Welcome to Columbia Hills NAP

This is a special place. In a transition zone between dry and wet climates, and between high and low altitudes, this 3500-acre preserve contains a mix of environments—grasslands, oak-pine woodlands, basalt cliffs, and natural springs.

This preserve protects:

- The world’s largest remaining high quality example of a now rare grassland—the Idaho fescue-houndstongue hawkweed plant community (only about 300 acres), and
- The state’s largest populations of 3 rare plants: obscure buttercup, Douglas’ draba, and hot-rock penstemon.

Exceptional Places

Quality examples of Washington’s native grasslands, woodlands, marshes and more are protected in Natural Areas managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). These special sites offer opportunities for research and education. Some have interpretive or recreation trails. Others require DNR permission to visit because features are sensitive to human disturbance.