



Much later, during the Ice Age (and as recently as 13,000 years ago), some of the largest documented floods of water to ever occur raced across eastern Washington, carving out a landscape of basalt buttes, basins and canyons. A volume of water comparable to some of today's Great Lakes was unleashed when an ice dam in northern Idaho burst. Dozens and perhaps hundreds of flood events eroded the lava surface into the unique landscape known as the channeled scabland. Trail visitors will see stark reminders of one of the world's largest volcanic fields eroded ago buried the eastern Washington landscape under a sea of lava.

The trail area has an amazing geologic story to tell. Huge outpourings of basaltic lava about 15 million years ago buried the eastern Washington landscape under a sea of lava. The trail area has an amazing geologic story to tell. Huge outpourings of basaltic lava about 15 million years ago buried the eastern Washington landscape under a sea of lava.



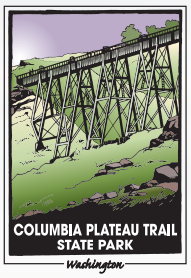
HISTORY OF THE TRAIL

Go Prepared

Planning is key to an enjoyable day trip along the Columbia Plateau Trail. Part of the appeal of this unique trail is that it offers a break from the hustle and bustle of every day life and an opportunity to enjoy the wide open spaces of eastern Washington.

Crossroads are rare. Public facilities are scarce and summer temperatures often exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit. The trail also features 18 railroad trestles, all of which offer interesting viewing but lack decking and guard rails (most are closed to use).

Trail users should carry the 10 essentials: extra food and water, maps, a compass, flashlight, sunglasses, first-aid kit, pocket knife, waterproof matches and a fire starter. Travelers may need other supplies as well, depending on the length of their trek.



Columbia Plateau State Park Trail South (main) Office
 100 S.W. Main St.
 P.O. Box 541
 Washtucna, WA 99371
 (509) 646-9218

Riverside State Park
 (north portion only)
 9711 W. Charles Road
 Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026
 (509) 465-5064

State Parks information:
 (360) 902-8844

Reservations: Online at www.parks.state.wa.us or call (888) CAMPOUT or (888) 226-7688

Other state parks located in the general area: Palouse Falls State Park

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2021 If you would like to support Washington State Parks even more, please consider making a donation when renewing your license plate tabs. You also may place a check in a donation box when you visit state parks. Donations are a significant part of the State Parks budget and are needed to keep your parks open and operating. For more information, visit www.parks.state.wa.us/donations

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

P.O. Box 42650
 Olympia, WA 98504-2650
 (360) 902-8500
www.parks.state.wa.us

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 Steve S. Milner Diana Perez
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 Agency director: Don Hoch

All Washington state parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all people.

To request this brochure in an alternative format, please call (360) 902-8844 or the Washington Telecommunications Relay Service at (800) 833-6388. P&R 45-52002-01 (02/21)

Washington State Parks Columbia Plateau State Park Trail



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TRAILS AND FACILITIES

The 3.75-mile trail section from Fish Lake Trailhead to Cheney Trailhead has an asphalt trail surface and is great for hiking, bicycling and inline skating. The remaining 19.25-mile trail section from Cheney Trailhead to Martin Road Trailhead has a crushed-rock trail surface and is useable by horseback riders, mountain bikers and hikers. Both trails are ADA accessible. Directional signs to trailheads are provided on I-90, state routes and county roads. The mileposts represent the distance from Portland. Trailhead locations are as follows:

Fish Lake Trailhead, milepost 365 Getting there

Westbound I-90 traffic: Take exit 270 (Four Lakes/Cheney), travel 5.4 miles and turn left on Cheney Spokane Road. Go three miles and take a right onto Fish Lake Trailhead.

Eastbound I-90 traffic: Take exit 257 (Cheney/Tyler), turn right and travel 12 miles. Turn right on Cheney Spokane Road. Go three miles and turn right onto Fish Lake Trailhead.

Parking, a picnic shelter, tables, restrooms and an informational kiosk; drinking fountain is at milepost 361.5.

Cheney Trailhead, milepost 361.25 Getting there

Westbound I-90 traffic: Take exit 270 (Four Lakes/Cheney), travel 6.5 miles and turn left on Cheney Spangle Road. Go one mile and turn left onto Cheney Trailhead.

Eastbound I-90 traffic: Take exit 257 (Cheney/Tyler), turn right and travel 10.9 miles. Turn right on Cheney Spangle Road. Go one mile and turn left onto Cheney Trailhead.



Parking (including equestrian units), restroom, picnic shelters, tables and an informational kiosk.

Amber Lake Trailhead, milepost 349.25 Getting there

Westbound I-90 traffic: Take exit 270 (Four Lakes/Cheney), travel 8.3 miles and turn left on Mullinix Road. Go 9.5 miles and turn right on Pine Springs Road. Travel 1.4 miles and take left onto Amber Lake Trailhead.

Eastbound I-90 traffic: Take exit 245 (Sprague/Harrington), turn right and travel .6 mile. Turn right on Fourth Street and go one block. Turn right onto B street and travel three blocks. Turn right onto First Street (turns into Sprague Highway) and travel 2.6 miles. Turn right onto Williams Lake Road (Williams Lake Road turns into Martin road and then turns into Mullinix Road). Go straight and follow signs. Travel 16.5 miles and turn left onto Pine Springs Road. Travel 1.4 miles and turn left onto Amber Lake Trailhead.

Parking (including equestrian units), equestrian highline, restrooms and an informational kiosk.

Martin Road Trailhead, milepost 342 Getting there

Westbound I-90 traffic: Take exit 270 (Four Lakes/Cheney), travel 8.3 miles and turn left on Mullinix Road (Mullinix road turns into Martin Road). Go 21.2 miles and turn right onto Martin Road Trailhead.

Eastbound I-90 traffic: Take exit 245 (Sprague/Harrington), turn right and travel .6 mile. Turn right on Fourth Street and go one block. Turn right onto B Street and travel three blocks. Turn right onto First Street (turns into Sprague Highway) and travel 2.6 miles. Turn right onto Williams Lake Road. Travel 4.8 miles and turn left onto Martin Road Trailhead.

Parking (including equestrian units), equestrian highline, restrooms and an informational kiosk.

Snake River Junction Trailhead, milepost 256.2 Getting there

Southbound 395 to 182 to Highway 12: Take Kahlotus exit and drive northeast on the Pasco/Kahlotus Highway. Travel approximately 23.5 miles to Snake River Road. Turn right, and drive 4.6 miles to Lake Sacajawea and Snake River Junction Trailhead.

Parking (including equestrian units), restroom, picnic shelter, table and an informational kiosk.

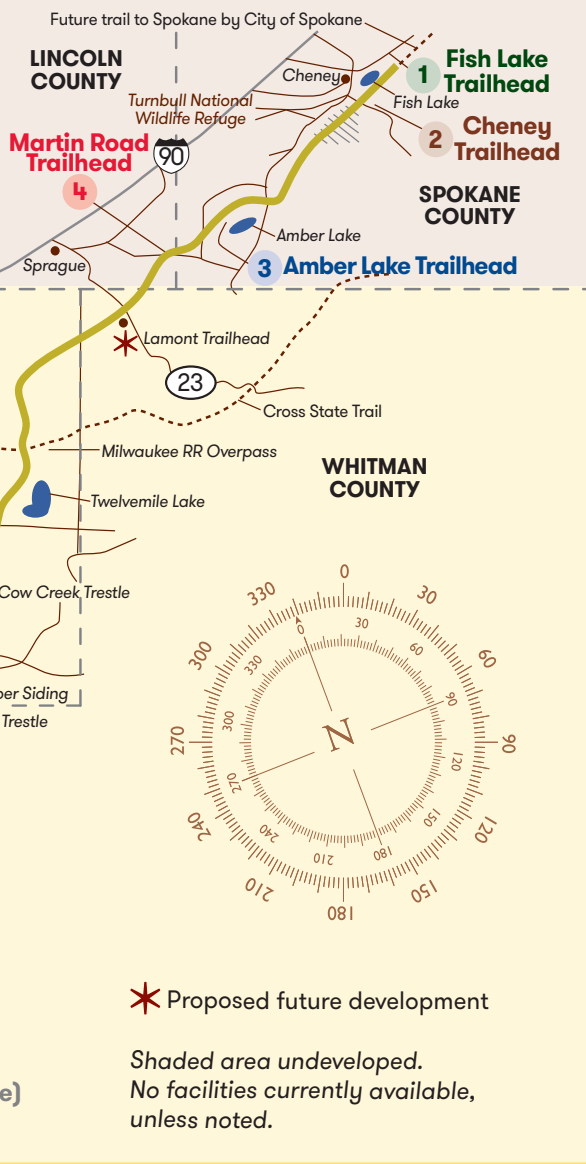
Ice Harbor Dam Trailhead, milepost 241.9 Getting there

Southbound 395 to 182 to Highway 12: Take Kahlotus exit and drive northeast on the Pasco/Kahlotus Highway. Travel approximately 9.9 miles to Ice Harbor Dam Road. Turn right, and drive three miles. Make a left turn just before road onto the dam. It is .3 miles to trailhead from this point.

Parking (including equestrian units), restroom, informational kiosk and boat launch

Distance in miles between trailheads

ACCESS POINTS	Fish Lake	Cheney	Amber Lake	Martin Road	Snake River Junction	Ice Harbor
1. Fish Lake	—	3.75	15.5	23.0	108.8	123.1
2. Cheney	3.75	—	11.75	19.25	105.05	119.35
3. Amber Lake	15.5	11.75	—	7.5	93.05	107.35
4. Martin Road	23.0	19.25	7.5	—	85.8	100.1
5. Snake River Junction	108.8	105.05	93.05	85.8	—	14.3
6. Ice Harbor	123.1	119.35	107.35	100.1	14.3	—



Columbia Plateau State Park Trail

FOLLOWING THE OLD RAILWAY

Beginning 16 miles south of Spokane near Fish Lake, hikers, bicyclists and other nonmotorized trail users may follow the Columbia Plateau Trail along the semi-arid channeled scablands of eastern Washington to Lincoln County.

The trail runs through pine forests encompassing the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, a habitat for wild birds such as the famed trumpeter swan. Interpretive panels about the local environment dot this portion of the trail. Milepost 358, located within Turnbull, is the high point of the rail line between Portland and Spokane.

The trail then continues west, passing ponds, lakes and creeks that provide additional nesting sites for birds. Observant visitors often see owls, badgers and other wildlife.

UNDEVELOPED TRAIL

The right-of-way intersects the eastern extension of the John Wayne Pioneer Trail between Lamont and Benge, a remote portion of the corridor that has no facilities for public use.

This undeveloped portion of the trail continues to Washtucna and on to the Snake River Canyon, where the canyons become larger and cliffs steeper. Along the way, there are five tunnels (three of which are concrete-lined) ranging from 200 feet to nearly one-half mile long. Six massive steel viaduct trestles, some of which soar overhead to more than 200 feet high, are currently gated and block trail users from continuing. The trestles, which vary from 800 feet to more than one-third mile long, are located along the Snake River between Kahlotus and Ice Harbor Dam at East Pasco, as well as Cow Creek near Benge.

