

Mother Nature's Watercolors

Deer Sky Jasper & other Picture Jaspers of Eastern Oregon



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Abandon hope....

My introduction to Deer Sky
Jasper began innocuously
enough...



Abandon hope....

My introduction to Deer Sky Jasper began innocuously enough...

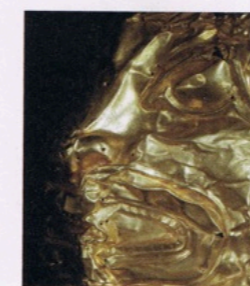
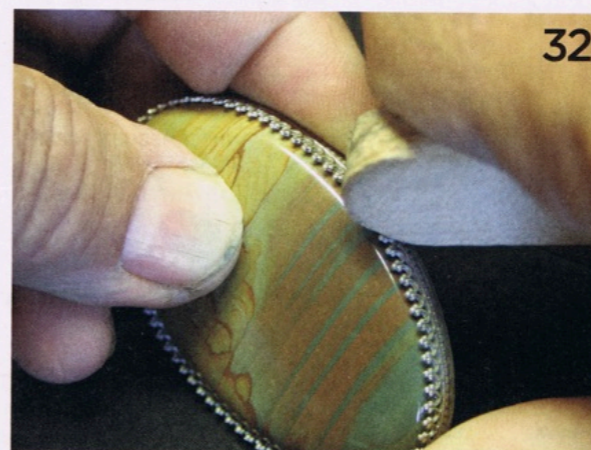


Oooh!

Oooh!
Oooh!!

Turn the page....

Uh-oh.



ABOUT OUR COVER:
Tumaco gold mask, "Treasures of the Andes," page 18.

COLLECTION OF AND PHOTO COURTESY MUSEO DEL ORO DEL BANCO DE COLOMBIA, BOGOTÁ.

Inset: Roger Halas's "Phoenix Parrette," page 44.

PHOTO: JIM LAWSON

July 2014 • Volume 68, Number 3

LAPIDARY JOURNAL JEWELRY ARTIST



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Turn the page....

Oh dear.

DEER SKY JASPER

- 26** **Smokin' Stones: Deer Sky Jasper**
by Kathleen Fink with Neal Schornack
- 28** **Deer Sky Cabochon**
*gem project by Kathleen Fink
with Neal Schornack*
- 32** **Jasper & Silver Pendant**
*jewelry project by Kathleen Fink
with Neal Schornack*

Bad news.

GEM PROJECT

SKILLS

- Cabochon cutting

TIME IT TOOK

Up to 3 hours for larger cabochons



Deer Sky Jasper
Cabochon

Showcase a picture in this Oregon stone

BY KATHLEEN FINK WITH NEAL SCHORNACK

Well, I'll never
find any of this
stuff.

JEWELRY PROJECT

SKILLS

- Soldering
- Fabrication
- Bezel making
- Cabochon setting

TIME IT TOOK

2 hours

Jasper & Silver Pendant

Frame a special picture stone

BY KATHLEEN FINK
WITH NEAL SCHORNACK

LAPIDARY JOURNAL / JEWELRY ARTIST





Owyhee Deer Sky Jasper E06

Item condition: **New**

Ended: Aug 17, 2014 15:30:01 PDT

Winning bid:

Already paid? Go to your [eBay Bucks - Activity View](#) to see your [eBay Bucks](#).

PayPal CREDIT Extra 1% in eBay Bucks + more time to pay [See terms](#)

Shipping: [Calculate](#)

Item location: Kuna, Idaho, United States
Ships to: Worldwide

Delivery: **Varies**

Payments: [PayPal](#) or [PayPal CREDIT](#) | [See details](#)

Returns: **14 days money back, buyer pays return shipping** | [See details](#)

Guarantee: [eBay](#) MONEY BACK GUARANTEE | [See details](#)

Get the item you ordered or get your money back.
Covers your purchase price and original shipping.



@#)*@*\$&&@_\$(*)



Some time passes...

Aside: What is “Owyhee”, anyway?

- "Owyhee" and "Hawaii" are two different spellings for the same word
- "Owyhee" is the spelling that British and American traders used during the early 19th century in referring to natives of the Sandwich Islands (now called the Hawaiian Islands)
- A number of Owyhees sailed on to the Columbia, where they joined trapping expeditions or worked at the fur trade posts

Aside: What is “Owyhee”, anyway?

- Just at the time the Owyhees disappeared into the Owyhee country, American missionaries came to the Sandwich Islands and worked out an alphabet for the native language in order to print the Bible and other missionary literature
- In the alphabet they adopted, the word "Owyhee" turned out to be "Hawaii"

Aside: What is “Owyhee”, anyway?

- The older form survived - Many of the fur traders' Idaho place names were lost in later years, but some—including "Owyhee" for a mountain range and river—were retained
- When the Owyhee mines were discovered in 1863, the name still was in use, and the mines brought permanent settlement, which preserved the name ever since that time

From the Ground Up...

- What is jasper?
 - Jasper is an opaque, impure chalcedony
 - Traditionally thought of as red, it also comes in pinks, yellows, greens, browns, and grayish blues
 - Association with other minerals give jasper nice bands and patterns

From the Ground Up, Cont'd

- Jasper is an opaque variety of chalcedony occurring in all colors
- It is sometimes impure, containing organic material and/or mineral oxides such as iron oxide
- This gives it interesting colors and patterns
- When jasper does not exhibit interesting colors or patterns, it is known as chert

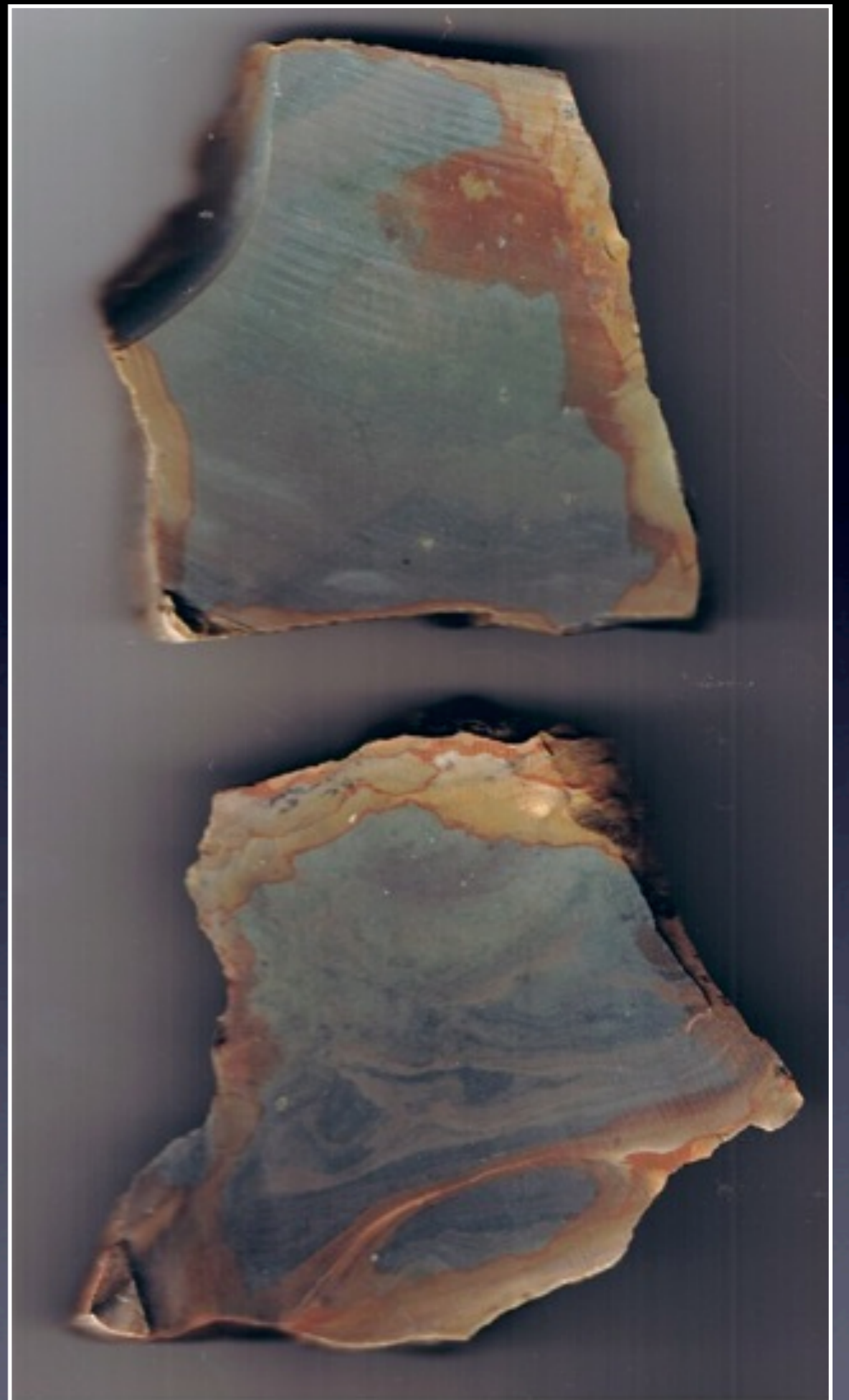
From the Ground Up, Cont'd

- What is picture jasper?
 - Jasper is usually named according to its pattern
 - Picture jasper
 - Ribbon jasper
 - Orbicular jasper
 - Brecciated jasper

Would you pick
up this rock?



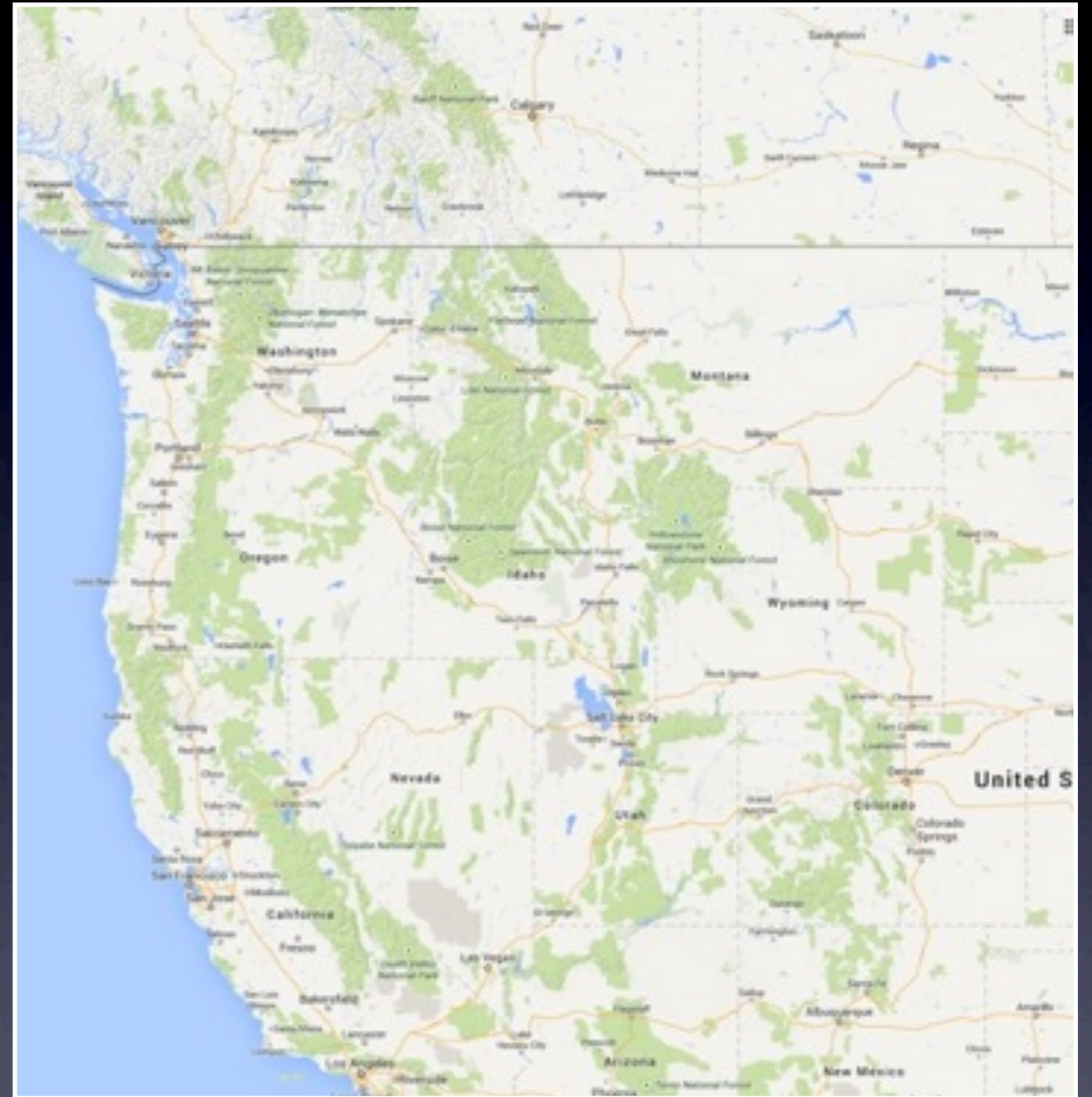
I would NOW!



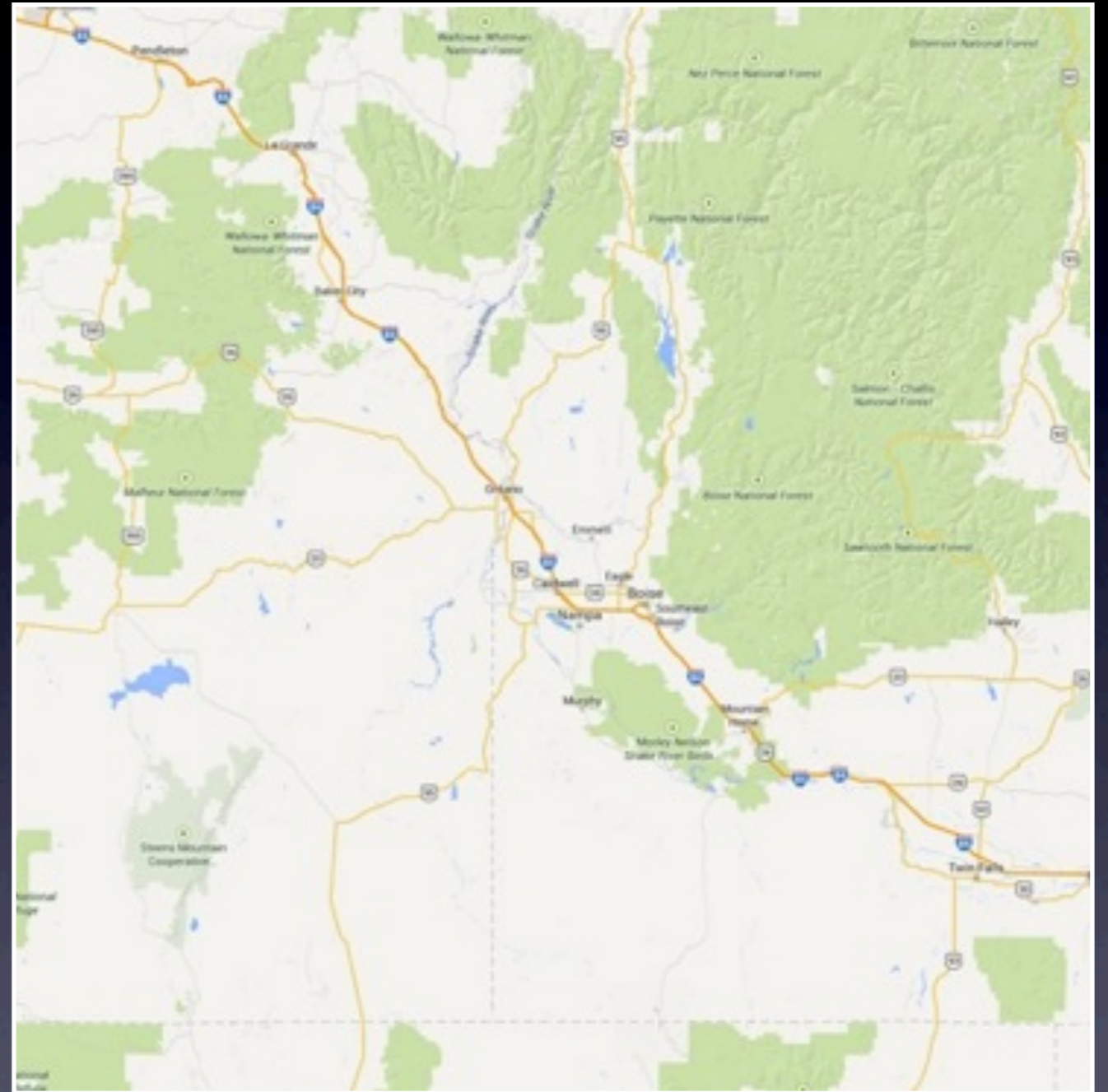
Where do
picture jaspers
come from?



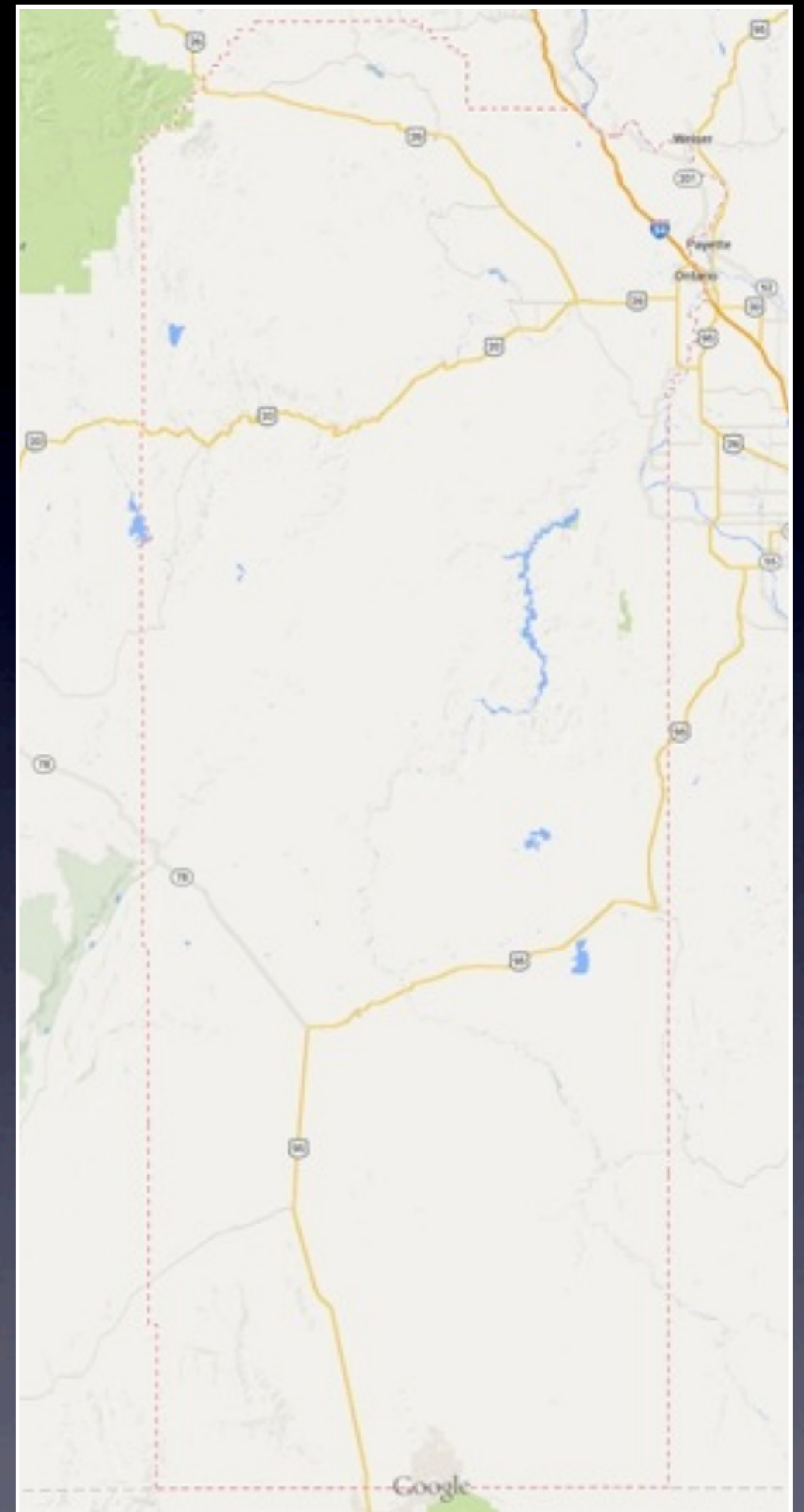
Pacific Northwest...



Eastern Oregon/ Western Idaho



Malheur County, Oregon



Lake Owyhee Region



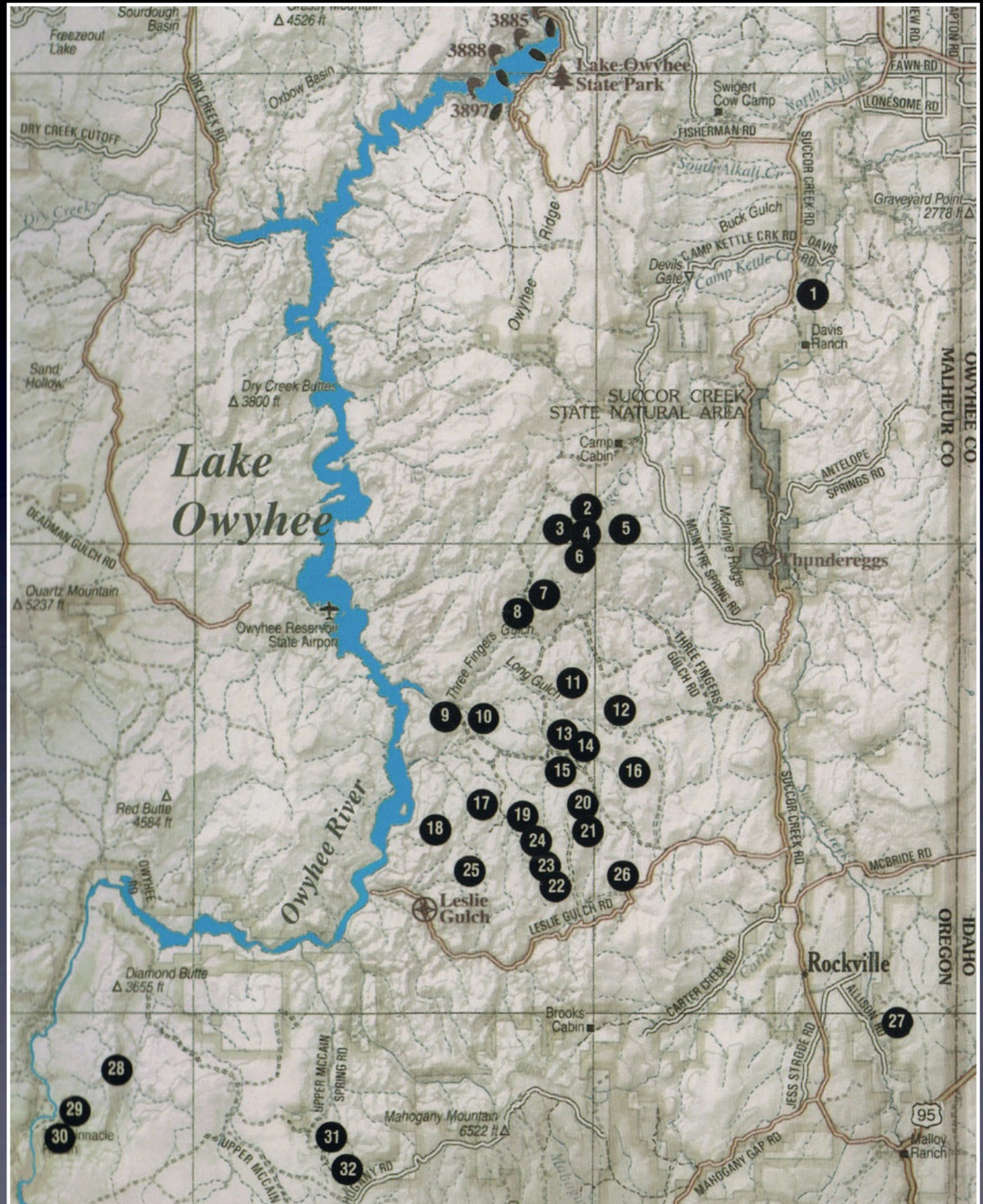
Lake Owyhee Region



Lake Owyhee Region



Recent Owyhee Jasper Claims



RE: Owyhee Picture Jaspers

- 75+ named varieties
- Became 'viral' in the 70's
- By 1980, there were thousands of claims filed with the BLM
- Some types are still plentiful - Wild Horse, Cripple Creek for example
- Others, such as Rocky Butte, Succor Creek & Owyhee Gem are mostly exhausted

Where does Deer Sky
Jasper come from?

Confidential!

Per the source...

- Private ranch
- Only person with permission to mine
- Only found in a small area
- Therefore, limited and rare
- But, we get to sneak a peek!!



The source!

The source!





The source!



The source!

What are picture jaspers?

How are they formed?

Detour....

Warning - dubious analogy ahead!



Trying to figure out how to explain this to myself, it dawned on me...sushi!



wikiHow

Take layers of ingredients...



Assemble them in a specific order...



Form into shapes...



Cut cross-sections...



Voila - Pictures!



Voila - Pictures!

What is the process?

- Alluvial sedimentation
 - “Owyhee Jasper is basically petrified mud”
- Volcanic explosions
- Silica-rich rhyolites
- Pyroclastic flows/superheated ash
 - Bake at 375°F for several epochs...

What are the ingredients?

- Cryptocrystalline quartz
- Trace elements, including:
 - Iron
 - Copper
 - Manganese
 - Zinc
- Aluminum
- Titanium
- Zirconium
- Chromium
- Magnesium

Deer Sky.. why the name????

- “There were so many varieties of colors and patterns there did not seem to be an appropriate name based on the stone.”
- “Since it was my jasper to name I went for something I liked, which was distinctive and not easily confused with every other jasper named after a river, valley or ridge.”
- “I took a bit of grief from fellow rock hounds over the name.”

Deer Sky.. why the name????

- “I love the sky out where I dig. So many cloud patterns, some of which are duplicates of what are in the stone. And yes, there are deer out there as well.”
- “Some days they even stand on a ridge against the sky and make a beautiful picture.”
- “Well, that and I just like the name. I really feel there is a warmth to it.”

Sample
pics



Sample
pics



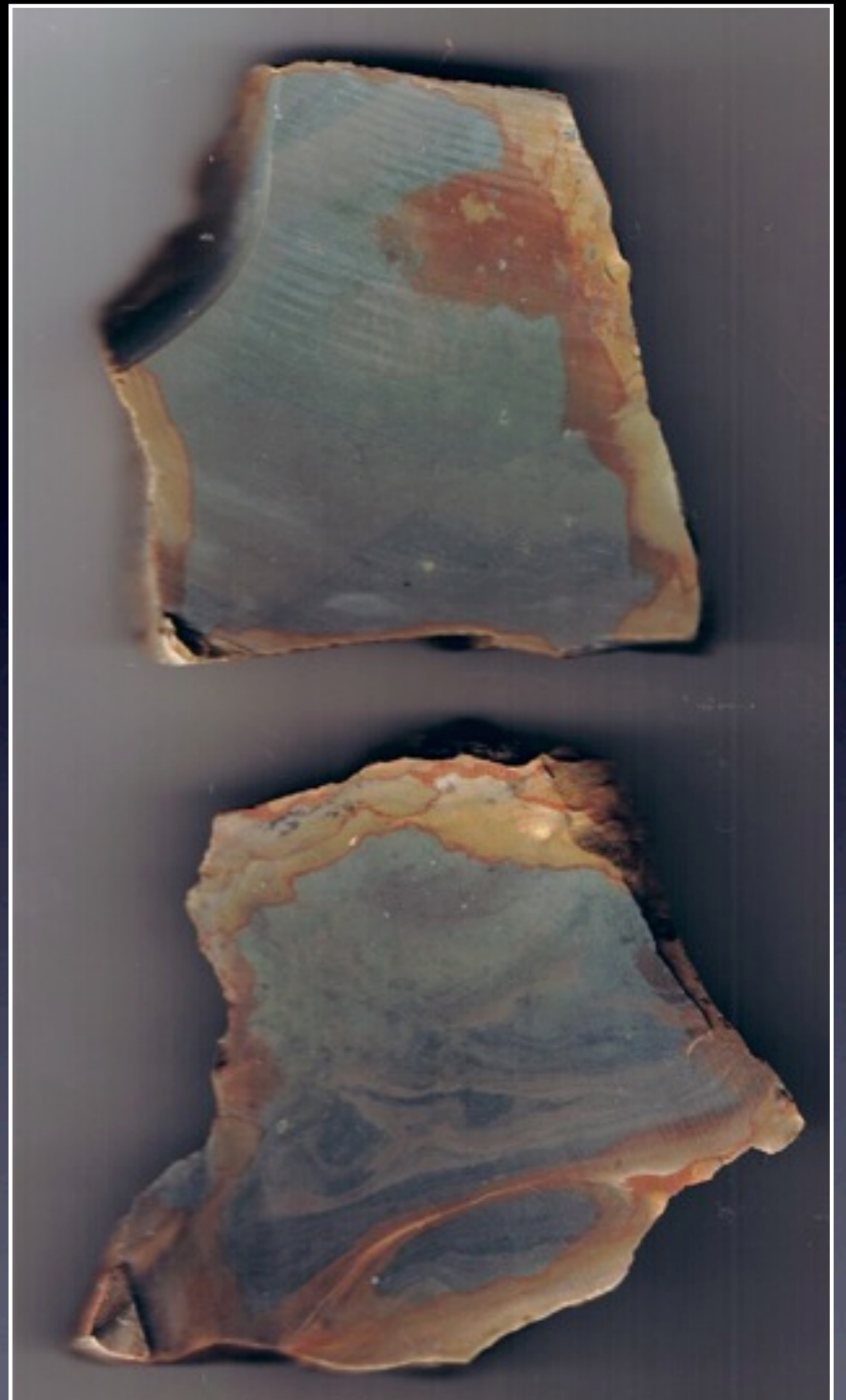


Sample pics

Samples of rough & slabs

Pass around
CAUTION!

**Sharp edges -
watch your
fingers!!**





Pics of finished cabs



Pics of
finished
cabs

Pics of
finished
cabs





Pics of
finished
cabs

Pics of finished
wares



Pics of finished
wares



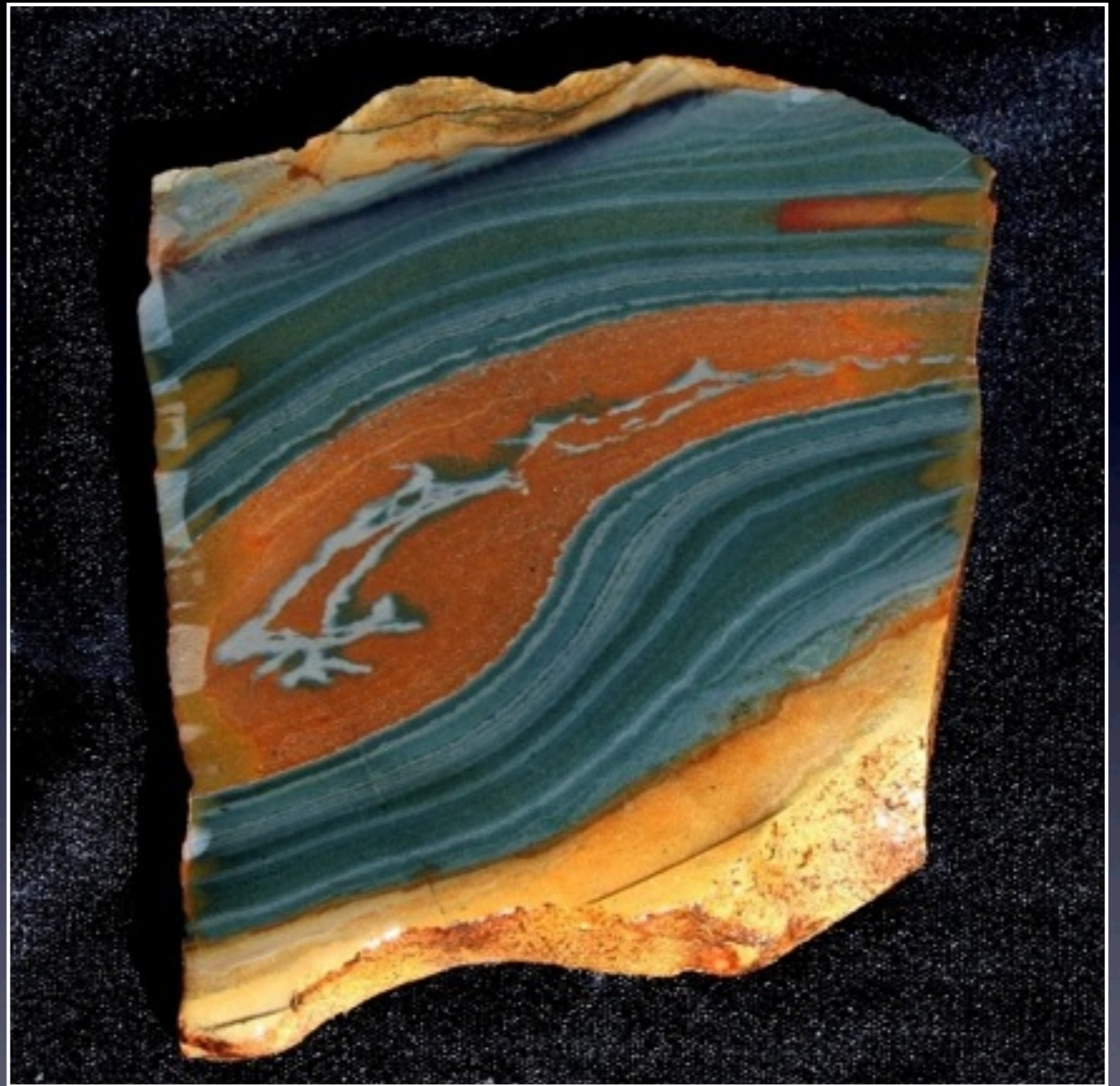
Pics of
finished
wares



Pics of
finished
wares



Pics of
finished
wares



References

- Lapidary Journal & Jewelry Artist, July 2014
- Picture Jaspers - Treasures of the Owyhee Area, Oregon; Hans Gamma, 2011
- "Meditation Place #2" Contemporary Abstract Landscape Painting by Melody Cleary, Oregon Artist
- <http://tinyurl.com/kc55t3g>

For Further Information

- Neal Schornack
 - <http://dspjgems.com/>
 - Many thanks to Neal for his information and input!
- The Gem Shop
 - <http://thegemshop.com/pages/mining-rock-locations>
- Idaho State Historical Society
 - <http://history.idaho.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/reference-series/0036.pdf>

Door Prize!



Thanks!

