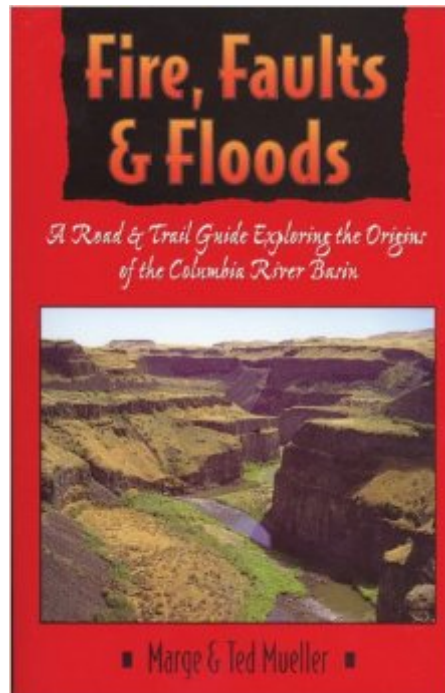


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# Fire, Faults & Floods (Northwest Naturalist Book)



## Synopsis

This road and trail guidebook introduces readers to outstanding geological features found in the Columbia River Basin. Marge and Ted Mueller lead you on a fascinating tour, helping you explore the geologic events that shaped its unique features.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Growing up in Oregon's Willamette Valley, basalt cliffs have watched over my life. More flood basalt and Rocky mountain gravels and mud are under my feet, and for most of my life I've lived within the shores of glacial lake Allison. When I go the rugged Pacific coast I look at beautiful haystack rocks and headlands where the same lava streams flowed, or I climb volcanic peaks just inland.

Flood-wrenched lavas greet me in my travels up the Columbia and Snake Rivers, through the gorge, coulees and hills and through the valley of the Grande Ronde to overlook the Snake River canyon, over a mile deep. Fossils lie beneath similar formations in John Day country. Fire, Faults & Floods bring the processes that created this to life. It would be useful and handy enough as a guidebook for traveling to various places and interpreting them with short hikes and drives.

However, it goes way beyond this, interesting enough to hold your attention as you turn each page, filling in more and more details and drawing them into a cohesive whole. If you have money and interest left after this book, for a more historically-oriented story of Harlan Bretz, and additional local details, pick up a companion book "Cataclysms on the Columbia" by Allen, Burns, Sargent, and Sargent.

I really enjoyed this book. But I may be different than you. I like rocks, massive basalt cliffs, immense coulees, and the beauty of arid lands. These and much more can be found in this wonderful book by Marge and Ted Mueller. If you're excited about these things then this may be a book you'd enjoy also, especially if you live in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. This book is really more than just a basic, easy-to-read geological primer of the Columbia River Basin. It is a trip-planner with detailed instructions on how to go and see the stuff for yourself. I've already been to a couple of the locations and have another short trip planned for this fall. This book is exactly what I hoped it would be when I bought it from .com. I've never found another book quite like it. Enjoy!

I love the Channeled Scablands. They consist of the most amazing area in which I've ever lived, and I've lived all across the United States, Europe and Eastern Canada. The Muellers have done an awesome job putting together this wonderful book. When used in conjunction with the PBS Nova *Mystery of the Megaflood*, the reader learns more and more about the cataclysmic events that shaped the area which encompasses an area from Missoula, MT to the mouth of the Columbia River. This book is highly recommended to historians, amateur geologists, hikers and backpackers alike.

This book tells of events so implausible that even your imagination will have difficulty comprehending them. If I have any complaint about the book it is that it fails to sufficiently emphasize how amazing it is, for example, that molten lava once upon a time ran nearly 400 miles before coming to its stopping place. The authors seem to almost be afraid that if they point up the apparent absurdity of it all, the reader would decide the whole book was a well written hoax! It was not a hoax, though, and the story of what happened in the Pacific Northwest once upon a time is well told. It is of greatest interest, obviously, to those of us who live here in the midst of the results of fire, fault and flood, but, for those elsewhere with vivid imaginations, it is a cracking good book. This is one time when what actually happened is more exciting than anything one's imagination can possibly conjure up!

If you have interest in geology, catastrophes, and particularly in the Missoula Floods, this is one of the best books to read. It provides an overview of the geology and effects of these massive floods of 15,000 years ago, but even more, it provides driving directions, lodging and fuel suggestions, and fantastic day and multi-day trips to view the current day results of the Floods. I've been to many of

the areas covered by the book, and it still pointed out many things I had failed to see and understand. If you are going to be traveling anywhere in Eastern Washington, the Columbia River Gorge, Northern Idaho, or around Missoula Montana--buy the book. It's a very entertaining read and a wonderful way to open your eyes to what has happened to create the extraordinary formations in the inland Northwest.

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