The Columbia Plateau Trail is a 130-mile corridor and 4,109-acre day-use area located on an abandoned railroad right-of-way in eastern Washington. Currently, 23 miles of the trail between Lincoln County and Cheney and 15 miles in Franklin County are developed and open for public use. Activities include hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, in-line skating, nature viewing, bird watching, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. 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. 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 by the cataclysmic Ice Age floods. 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.
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**: Take exit 270 (Four Lakes/Cheney), travel 5.6 miles and turn left on Cheney Spokane Road. Go three miles and turn right onto Fish Lake Trailhead. Parking, a picnic shelter, tables and restrooms and an informational kiosk; drinking fountain is at milepost 361.5.

- **Cheney Trailhead, milepost 361.25**
  - **Getting there**: 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. Parking (including equestrian units), restroom, picnic shelters, tables and an informational kiosk.

- **Amber Lake Trailhead, milepost 59.25**
  - **Getting there**: 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. Parking (including equestrian units), restroom, picnic shelter, table and an informational kiosk.

- **Martin Road Trailhead, milepost 342**
  - **Getting there**: Take exit 270 (Four Lakes/Cheney), travel 8.3 miles and turn left on Mullinix Road. Go 21.2 miles and turn right onto Martin Road Trailhead. Parking (including equestrian units), restroom, picnic shelter, table and an informational kiosk.

- **Snake River Junction Trailhead, milepost 256.2**
  - **Getting there**: Take 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 .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**: Take 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.