

Volcanoes of Washington's Cascade Range



Active volcanoes dominate western Washington's skyline. The volcanoes are part of the Cascade Range, which extends from northern California to southern British Columbia. The Cascade volcanoes are often snow-covered and appear serene, but recent eruptions, steaming vents, warm ground and occasional earthquakes remind us of their volcanic origins and potential for future eruptions. As part of Volcano Preparedness Month, meet Washington's five backyard volcanoes this week and next week learn what you can do to prepare for the next eruption.

Mount Baker



Mount Baker Elevation: 10,781 ft (3,286 m)

Steaming persists at Sherman Crater near the summit; magma last reheated the volcano in 1975. Large landslides (debris avalanches) 6,600-years ago and again in 1843 and 1891, transformed the shape of Mount Baker; lahars (volcanic mudflows) swept far down valleys and accompanying eruptions deposited ash near the volcano.

Glacier Peak



Glacier Peak Elevation: 10,541 ft (3,213 m)

Known for its remoteness from metropolitan centers and back-country recreation, this volcano has produced powerful explosive eruptions that sent ash across eastern Washington and western Montana. Eruptions from Glacier Peak also generated lahars that traveled far downstream on the Sauk and Skagit Rivers. The most recent eruption was about 300 years ago.

Mount Rainier



Mount Rainier Elevation: 14,410 ft (4,392 m)

Mount Rainier is a volcano with a legacy of eruptions, lahars and landslides that scoured and buried entire valleys in the southern Puget Sound lowland. Well-known lahars generated by landslides include the eruption-induced 5,600 year-old Osceola lahar (one of the world's largest) and the A.D. 1502 Electron lahar, which occurred with no apparent accompanying eruption. Eruptions deposited ash layers around the volcano; steam explosions were reported during the 19th century.

Mount St. Helens



Mount St. Helens Elevation: 8,364 ft (2,549 m)

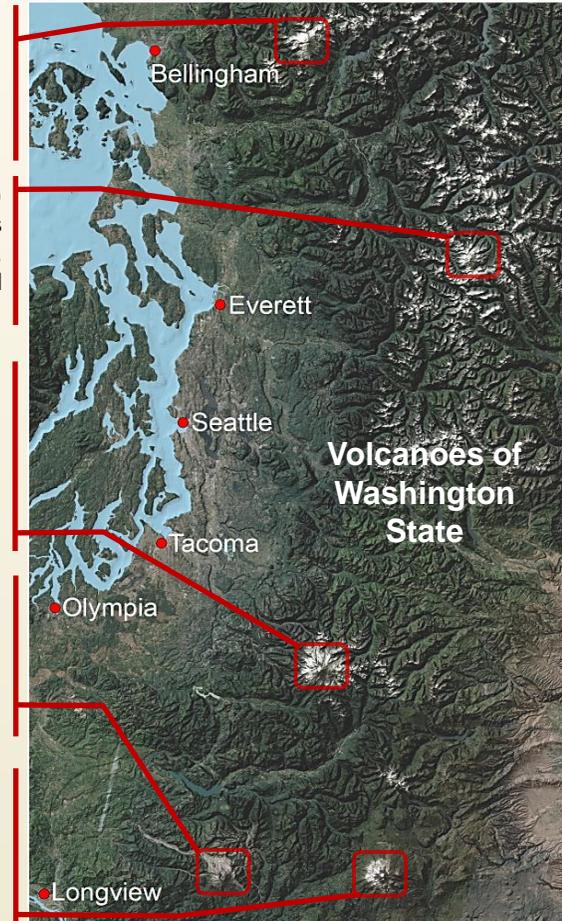
A site of continuous geologic change, landslides tear the volcano apart while lava flows and domes work to rebuild it. Large explosive eruptions have blanketed the Pacific Northwest with ash and lahars have swept through valleys for tens of miles. After a century of quiet, Mount St. Helens captured the world's attention in 1980 with a catastrophic landslide and eruption, followed by six years of lava dome growth, and renewed dome building between 2004 and 2008.

Mount Adams



Mount Adams Elevation: 12,276 ft (3,742 m)

The largest volcano in Washington by volume, Mount Adams' most recent eruption was 1,000 years ago. It is surrounded by a field of about a hundred small, young volcanoes. The summit contains a large volume of weakened rock making it susceptible to landslides. About 6,000 years ago, a debris avalanche and lahar swept through the Trout Lake lowland to the Columbia River.



Volcanoes of
Washington
State

Learning Activities

- Do you speak "volcano?" Build your volcano vocabulary, watch scientist interviews and download volcano posters (volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/cvo/teaching_resources.html).
- Learn how the inner structure and dynamics of the Earth can create volcanoes (vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/Outreach/Publications/GIP19/volcanism_plate_tectonics.pdf).
- Find a volcano near you (volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/cvo/) and create a booklet or poster that tells your volcano's story.
- See videos describing Mount St. Helens' past eruptions (volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/st_helens/st_helens_multimedia_11.html) and explore its story of destruction and recovery (www.mshslc.org/).



The slow collision of two of Earth's tectonic plates generates magma for volcanoes, as well as regional earthquakes, along the Cascadia Subduction Zone. For more information on Cascade volcanoes, visit the U.S. Geological Survey-Cascades Volcano Observatory at <http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/cvo/>.

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