**North Cascade Icesheet Plateaus**

**Plateaus** in the Pacific Northwest are predominantly underlain by stacked flows of the Columbia River Basalts and form extensive elevated plains bounded on one or more sides by steep slopes hundreds of feet above adjoining areas. Plateaus are differentiated from each other by the most-evident surficial processes of alteration.

**Landform Association:**

**Icesheet Plateaus:**



**Icesheet Plateaus** are old flood basalt plateaus that were once covered by continental icesheet. The Okanogan lobe of the Cordilleran Icesheet covered this landscape of northeastern Washington. An ice sheet is a mass of glacial ice extending more than 50,000 square kilometers (20,000 square miles). It moves in multiple directions from a central deep accumulation zone, thicker in the central portion and thinning toward the edges where these plateaus occur. Areas of glacial till and meltwater deposits in among scoured areas would be left in the path of the icesheet moving across this plateau. Deep sediments can be found in lower landscape positions within and adjacent to this map unit. Streams commonly go underground in this reworked glacial sediment.

This Landform Association is rare on National Forest System Lands.

**Landtype Associations:** Landtype Associations are formed by intersecting vegetation series or groups of vegetation series with Landform Associations.

**Topography**:

The following tables represent the average conditions for the Landform Association. Only lands within and adjacent to National Forest System Lands were mapped by this project. The entire EPA Level III Ecoregion is not covered by this mapping.

The percent of Landform Association (% of LfA) in bold in the table below refers to the percent of the Ecoregion represented by that Landform Association. The (% of LfA) numbers not in bold in the table below refer to the percent of each Landtype Association within the Landform Association.



**Climate:**



The ratio of Actual Evapotranspiration to Potential Evapotranspiration (AET/PET) is used as a broad-scale indicator of potential drought stress. We obtained modeled actual and potential evapotranspiration datasets from the Numerical Terradynamic Simulation Group at the University of Montana (<http://www.ntsg.umt.edu/project/mod16>) for a 30 year climate average. AET/PET ratio in the table above is based on a scale of zero to one. A value closer to 1 means the vegetation is transpiring close to its potential. A value farther from 1means that the Actual Evapotranspiration is below potential based on this climatic zone (Ringo, et. al. 2016 in draft).