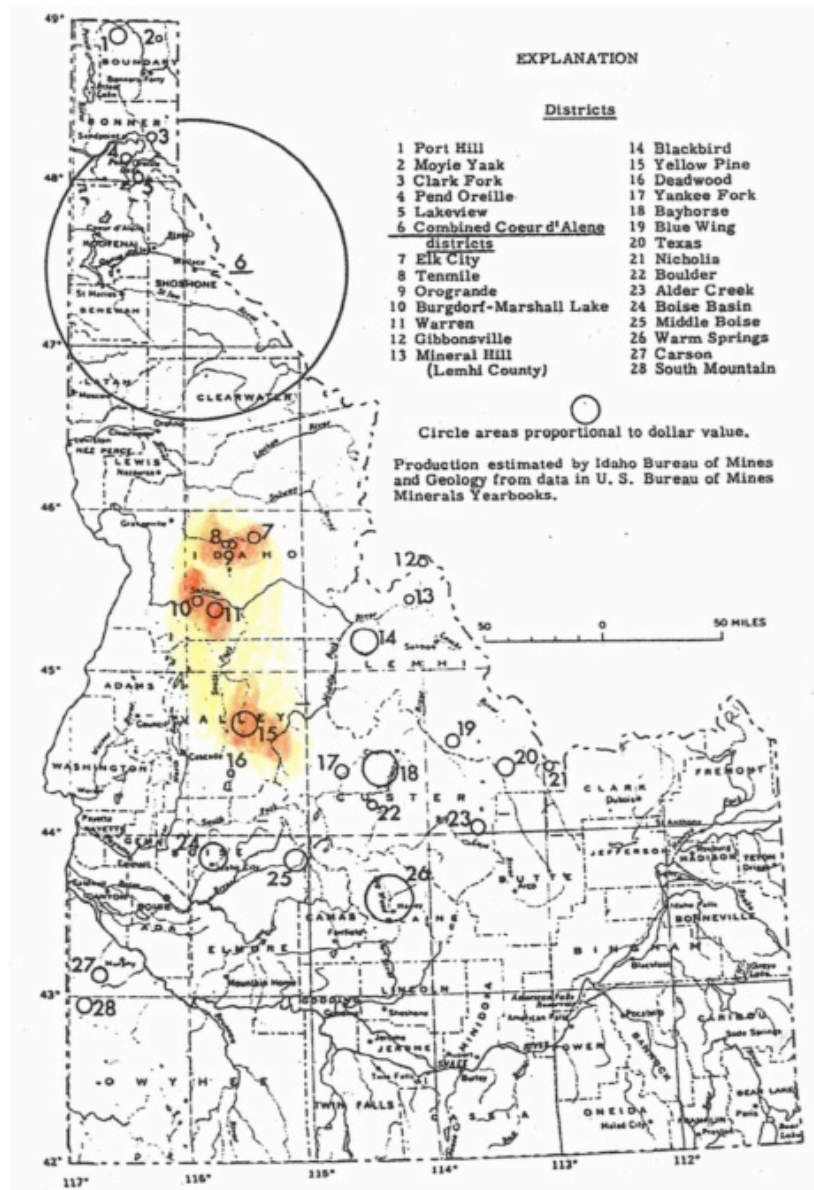


West Central Idaho



Minerals & Ores in the case are from Mining Districts:

Warren-Marshall Mountain ● Florence ● Simpson
 Elk City ● Dixie ● Buffalo Hump ● Big Creek
 Stibnite ● Thunder Mountain Districts and Vicinity

The most productive district in this region has been the Yellow Pine (Stibnite) District - a major producer of antimony and tungsten during World War II. It also produced gold and mercury before that time and has been a renewed producer of gold in recent years. The deposits occur in and near a large block of sedimentary and metamorphic rocks that were partly engulfed by the Idaho Batholith. Much of the antimony, tungsten, and gold have been mined from north- and northeast-trending faults and shear zones in granitic rocks of the batholith.

Other districts nearby in this region are Big Creek (north) and Thunder Mountain (east). Thunder Mountain has been an important producer of gold from an unusual occurrence in Tertiary volcanic rocks and sediments. The district is generally considered to be located within a caldera that formed in Eocene time associated with the great field of Challis Volcanics.

To the northwest, gold-bearing veins and related placer deposits have been mined in several other mining districts. Among these are the Florence, Warren, Orogrand, and Elk City Districts. Most of the veins and local disseminations that carry gold in these districts occur in granitic rocks of the Idaho Batholith. A few are in metamorphic rocks that occur as engulfed pendants in the batholith. Gold in the Florence and Warren Districts was discovered in 1861 shortly after Idaho's earliest gold discovery near Orofino at Pierce. These discoveries preceded the much bigger discovery in Boise Basin by one year.

In the cabinet there are several specimens from the gold-bearing Rescue white quartz vein in the Warren District. If one looks closely at these there are particles of free gold to be seen. Specimens from a number of other mines in this region exhibit the nature of mineralization in those areas. Red cinnabar (mercury sulfide) is present in one specimen from the Yellow Pine (Stibnite) District. Another contains the mineral stibnite, an antimony sulfide.

West Central Mining Districts