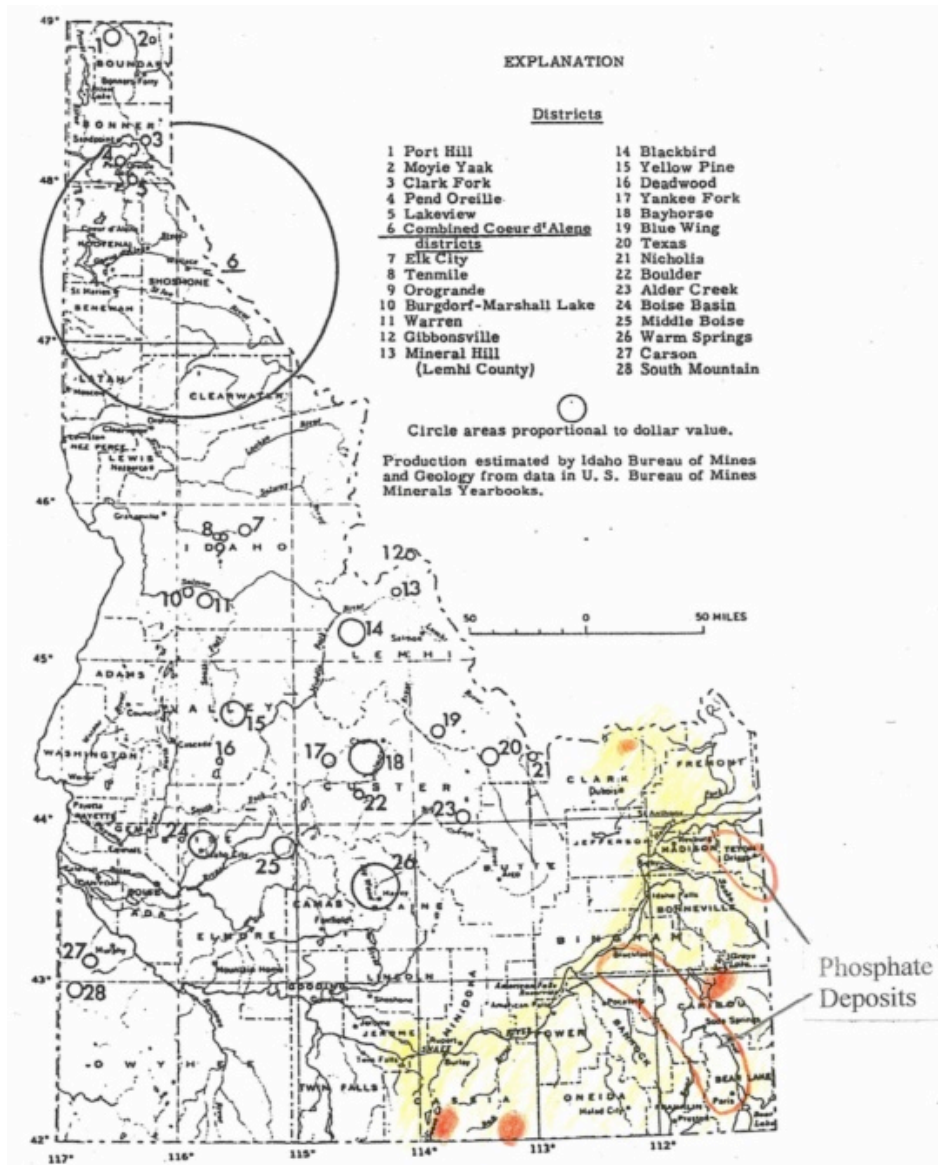


# Southeastern Idaho



Minerals & Ores in the case are from Mining Districts:

Phosphate Region ● Blackpine ● Oakley  
 Cariboo Mountain Districts ● Eastern Snake River Placers

Many different types of mineral deposits are located in this region. Along the Snake River there has been intermittent mining of gold from river gravels. South of Burley, in the vicinity of Oakley, there are a number of stone quarries where a thin-bedded micaceous quartzite is mined. This very attractive stone has a large market throughout the United States.

To the east several open pit gold mines have operated in the Black Pine Mountains. Gold has also been mined in past years in the Cariboo District north of Soda Springs. Pumice is also mined in this region and limestone is mined for the manufacture of Portland cement. Precious Opal is found in the northern part of this region near the Montana border.

The most valuable and most widely mined resource in this region is phosphate rock. There are several mines operated by several different companies and the annual combined value of the material they produce surpasses the value of all other minerals mined each year in Idaho. Most of the phosphate rock is refined to produce agricultural fertilizers but much is also refined to produce food and drink additives. Phosphate is one of the essential minerals for all biological life.

The Idaho phosphate mines produce from a shaley limestone formation of Permian age (about 260 million years old) that is known as the Phosphoria Formation. This formation is exposed in a variety of localities in a region about 150,000 square miles in extent, with exposures in adjacent parts of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Utah. It was deposited under unusual circumstances in a shallow sea which covered this region in Permian time, and for several hundred thousand years prior to that time.

The open pit gold deposits that have been mined in the Black Pine District are similar to many of the deposits currently being mined in Nevada, in that the gold particles are of micron (no-see-um) size and the host rock is limestone.

## **Southeastern Mining Districts**