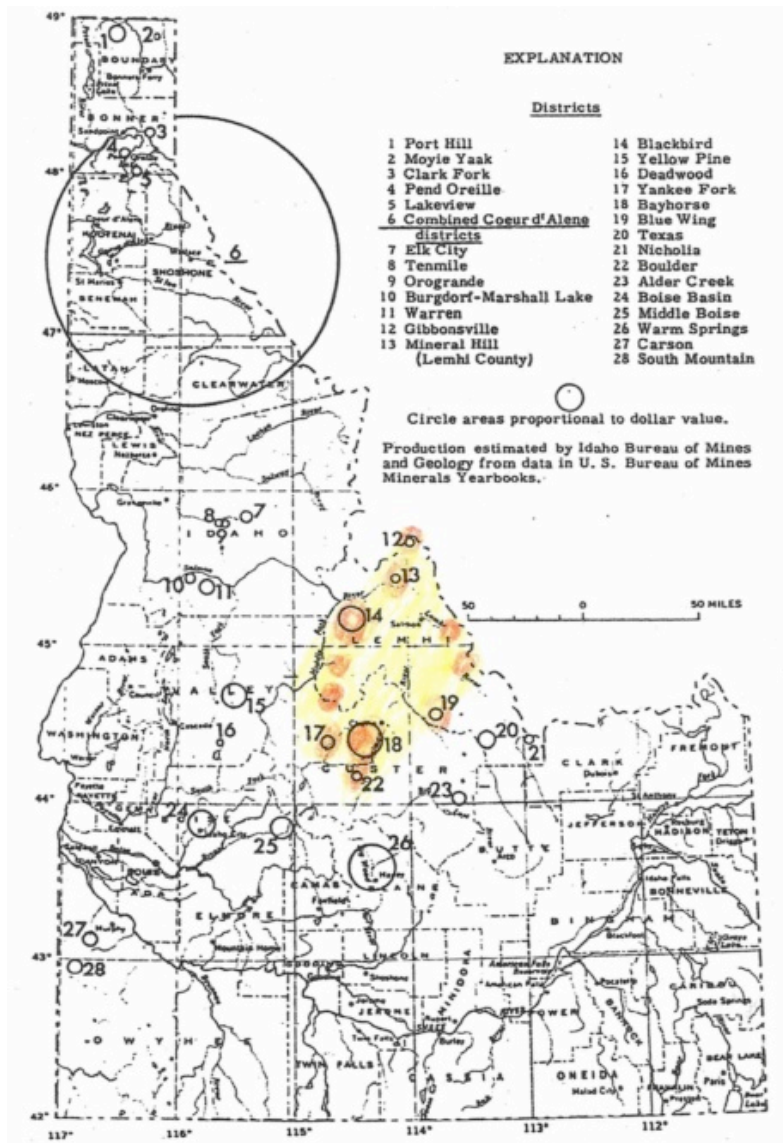


East Central Idaho



Minerals & Ores in the case are from Mining Districts:

Seafoam ● Thompson Creek ● Yankee Fork ● Bayhorse
 Blackbird ● Leesburg ● Loon Creek ● Yellowjacket ● Shoup
 Patterson ● Leadore ● Gibbonsville Districts and Vicinity

There are a wide variety of different types of mineral deposits in this part of Idaho. Gold and silver have been produced from a number of districts and also important amounts of lead, zinc, copper, tungsten, and other metals. A substantial Thorium resource is present in the Lemhi Pass area.

The Blackbird cobalt-copper-gold resource is large and unique in the western U.S. and was quite productive in past years. A few miles north of the Blackbird district is the Leesburg gold district where early-day placer mining was extensive but the lode source of the gold uncertain. In recent years the lode source was found and the Bear Track open pit gold mine excavated it.

To the south the Thompson Creek molybdenum mine southwest of Challis has been a major open pit producer for many years. Substantial lead-zinc-silver production has come from mines in the Bayhorse and Clayton areas. Fluorspar is present in substantial amounts in a few localities and is a resource that may eventually be produced. Attractive building stone is produced from the Three Rivers quarry southeast of Challis and is marketed over much of the U.S.

The geology of this region is complex. Sedimentary rocks are widespread and range in age from Late Precambrian to Tertiary. Quartzites of Late Precambrian and Paleozoic age are particularly abundant. Limestones are local hosts for silver-lead-zinc deposits. There are intrusive igneous masses in many places and the edge of the Idaho Batholith extends north-south through the western part of this region. Volcanic rocks of Eocene age are widespread in the area around Challis and occur locally in many other places. North-northwest elongate mountain ranges in part of this area are bounded on one or both sides by Basin-Range block faults.

The mineral specimens in this cabinet represent ores and minerals from many different localities in this region.

East Central Mining Districts