

Columbia Basin



Explore a landscape of lava flows, ice age flood landforms, and glacial deposits. Millions of years ago, lava flows filled the Columbia Basin. During the last ice age, huge floods swept through the area, creating giant waterfalls and scouring out massive channels. Dry eastern Washington is home to striking Grand Coulee, spectacular Palouse Falls, and the vast barren scablands. In its southeastern corner, oranges and yellows give way to the rolling green hills of the Palouse. These iconic places record an important and fascinating chapter in Washington's geologic history.



Drumheller channels in the Columbia Basin's channeled scablands.

