

Gigaton Commercial-Scale Carbon Storage and Mineralization Potential in Stacked Columbia River Basalt Reservoirs

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ABSTRACT: This work presents a detailed supercritical CO₂ storage resource estimation for the stacked basalt reservoirs in the Grande Ronde Basalt of the Columbia River Basalt Group in eastern Washington and Oregon. The assessment aims to derisk the commercialization potential of geologic carbon storage in basalt by leveraging physical and mineralization trapping of CO₂ in basalt. The structural closures formed by anticlinal ridges and synclinal valleys in Yakima Fold Belt are excellent physical traps to accommodate injected supercritical CO₂. Rigorous hydraulic testing, well logs and simulation results from the Wallula Basalt Pilot #1 well showed the occurrence of 17 suitable permeable injection zones (up to 2,496 mD) intercalated with dense seals (~2.6E-10 mD) in the Grand Ronde Basalt. In addition, geochemical studies showed fast reactions between supercritical CO₂ and dissolved basalt minerals to form stable carbonates. Our calculation indicates up to 40 gigatons (P90) of mineralization storage resources exist in the Grande Ronde Basalt reservoirs.

1. Introduction

Columbia River Basalt Group (CRBG) extends over a large area and is coincident with a very large fraction of the power generation and industrial CO₂ sources in the

Pacific Northwest (PNW). However, because flood basalts represent a significant barrier for oil and gas exploration in the underlying sedimentary rock, this region is sparsely investigated relative to conventional

30 sedimentary basins. Only very limited data are available
31 on deep reservoir hydrogeologic properties that are
32 critical to any quantitative assessment of potential for
33 CO₂ storage.

34 To address these data gaps, Pacific Northwest National
35 Laboratory (PNNL) has pioneered both laboratory
36 (McGrail et al., 2009a; McGrail et al., 2006; Schaef et al.,
37 2014; Schaef and McGrail, 2009; Schaef et al., 2010;
38 Schaef et al., 2011; Xiong et al., 2018) and field pilot
39 studies (Depp et al., 2022; McGrail et al., 2017; McGrail
40 et al., 2009c; Polites et al., 2022; White et al., 2020)
41 examining the potential for large-scale injection and
42 storage of CO₂ and natural gas (Reidel et al., 2002) in
43 flood basalts. The PNNL-led Wallula Basalt Carbon
44 Storage Pilot Project demonstrated the successful
45 injection and mineralization of 977 tons of supercritical
46 CO₂ (scCO₂) in the interflow zones of the Grand Ronde
47 Basalt (GRB) near the town of Wallula in eastern
48 Washington State. The post-injection core samples and
49 hydrologic simulation reported that up to 60% of injected
50 CO₂ had been incorporated into carbonate minerals
51 within two years of injection (White et al., 2020). The
52 simulated mineralization rate was consistent with
53 laboratory observation, thus offering a highly secure
54 pathway to permanent geologic CO₂ storage.

55 With an expansion of the 45Q tax credit in 2022, the
56 PNW has an unprecedented opportunity to leverage a
57 groundswell of interest and enthusiasm from potential
58 industry partners. Based on the pilot-scale field tests,

59 simulation modeling, and geochemical analysis, this
60 paper provides a robust CO₂ pore space storage resource
61 estimation for anticlinal basalt reservoirs. The storage
62 resource estimation laid the foundation for future
63 deployment of commercial-scale carbon capture (such as
64 point source or direct air capture (DAC)) at favorable
65 locations in the PNW and characterization approaches
66 necessary to support successful application for the U.S.
67 Environmental Protection Agency Class VI wells used
68 for geologic sequestration of CO₂ (Class VI wells) for the
69 basalt reservoir class (**Figure 1**).

70 To meet the safety and effectiveness criteria as potential
71 storage sites (Bachu, 2007), the basalt storage system
72 should have 1) sufficient pressure and temperature to
73 maintain CO₂ in supercritical state, 2) confinement units
74 to prevent vertical migration and leakage of CO₂, 3)
75 hydrogeologic conditions that isolate CO₂ from
76 underground sources of drinking water aquifers, and 4)
77 good injection rate for commercial-scale CO₂
78 sequestration. Hydrological modeling and petrophysical
79 log analysis suggested suitable conditions exist at depths
80 deeper than 750 m below ground surface (bgs) in the
81 Yakima Fold Belt. Stratigraphically, these favorable
82 reservoir conditions occur in the GRB of the CRBG
83 (Reidel et al., 2003; Reidel et al., 1989) (**Figure S1**). The
84 unique structure of the basalt flows produced alternating
85 permeable interflow zones and dense flow interiors
86 stacked below any individual storage site (Gierzynski and
87 Pollyea, 2017; McGrail et al., 2006) (**Figure S2**).

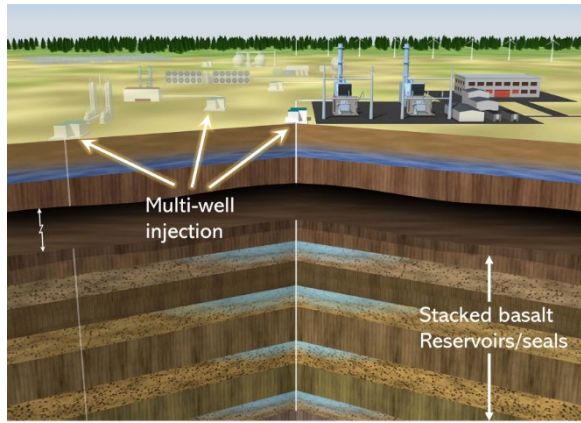


Figure 1. Conceptual illustration of deep (>750 m below ground surface) stacked Columbia River Basalt reservoirs in the Pacific Northwest that can accommodate commercial-scale carbon capture and storage hubs.

88 Although the potential of CO₂ storage in basalt reservoirs
 89 has been studied at several sites around the world, there
 90 has been no standardized methodology to estimate the
 91 storage resource. We compare the methodologies used to
 92 calculate the CO₂ storage load (kg/m³) in three types of
 93 basalt reservoirs. For the continental flood basalt, the
 94 CRBG was estimated to be able to store more than 100
 95 gigatons of CO₂ in an area of about 146,000 km²
 96 (McGrail et al., 2006). McGrail et al. volumetrically
 97 calculated the free-phase CO₂ storage potential in pore
 98 space, assuming an interflow thickness of 10 m, 10
 99 interflow zones, average porosity of 15%, and at about
 100 1,000 m below ground. This results in 40.65 kg of CO₂
 101 load per cubic meter of basalt reservoir. (Vishal et al.,
 102 2021) applied the same method and estimated the total
 103 CO₂ storage capacity in Deccan Volcanic Province and
 104 Rajmahal Traps to be 316 Gt. For the mid-ocean ridge
 105 basalts in the Juan de Fuca plate, (Goldberg et al., 2008)

106 used the pore-filling method and estimated that 7,800 km³
 107 of deep-sea basalt reservoir can store about 926 Gt of CO₂
 108 if all of the CO₂ becomes fixed carbonate. Goldberg et al.
 109 assumed a channel system dominates the permeability
 110 over one-sixth of the upper 600 m of basement, and the
 111 average channel porosity is 10%. This results in a CO₂
 112 storage load of 119 kg/m³. For the mid-ocean ridge basalt
 113 in Iceland, (Snæbjörnsdóttir et al., 2014) developed their
 114 natural analogues method based on a study done by
 115 (Weise et al., 2008) where the amount of calcite was
 116 measured in well cuttings from three geothermal systems.
 117 The geothermal systems in Iceland receive considerable
 118 amounts of CO₂ from magma chambers or intrusions at
 119 the roots of the systems and is considered as a natural
 120 experiment to determine the CO₂ storage capacity of the
 121 basalt. The average CO₂ load in Iceland basalt is
 122 calculated to range from 18.8 to 48.7 kg/m³. For the ocean
 123 island basalt, (Li et al., 2023) applied total mineralization
 124 method and estimated 257 km³ of Leizhou Peninsula
 125 basalt can store 30.8 – 45.9 Gt of CO₂. Li's method
 126 assumes all CaO, MgO, and FeO in the basalt will fully
 127 react with CO₂ to form carbonates and results in 119 –
 128 179 kg/m³ of CO₂ load in the basalt. Furthermore,
 129 (Stanfield et al., 2024) applied a more realistic
 130 mineralization assessment to calculate the storage
 131 potential in the olivine-rich Hawai'i basalt. The method
 132 uses the reactive volume fraction that is derived from
 133 pore surface area, reaction depth, and volume of basalt to
 134 represent the portion of the basalt that can react with CO₂.
 135 The result shows that the olivine-rich Hawai'i basalt can

Table 1. Comparison of in situ carbon storage potential assessment methods in different basalt types

Basalt type	Location	Porosity	Storage load ^d (kg/m ³)	Capacity (Gt)	Methods	References
CFB ^a	Columbia River Basalt (US)	15%	40.65	100	Pore space volumetrics	(McGrail et al., 2006)
CFB	DVP ^b and Rajmahal Traps (India)	15%	40.65	315.85	Pore space volumetrics	(Vishal et al., 2021)
MORB ^a	Juan de Fuca plate(offshore US)	10%	119	926	Pore-filling	(Goldberg et al., 2008)
MORB	Iceland	10-15%	18.8-48.7	953-2,470	Natural analogues	(Snæbjörnsdóttir et al., 2014)
OIB ^a	Leizhou Peninsula (China)	8.9%	119-179	30.8-45.9	Total mineralization	(Li et al., 2023)
OIB	Hawai'i olivine-rich basalt	25.5%	2.2	>50 MMT ^c	Partial mineralization	(Stanfield et al., 2024)

^a CFB = Continental flood basalt, MORB = Mid-ocean ridge basalt, OIB = Ocean island basalt.

^b DVP = Deccan Volcanic Province.

^c MMT = Million metric ton.

^d Storage load = Amount of CO₂ can be stored per cubic meter of basalt reservoir.

136 provide 2.2 kg/m³ of CO₂ storage load. The summary of
 137 the storage assessment methods are provided in **Table 1**.
 138 Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the US
 139 Department of Energy (DOE) defined the large-scale
 140 CCS operations as storage complexes having sufficient
 141 capacity to store minimum of 50 million metric tons
 142 (MMT) of CO₂ - the equivalent to the emissions from
 143 roughly 10 million gasoline-powered cars a year. Given
 144 that no standardized storage estimation methods has been
 145 established for basalt reservoirs, we herein adopted the
 146 U.S. DOE methods (Goodman et al., 2016; Sanguinito et
 147 al., 2022) to investigate the gigaton-scale storage
 148 potential in the GRB.

149 2. Geologic Setting

150 The Miocene Columbia River Basalt Group (CRBG)
 151 consists of a thick sequence of about 300 continental
 152 tholeiitic flood-basalt flows divided into four formations

153 in the study area – Imnaha, Grande Ronde, Wanapum,
 154 and Saddle Mountains (Swanson et al., 1979) (**Figure**
 155 **S1**). The flood basalt province covers over 200,000 km²
 156 of the PNW and have an estimated volume of more than
 157 220,500 km³ (Camp et al., 2003). The GRB represents the
 158 most voluminous (72%) formation in the CRBG that
 159 produced 150,400 km³ of basalt and covered about
 160 169,600 km² of the PNW in Washington, Oregon, and
 161 Idaho (Reidel and Tolan, 2013).

162 The northern part of the CRBG is in a broad structural
 163 basin, the Columbia Basin, lying between the Cascade
 164 Range to the west and the Idaho batholith to the east and
 165 covering more than 150,000 km². Concurrent with the
 166 eruption of CRBG basalt, folding and faulting in the
 167 western part of the Columbia Basin developed the
 168 generally east-west trending anticlinal ridges and
 169 synclinal valleys, collectively known as the Yakima Fold

170 Belt (YFB). The static trapping in these anticlinal
171 structures accommodates the injected scCO₂ in
172 permeable interflow zones (reservoirs), which are
173 confined between dense basalt flow interiors (seals). At
174 places where there are no large structural or stratigraphic
175 closures, the hydrodynamic trapping assures enough time
176 for the carbon mineralization process to complete
177 (Bradshaw et al., 2007; IPCC, 2005).

178 The GRB flows typically consist of flow tops, flow
179 interiors, and flow bottoms (**Figure S2**). Flow top is
180 chilled, glassy, vesicular to rubbly upper crust of a flow
181 that typically comprises ~10% of the total flow thickness;
182 it can be as thin as a few centimeters or occupy almost
183 the entire flow thickness (Reidel et al., 2013; Reidel et
184 al., 2002). The flow bottom is the basal part of a lava flow
185 and consists of glassy, chilled basalt that may be
186 vesicular. As basalt flows encountered bodies of water or
187 saturated sediments, the flow bottom may produce
188 pillow-palagonite complexes, hyaloclastite complexes,
189 foreset bedded breccias, peperites, or spiracles features
190 (Reidel et al., 2002). The collective contact boundary
191 section between two individual flows is referred to as the
192 interflow zone. The flow interior may include massive
193 basalt and/or multiple layers of colonnades and
194 entablatures. Basalt interflow zones are the primary
195 reservoirs in the region, and dense flow interiors
196 commonly act as aquitards.

197 No structural elements negatively impact the confining
198 system of our study area. Regionally, located in the

199 southeastern Yakima Fold Belt, the Area of Interest
200 consists of a broad westward-plunging (~2°) syncline
201 between two large anticlines – the northeast trending
202 Blue Mountains to the south and Horse Heaven Hills
203 Anticline to the north. This broad syncline is crossed by
204 several smaller N-S trending structures including the
205 Reith anticline, Agency anticline, and Service anticline
206 (Hogenson, 1964). Although the amount of closure
207 created by the anticlines remains to be investigated, the
208 nearby Columbia Hills anticline provides up to 152 m of
209 closure. The eastern limb of this anticline dips more
210 steeply (~12°) than the western limb (~6°). The attitude
211 of the successive basalt flows in any given section are
212 remarkably concordant, suggesting the compressional
213 deformation postdates the extrusion of the basalt (**Figure**
214 **S3**). Because of the structural trap and small radius of the
215 CO₂ plume, fluid migration is expected to be confined
216 within the hinge zone of the anticline.

217 Additionally, no known fault exists within 5-km radius of
218 the anticlines south of the Columbia River, except for the
219 southern part of the Service Anticline. A 6.5 km north-
220 south trending three-component 2-D surface seismic
221 swath profile was acquired near the Wallula Basalt Pilot
222 #1 well. The Wallula seismic profile intersects the
223 Olympic-Wallowa lineament (**Figure S4**), which is a
224 major NW-SE topographic feature in Washington and
225 Oregon that crosscuts the Columbia Basin. The Olympic-
226 Wallowa lineament (OWL) is an alignment of geologic
227 structures extending nearly 650 km across the PNW

228 (Reidel et al., 2020). Within the Columbia Basin, the
229 OWL is a wide zone that aligns with >250 km of folds
230 and faults that are part of the Yakima Fold Belt. An
231 integrated interpretation of resistivity-based image logs,
232 XRF stratigraphy and seismic data from Wallula showed
233 a thick succession of basalt layers undisturbed by large
234 scale faulting (Sullivan et al., 2011). Similarly, 100
235 Circles #1 is located on the hinge zone of Columbia Hills
236 anticline. A fault zone occurs at 457 m in the Wanapum
237 Basalt Formation, indicated by the encounter of repeated
238 geologic section. The subsurface geologic conditions,
239 hydrologic test response characteristics, vertical
240 hydraulic head depth profile, and hydrochemical
241 information comparisons from 100 Circles #1 well all
242 suggest there is vertical isolation between the basalt
243 interflow systems. These data suggest the area has robust
244 sealing units, with total confinement capacities that
245 greatly exceed the storage requirement.

246 The conditions noted above are favorable for
247 impermeable flow interior to confine subsurface CO₂
248 storage. Interpretation of the preliminary structural and
249 stratigraphic data also suggest the possibility for
250 sufficient closure within the anticlinal structures. The
251 confirmation of areal closure, however, is needed with
252 additional drilling, and both vertical and areal seismic
253 profiling.

254 Fluid samples from GRB contained constituents that
255 exceeded water quality standards. Hydrochemical data
256 from 100 Circle #1 well showed the GRB reservoirs are

257 vertically isolated from the overlying Underground
258 Sources of Drinking Water (USDW) (Reidel et al., 2005).
259 The low specific conductance, low fluoride, and low
260 chloride concentrations in the water samples from the
261 overlying Wanapum Basalt (480-525 m below ground)
262 was in sharp contrast to the high concentrations for the
263 GRB water samples (618-1,067 m). Additionally, pre-
264 injection Wallula GRB interflow zones fluid samples
265 (832-868 m) showed increasing fluoride concentrations
266 (3.2-11.9 mg/L) versus test zone depth. The extended
267 cyclical pumping cycle determined a uniform fluoride
268 concentration level of 4.98 mg/L, which exceeds both
269 the secondary and primary drinking water standards of
270 2.0 and 4.0 mg/L, respectively (McGrail et al., 2014). The
271 total dissolved solids measured for the pre-injection
272 fluid ranged between 149-170 mg/L (McGrail et al.,
273 2017). Other groundwater hydrochemical data in the
274 central Columbia Basin showed iron concentrations are
275 frequently at or above the Washington water quality
276 standard (<300 µg/L), with some up to 6,300 µg/L.
277 Manganese also exceeds the state safety standards (<50
278 µg/L) but less frequently (Reidel et al., 2002).

279 **3. Methods**

280 In our analysis, we considered several methodologies
 281 used globally for storage capacity in basalt (**Table 1**). The
 282 pore-filling method (Goldberg et al., 2008) and the pore
 283 space volumetrics method (McGrail et al., 2006) both
 284 assumed the entire pore space can be occupied by pure-
 285 phase CO₂ and produced over-estimated storage capacity.
 286 The effective porosity or irreducible water saturation
 287 were not taken into consideration which would decrease
 288 the maximum CO₂ saturation in the pore space. The
 289 natural analogue method (Snæbjörnsdóttir et al., 2014)
 290 has several limitations when applied to the CRBG.
 291 Firstly, the GRB reservoirs in Columbia Basin has a
 292 much lower geothermal gradient and hydrothermal

293 circulation environment compared to Iceland which leads
 294 to different hydrochemical conditions for carbonation
 295 reactions. Secondly, the natural analogue method may
 296 not be representative for deeper reservoirs. In the
 297 uppermost 500 to 1,000 m of the Iceland geothermal
 298 systems the CO₂ content is commonly of the order of 100
 299 kg/m³ but it decreases sharply below that depth and
 300 nearly no CO₂ is present below 1,500 m (Weise et al.,
 301 2008). Comparably, the target depth of the GRB reservoir
 302 ranges from 800 to over 3,000 m. Thirdly, possible
 303 cement contamination in the drill cuttings may
 304 compromise the validity of drill chip samples
 305 representing the rock (Weise et al., 2008). The total
 306 mineralization method (Li et al., 2023) overestimates the

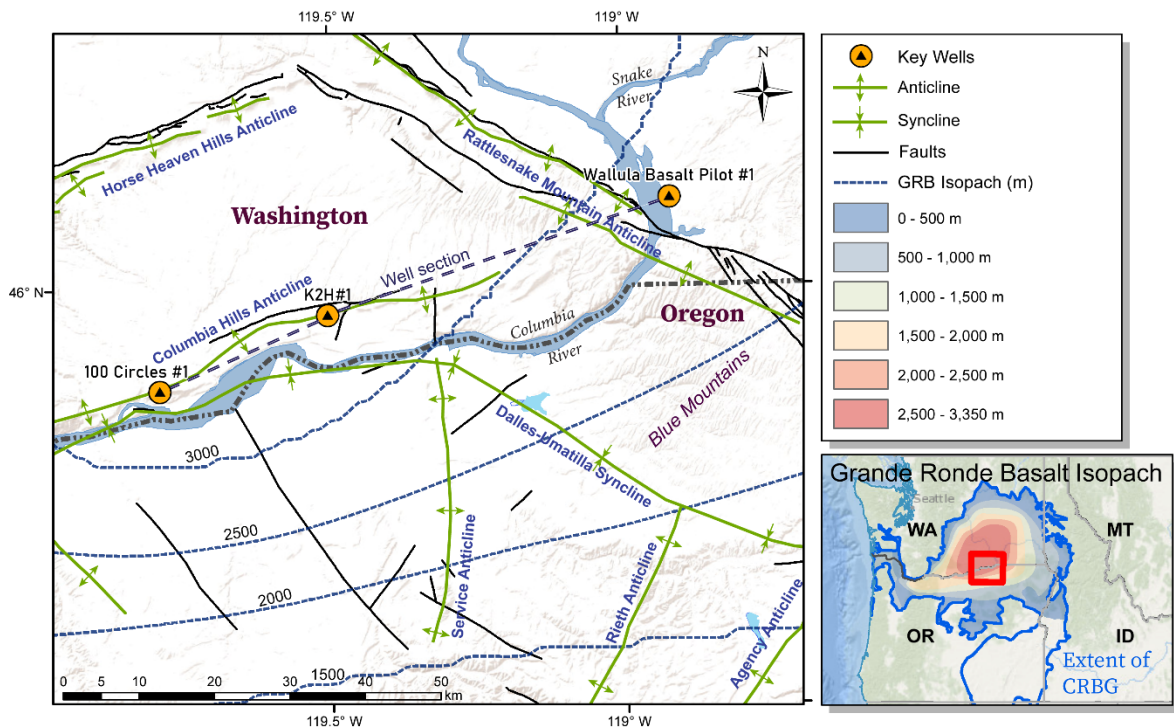


Figure 2. Structural map for the study area showing the anticlinal structures (Arlington Anticline is an informal name for the structure), faults, Grand Ronde basalt isochore thicknesses contour lines, and three correlated key deep boreholes (100 Circles #1, K2H #1, and Wallula Basalt Pilot #1).

307 carbon mineralization extent as the basalt is unlikely to
 308 be fully dissolved. The partial mineralization method
 309 (Stanfield et al., 2024) can more accurately estimate the
 310 mineralization extent but requires additional
 311 experimental data on the mineralogy, reaction extent, and
 312 reservoir conditions to the specific sites, and thus is not
 313 suitable for a sub-basinal scale evolution.

314 To estimate the free-phase CO₂ storage resource in the
 315 GRB, we adopted the US DOE method (Goodman et al.,
 316 2016; Sanguinito et al., 2022) to calculate the prospective
 317 pore space CO₂ storage resources for the basalt reservoirs
 318 (**Table 2**). This method is optimal in regions where
 319 comprehensive data are absent and excludes aquifers that
 320 are shallower than ~800 m to avoid contamination of
 321 USDW. The DOE method is a volumetric approach
 322 which calculates a mass of stored CO₂ (G_{CO_2}) based on
 323 investigational area (A_t), formation thickness (h_g),
 324 porosity (Φ_{Total}), and CO₂ density (ρ) with the application
 325 of storage coefficients (E) shown in **Eq. (1)**.

$$G_{CO_2} = A_t h_g \Phi_{Total} \rho E_{An/At} E_{hn/hg} E_{\Phi_e/\Phi_{tot}} E_V E_d \quad (1)$$

326 The DOE efficiency factor considers a series of variables
 327 that may limit the ability of injected CO₂ to occupy 100%
 328 of the pore space, including geologic heterogeneity,
 329 gravity, or buoyancy effects, and sweep efficiency. The
 330 DOE method was designed for resource estimations in
 331 sedimentary basins, as the quantiles (P10, P50, and P90)
 332 of efficiency factors were estimated for clastics,
 333 dolomites, and limestone lithologies. Although no

334 previous study has reported storage coefficients for
 335 basaltic reservoirs, most hydraulic testing in the CRBG
 336 suggested that the basalt interflow zones diagnostically
 337 (pressure derivative analysis) “behave” like sedimentary
 338 porous media equivalents, such as sandstones (Strait and
 339 Mercer, 1987), we adopted the site-specific storage
 340 coefficients for anticlinal sandstone reservoir with
 341 alluvial fan depositional environment from the Averaged
 342 Global Database (IEAGHG, 2009) as the best
 343 approximation for the basalt reservoir storage
 344 coefficients (**Table 2**). The volumetric results (G_{CO_2}) are
 345 calculated for high, medium, and low confidence
 346 intervals of storage resource potential; P10, P50, and P90,
 347 respectively. This work followed the Goodman et al.,
 348 2016 and IEAGHG, 2009 convention, in which P10
 349 corresponds to the smaller value that has the most
 350 certainty.

351 The study area ($A_t = 10,000 \text{ km}^2$) is located in southern
 352 Columbia Basin with three key deep boreholes in the
 353 region, as shown in **Figure 2**. The thickness of the
 354 Grande Ronde Basalt (GRB) storage complex in the
 355 study area ranges from 1,500 - 3,250 m and is
 356 characterized as dozens of stacked basalt flows. There are
 357 19 GRB members that consist of at least 90 basalt flows
 358 present in the study area (**Figure S1**). Individual flow
 359 thickness ranges from a few meters to more than 100 m,
 360 but they typically average about 30 m (Reidel and Tolan,
 361 2013). The GRB members share relatively homogeneous
 362 bulk lithology and composition, but vary dramatically in
 363 extent and volume (Reidel and Tolan, 2013). We discuss

364 the properties of each five members encountered in the
365 key wells in shown in **Figure 3**.

366 We integrated subsurface data from the three key wells to
367 investigate the reservoir and seal properties of the GRB
368 (**Figure 2**). Wallula Basalt Pilot #1, drilled in 2009, is the
369 world's first and only successful demonstration of the
370 injection of supercritical CO₂ into basalt interflow zones;
371 100 Circles #1, drilled in 1999, was a reservoir
372 characterization well that suggested favorable conditions
373 for natural gas storage in basalt (Reidel et al., 2005); and
374 K2H #1 was a hydrocarbon well drilled in 1999 with
375 limited data available. Both Wallula Basalt Pilot #1 and
376 100 Circles #1 have demonstrated the flow interior
377 caprocks are capable confining units for the basalt storage
378 system (McGrail et al., 2009b; Reidel et al., 2005;
379 Sullivan et al., 2011). The petrophysical logs for the three
380 boreholes used in our resource estimate are summarized
381 in **Table S1** and were used to identify the basalt flows
382 and characterize storage potential in the GRB.

383 We calculated the scCO₂ density variation and average
384 formation-scale scCO₂ density using pressure and
385 temperature measurements from the Wallula Basalt Polit
386 #1 borehole and the equation of state (Span and Wagner,
387 1996) (implemented in NIST REFPROP, DLL version
388 number 10.0). Additionally, we used the density to
389 determine the total mass of CO₂ in the stacked cylindrical
390 reservoirs as a function of variable radius. Iterative radius
391 adjustments were made until 50 MMT of CO₂ was
392 achieved.

393 Furthermore, we calculated the Area of Review (AOR)
394 for the critical pressure and delta pressure resulted from
395 a 30-year injection. We adopted the EPA guidance on the
396 determination of AOR by critical pressure/pressure front
397 (EPA, 2013). The pressure front corresponds to the
398 minimal pressure increase needed to move fluids from the
399 reservoir into a USDW through a hypothetical open
400 conduit, such as an uncemented borehole or fault. The
401 delineation of an AOR for the injection of 50 MMT CO₂
402 is calculated from the pressure front that derived from the
403 results of the CO₂ injection simulations.

404 The critical pressure/pressure front (P_c) can be determine
405 using **Eq. (2)**:

$$P_c = P_u + \rho_i \cdot g \cdot (z_u - z_i) - P_i \quad (2)$$

406 where:

407 P_u = the initial pressure at the base of the USDW

408 ($\text{Pa} = \text{kg} \cdot \text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-2}$),

409 ρ_i = the density of the injection zone fluid ($\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$),

Table 2. CO₂ storage resource estimation (in million metric tons) in the GRB interflow zones (800 m ~ 3,000 m bgs). The DOE method's site-specific storage coefficients E is broken into five multiplicative terms ($E_{An/At}$, $E_{hn/hg}$, $E_{\Phi_e/\Phi_{tot}}$, E_v , and E_d). The $E_{An/At}$, $E_{hn/hg}$, $E_{\Phi_e/\Phi_{tot}}$ terms were based on well data and the E_v , and E_d terms were approximated from anticlinal sandstone reservoir deposited in alluvial fan environment (IEAGHG, 2009).

Parameters	P10	P50	P90	Unit	Description
A_t	10,000	10,000	10,000	km ²	Geographical area being assessed for CO ₂ storage.
h_g	2,200	2,200	2,200	m	Gross thickness of saline formations for which CO ₂ storage is assessed within the region defined by A_t .
Φ_{Total}	0.253	0.253	0.253	n/a	Total porosity in volume defined by the net thickness.
ρ	644	644	644	kg/m ³	Density of CO ₂ evaluated at pressure and temperature that represents storage conditions anticipated for a specific geologic unit averaged over h_g and A_t .
$E_{An/At}$	0.2	0.2	0.2	n/a	Fraction of total basin or region area with a suitable formation.
$E_{hn/hg}$	0.27	0.27	0.27	n/a	Fraction of total geologic unit that meets minimum porosity and permeability
$E_{\Phi_e/\Phi_{tot}}$	0.82	0.76	0.7	n/a	Fraction of total porosity that is effective, i.e., interconnected.
E_v	0.35	0.46	0.41	n/a	Combined fraction of immediate volume surrounding an injection well that can be contacted by CO ₂ and fraction of net thickness that is contacted by CO ₂ as a consequence of the density difference between CO ₂ and in situ water.
E_d	0.72	0.51	0.37	n/a	Fraction of pore space unavailable due to immobile in situ fluids.
E	0.0112	0.0096	0.0057	n/a	DOE storage efficiency factor.
G_{CO_2}	39,998	34,512	20,554	MMT	Mass estimate (million metric tons; MMT) of saline formation CO ₂ storage resource.

410 g = the acceleration of gravity (m/s²),
 411 z_u = the elevation of the base of the lowermost USDW
 412 (m),
 413 z_i = the elevation of to the top of the injection zone (m),
 414 and
 415 P_i = the initial pressure in the injection zone (Pa).
 416 In the study area, the initial pressure at the base of the
 417 USDW is 6.895 kPa (assuming a typical 9.795 kPa/m
 418 gradient) at an elevation of 39.6 m. The pressure of the

419 storage reservoir is 7.259 MPa at an elevation of -625.4
 420 m above mean sea level. The density of reservoir water is
 421 1,030 kg/m³.

422 4. Results and discussion

423 4.1 Stratigraphy and stacked reservoir characteristics

424 The Wallula Basalt Pilot #1 well encountered GRB at 524
 425 m below ground. Considering the average thickness of
 426 GRB in the study area to be about 2,500 m (**Figure 2**),

427 and the suitable GRB reservoir is at about 800-3,000 m
428 bgs – the average gross thickness (h_g) of the GRB is about
429 2,200 m. With a net-to-gross ratio of 27%, the average
430 net effective reservoir in GRB is about 594 m in the study
431 area.

432 The Wallula Basalt Pilot #1 petrophysical logs suggested
433 total of 17 interflow zones in Winter Water Member
434 (WWM), Indian Ridge Member (IRM), Ortley Member
435 (OM), Grouse Creek Member, and Wapshilla Ridge
436 Member (**Figure 3**). These porous interflow zones are
437 intercalated with dense flow interiors at sufficient depths
438 (800-1,250 m below ground) capable of storing CO₂ in
439 supercritical state.

440 The Winter Water Member is about 90 m thick and
441 situated 707 m (Wallula) to 842 m (100 Circles #1) below
442 ground. WWM consists of at least four basalt flows that
443 are commonly glassy to fine grained and sparsely to
444 abundantly plagioclase-phyric (Reidel and Tolan, 2013).
445 The porosity of the interflow zones ranges from 19.5% to
446 30% with a net thickness of 21.6 m at 100 Circles #1 well
447 (C4 – C7).

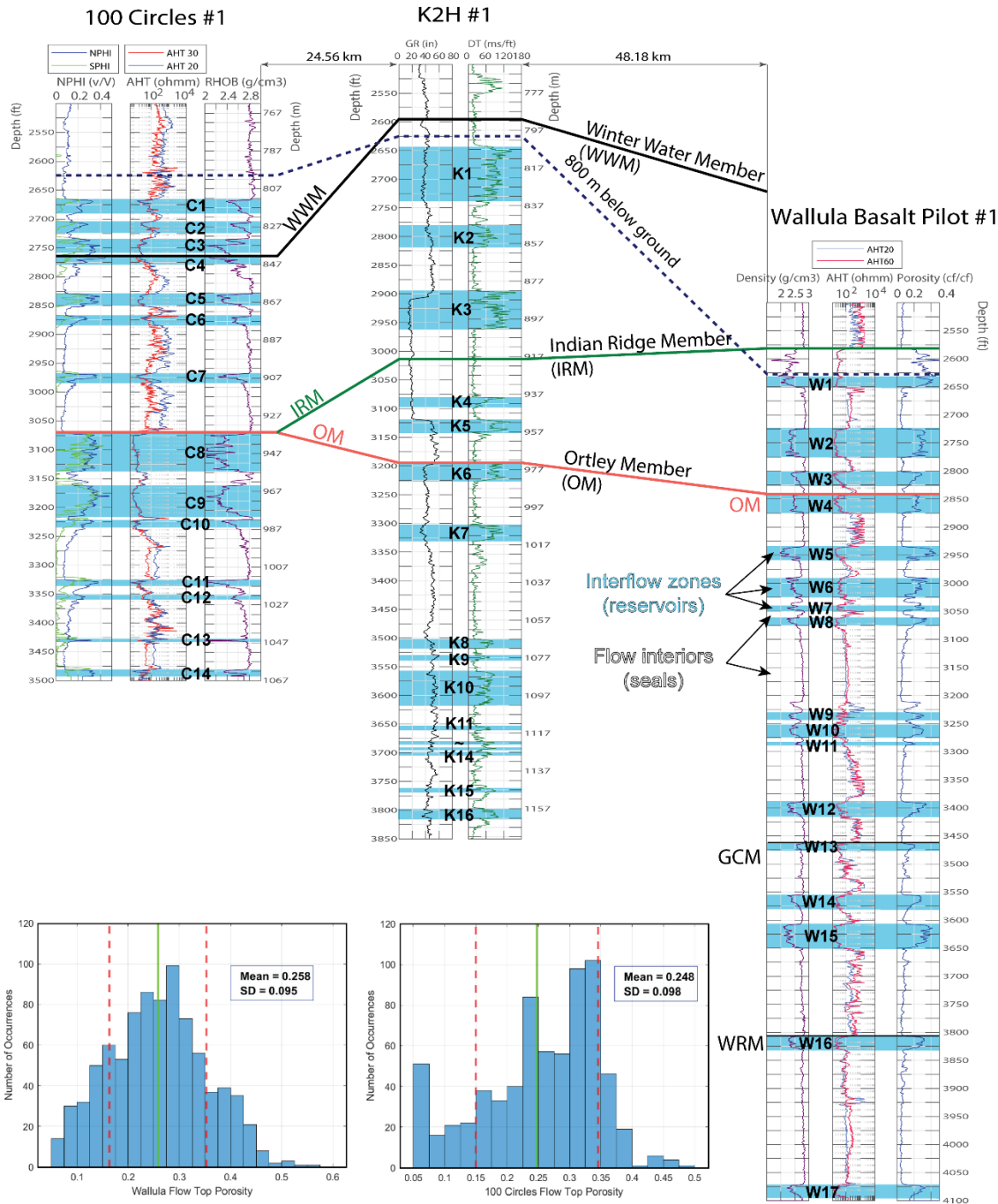


Figure 3. Well correlation between the three key wells used to characterize study area potential for commercial CO₂ storage. Each flow member consists of interflow zones (reservoirs, C1–C14, K1–K16, and W1–W17) and intercalated flow interiors (cap rocks). See **Figure 2** for well locations and major regional structural features. Histogram (left) shows the thermal neutron porosity distribution, average porosity, and standard deviation within the Grande Ronde Basalt (802 – 1,252 m depth interval, 858 data samples) from Wallula Basalt Pilot #1 well; and (right) the thermal neutron porosity distribution, average porosity, and standard deviation within the Grande Ronde Basalt (812 – 1,068 m depth interval, 714 data samples) from 100 Circles #1 well. Inset box shows average porosity (solid green line) and standard deviation (dotted red line).

448 The Indian Ridge Member is 79 m thick and 789 m deep
449 at Wallula. IRM has two flows and a possible locally
450 present flow lobe. The flows are typically medium to
451 coarse grained, aphyric to rarely plagioclase-
452 microphyric, and diktytaxitic (Reidel and Tolan, 2013).
453 Two of the three key wells have penetrated the IRM,
454 suggesting a potential pinch-out stratigraphic trap.
455 Neutron porosity log from Wallula Basalt Pilot #1 well
456 indicated the interflow zone (W1, W2, and W3) porosity
457 ranges from 20.4% to 38.9%. Individual hydraulic
458 characterization test provided a transmissivity range for
459 the W2 injection zone of $T = 0.9$ to $1.8 \text{ m}^2/\text{day}$ ($k = 1,220$
460 to $2,496 \text{ mD}$) (McGrail et al., 2014). The net interflow
461 zone thickness at Wallula is 30.4 m, or 38.5% of the gross
462 IRM thickness.

463 The Ortle Member contains at least 7 flows and covers
464 $\sim 84,000 \text{ km}^2$. OM flows are glassy to fine grained and
465 aphyric (Reidel and Tolan, 2013). The OM is situated at
466 868 m at Wallula with a gross thickness of 187 m. Nine
467 interflow zones (W4 to W12) were identified with a total
468 net thickness of 58 m, or a net-to-gross ratio of 31%.
469 Porosity ranges from 14.5% to 31.5%. Hydrologic test on
470 W4 suggested a calculated average intrinsic permeability
471 of 19 mD. Ortle compositions are similar to the
472 underlying Grouse Creek member.

473 The Grouse Creek Member (GCM) contains at least five
474 flows and covers most of the Columbia Basin. These
475 flows typically lack microphenocrysts and only rarely
476 contain plagioclase phenocrysts (Reidel and Tolan,

477 2013). GCM is 106 m thick and situated at 1,055.5 m
478 below ground at Wallula. Three flows (W13, W14, and
479 W15) were identified at Wallula with a total net thickness
480 of 26.3 m, or a net-to-gross ratio of 24.8%. Density-
481 neutron porosity logs indicate heterogeneous but
482 continuous porosity throughout the interflow zones,
483 averaging 16.9% to 29.5%.

484 The Wapshilla Ridge Member (WRM) has the greatest
485 volume of all the GRB members. WRM contains at least
486 18 flows and is found throughout most of the Columbia
487 Basin. These flows are glassy to fine grained, but they are
488 abundantly plagioclase-microphyric (Reidel and Tolan,
489 2013). WRM is the deepest member encountered by
490 Wallula Basalt Pilot #1 well at 1,161 m, where two
491 interflow zones (W16 and W17) were identified. The net
492 thickness of the interflow zones is 15.4 m, or a net-to-
493 gross ratio of 16.8% for the 91.6 m of penetrated WRM
494 basalt.

495 The flow interior interpretation from these five flow
496 members suggested the average GRB reservoir net-to-
497 gross ratio (fraction of total GRB thickness that meets
498 minimum porosity and permeability, $E_{\text{hn/hg}}$) is 27%.

499 *4.2 Pressure and temperature conditions of CO₂*

500 Supercritical CO₂ is ideal for geologic storage due to its
501 liquid-like density and gas-like viscosity. Supercritical
502 CO₂ takes up less space and diffuses more easily through
503 the pore network in reservoir rock than either gases or
504 liquid phase CO₂, thus maximizing the storage potential

505 and minimizing environmental impacts. The reservoirs
506 need to be deep enough to maintain the injected CO₂ in
507 supercritical state (above 304.13K formation temperature
508 and 7.3773 MPa pore pressure). The pre-injection
509 temperature and pressure logs from Wallula Basalt Pilot
510 #1 well suggested the CO₂ critical point was reached at
511 752 m bgs (**Figure 4a, b, and c**) with a density of 427.6
512 kg/m³ (**Figure 4d**). Below ~800 m, the density quickly
513 plateaued to about 640 kg/m³. As the depth increased, the
514 density slowly reached the maximum of 659.6 kg/m³ at
515 995 m then slowly decreased (**Figure 4e**). The minimum
516 suitable reservoir depth was set to be at 800 m bgs to
517 buffer the topographic relief in the study area. The
518 pressure increased along hydrostatic gradient (9.79
519 MPa/km), and temperature fluctuated around the average
520 geothermal gradient of 19.36 K/km (**Figure 4b and c**).
521 The results suggested that the density of CO₂ increased
522 by 50% within 48 m after reaching supercritical and
523 stayed almost constant at deeper depths. To convert
524 calculated storage volumes to masses of CO₂ that can be
525 stored within the GRB, we calculated the average density
526 below 800 m to be 644 kg/m³.

527 *4.3 Storage for 50 MMT CO₂ and total storage resource* 528 *calculation*

529 To determine a baseline (minimum) radial plume extent
530 for large scale CO₂, the reservoir thicknesses, formation
531 depths, and porosities reported in **Table S2** were used to
532 calculate the radial plume extent of 50 MMT of free
533 phase scCO₂ solely occupied the pore space.

534 Based on the modeled CO₂ plume radius of 38 meters
535 (White et al., 2020), the resultant volume of basalt in
536 those reservoirs, and the amount of CO₂ consumed after
537 two years in that rock volume, we calculate that the 50
538 MMT of CO₂ may mineralize in 64 years. The
539 anthropogenic carbonate minerals observed at Wallula
540 (Battu et al., 2024; Depp et al., 2022; Lahiri et al., 2023;
541 McGrail et al., 2017; Polites et al., 2022), aragonite
542 (CaCO₃), ankerite [Ca(Fe,Mn,Mg)(CO₃)₂], and siderite
543 (FeCO₃) are approximately twice as dense as the scCO₂
544 at reservoir conditions (644 kg/m³, **Figure 4**), so the
545 mineralization of CO₂ would free up 49-57% of the initial
546 pore space occupied by the scCO₂, emphasizing the
547 enhanced storage efficiency of solid phase carbonates
548 relative to free phase or aqueous-dissolved CO₂.

549 Using **Eq. (2)**, the critical pressure for fluid migration into
550 the lowest USDW Formation from the GRB reservoir is
551 800 kPa. The AOR for the proposed Class VI well can be
552 defined by the 116-psi (800 kPa) isoline on the delta-
553 pressure (Dp) map (**Figure S5**) after 30 years of injection.
554 The Dp map for a 30-year simulation case is generated by
555 subtracting the initial pressure from the field pressure
556 after the 30-year CO₂ injection simulation.

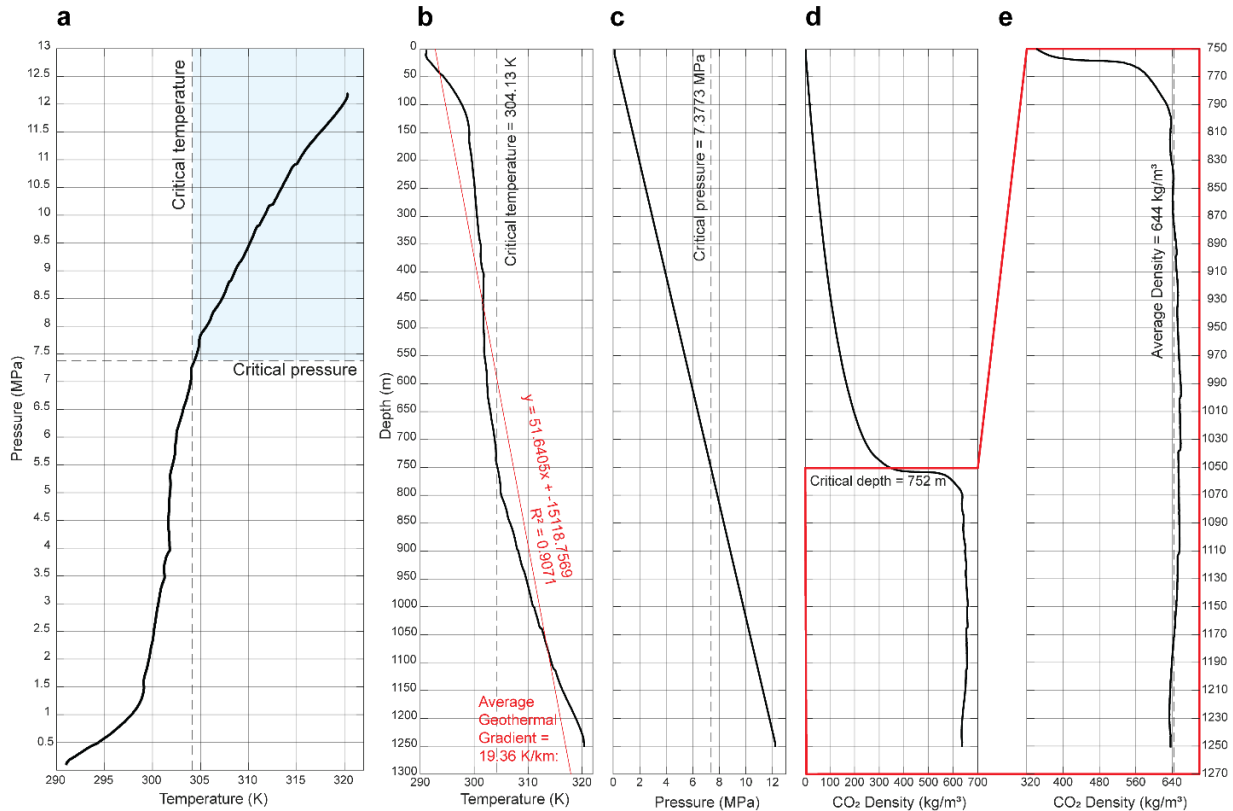


Figure 4. Carbon dioxide density analysis based on the downhole condition in the Wallula Basalt Pilot #1 well. **a.** plot of subsurface pressure versus temperature. The pressure and temperature limits (304.13 K and 7.3773 MPa) above which CO₂ is supercritical (shaded area). **b.** temperature versus depth. A geothermal gradient line is shown for a temperature gradient of 19.36 K per 1 km. **c.** plot of pressure versus depth showing normal hydrostatic pressure gradient (9.79 MPa/km). **d.** CO₂ density versus depth using pressure and temperature inputs from **Figure 4b** and **4c**. Critical depth (752 m below ground) is the minimum depth for scCO₂. **e.** enlarged view of supercritical section of **Figure 4d** showing the variation and average scCO₂ density (644 kg/m³).

557 As discussed in the previous section, suitable reservoir
 558 conditions for scCO₂ occur at >800 m below ground in
 559 the study area A₁ (10,000 km²). The gross reservoir
 560 thickness h_g is 2,200 m. The average total porosity Φ_{Total}
 561 of the interflow zones is 25.3%, and the average scCO₂
 562 density ρ under reservoir condition is 644 kg/m³.
 563 Since the study area is on a sub-basinal scale, it is more
 564 appropriate to use the conservative values (0.2) for the
 565 geologic variable of net to total area [A_n/A_t] (IEAGHG,

2009). The net to gross thickness ratio is calculated based
 566 on petrophysical logs, where E_{hn/hg} = 0.27. We
 567 approximated the effective to total porosity ratio
 568 (E_{Φe/Φtot}), volumetric displacement efficiency (E_v), and
 569 microscopic displacement efficiency (E_d) to the ratio for
 570 sandstone anticlinal reservoir deposited in alluvial fan
 571 environment (IEAGHG, 2009).
 572 Using the US-DOE methodology (Goodman et al., 2011)
 573 to estimate the GRB carbon storage resource in an open
 574

575 system, the calculated volumetric results (G_{CO_2}) for low,
576 medium, and high probability of storage resource
577 potential are 40, 35, and 21 billion metric tons for P90,
578 P50, and P10, respectively. There has been no indication
579 so far suggesting the permeability or injectivity decreases
580 over time as carbon mineralization occurs in basaltic
581 reservoirs, as demonstrated by Carbfix and Carbfix2
582 (Clark et al., 2020; Snæbjörnsdóttir et al., 2020). For
583 decadal timescales pertinent to commercial-scale storage
584 of CO_2 (50 MMT over 30 years), reactive transport
585 simulations of CO_2 fate and transport will be key for
586 predicting time-dependent permeability changes (Liu et
587 al., 2019; Snæbjörnsdóttir et al., 2018).

588 *4.5 Implications for commercialization*

589 The carbon storage feasibility assessment will accelerate
590 scale-up and deployment of commercial CO_2 capture and
591 storage (CCS) projects in basaltic rocks - the largest
592 potential CO_2 storage resource in the PNW. Although this
593 region has a strong renewable power portfolio, natural
594 gas plants will remain essential to the PNW's energy
595 flexibility and grid reliability for the foreseeable future,
596 making geologic CO_2 storage a critical resource for
597 achieving regional carbon reduction targets through
598 2050. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
599 reported total greenhouse gas emission from point
600 sources in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho in 2022
601 amount to 34.7 million metric tons. If the basalt
602 mineralization storage resource (40 billion metric tons) in
603 the study area can be fully leveraged, it will provide more

604 than 1,000 years of storage capacity at the current
605 emission level for all point sources in the PNW (**Figure**
606 **S6**). The region's large renewable energy resource is
607 attracting significant interest from developers focused on
608 net-negative emissions technologies like direct air
609 capture (DACCS) and bioenergy (BECCS). The carbon-
610 negative cleantech industry could blossom here in the
611 PNW, if we can derisk the enormous mineralization
612 storage resource for regulators, investors and the local
613 communities who could one day host basalt-based
614 projects here and around the world.

615 The commercial-scale CO_2 storage potential of
616 sedimentary rocks had been proven by intensive research
617 and field deployment over the past 20 years. The PNW's
618 CO_2 emission sources are located far from high-capacity
619 sedimentary storage resources, which risks leaving these
620 facilities stranded without suitable storage options. In the
621 PNW region and around the world, basalt formations
622 represent one of the most attractive alternative geologic
623 storage options due to their potential for rapid
624 mineralization of CO_2 , widespread geographic
625 distribution, and potentially large storage potential
626 (Blondes et al., 2019; McGrail et al., 2006). However,
627 significant work remains to support selection and
628 development of the storage complexes to serve
629 commercial-scale demand from the existing and potential
630 CO_2 sources in this growing industrial area - including
631 proven best practices for sustained, large-scale injection;
632 technologies for characterization and monitoring to

633 identify and mitigate leakage and geomechanical risks;
634 and the range of per-ton costs.

635 Future work will build upon knowledge developed under
636 existing pilot-scale field projects (e.g., Wallula Basalt
637 Pilot Project) through a focused effort to address barriers
638 to commercial-scale mineralization storage in basalt
639 reservoirs, and specifically at selected sites in the PNW
640 and beyond. CO₂ sequestration via mineralization
641 provides viable solutions for places like the upper
642 Midwest parts of the U.S., Japan, India, Southeast Asia,
643 and key regions of Africa that lack thick, regionally
644 continuous sedimentary basins suitable for conventional
645 CO₂ storage.

646 **Supporting Information.** This material is available free
647 of charge on the International Journal of Greenhouse Gas
648 Control website at
649 [https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/international-](https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/international-journal-of-greenhouse-gas-control)
650 [journal-of-greenhouse-gas-control](https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/international-journal-of-greenhouse-gas-control).

651 • General information including stratigraphic
652 nomenclature (Figure S1) for the study area, the
653 general flow geomorphology (Figure S2), the
654 Grande Ronde Basalt structural map in the study
655 area (Figure S3), major structures in the study area
656 (Figure S4), the simulated pressure front (Figure
657 S5), and the current carbon dioxide point sources
658 and transportation infrastructure map for the Pacific
659 Northwest region (Figure S6).

660 • Additional subsurface data including available
661 petrophysical well logs (Table S1), and Wallula
662 interflow zone petrophysical properties (Table S2).

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668 NOTES

669 The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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