

## Confluence

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It's funny what you can come up with when you've nowhere to go and plenty of time to think about where you MIGHT go, if only...

Something in my Internet wandering brought to my attention a site called [confluence.org](http://www.confluence.org) that you really have to experience to appreciate. (Really. Stop reading and go there now, if you wish; I won't know.)

This is the site of the Degree Confluence Project, which has been the pet activity of a guy named Alex – and now, many others – with the aim of taking and posting pictures from every dry-land, non-polar place around the world where the whole number lines of latitude and longitude intersect. Don't bother to ask why it's not called the Degree Intersection Project – he who builds the monument gets to name it.

So for the last twenty-four years, people all over the world have spent their free time, much energy and, I imagine, no small amount of their personal savings locating and pictorially recording these points on a map. They don't care if said point is in the middle of a megalopolis or at the bottom of a lonely canyon. The point is to record whatever is to be seen at these points, without regard for social, political, geologic or other considerations.

Lots of the pictures reveal nothing in particular. A plethora of empty plains and rocks and trees. Many of them must have been very difficult to reach and some, one might imagine, required no small amount of intestinal fortitude on the part of the 'visitor.' And once there, that's all they do. Visit. Snap a pic, write down any interesting comments and send them in for posting.

A visitor to the site <http://www.confluence.org/index.php> can search any known area of the world so of course, I checked out my home state of Washington. Plenty of trees, wide open plains, mountains, one the world's glorious rivers and a herd of sheep taken from a posterior angle. Some artful, mostly mundane but in my Covid-enforced boredom, a welcome break from the everyday.

I have to say it drew me in. I think I'm going to spend some serious time on this site. You should, too. But only if you want to get hooked on pictures of, well, nowhere in particular.

(The closest one to my house is to be found at 43:00 North, 123:00 East. In case you wondered.)