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Interactive comment on “A mesoproterozoic continental flood rhyolite province, the Gawler Ranges, Australia: the end member example of the Large Igneous Province clan” by M. J. Pankhurst et al.

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This is an interesting paper that discusses the role of enhanced halogens in fluidizing rhyolitic eruptions. I find the assessment of the effects of halogens on melt viscosity very interesting, likewise the assessment that in this case rhyolitic eruptions may have erupted with viscosities and flow patterns comparable to tholeiitic flood basalt eruptions. My primary issue with the line of argument here is their apparent linkage of these volcanics with a 'classical' continental flood basalt setting. The geometry in Figure 1, in fact, looks more similar, in space and time, to a Yellowstone-Snake River Plain

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track following the eruption of the Columbia River Flood Basalt, not the flood basalt event itself. But nonetheless, this was a very interesting read!

Interactive comment on Solid Earth Discuss., 2, 251, 2010.

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