



Pacific Northwest Region
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News Release

Special Presentations to Mark the 36th Anniversary of the 1980 Eruption of Mount St. Helens

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Join us Wednesday, May 18 as we commemorate the 36th anniversary of the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens with special presentations in the Johnston Ridge Observatory Theater, showcasing the scientific discoveries and personal connections that make Mount St. Helens a special place.

11:00am and 1:00pm – Ken Creager, Earth and Space Sciences, University of Washington
Imaging Magma under St. Helens (iMUSH) Reveals New Insights into what Lies beneath the Volcano

Preliminary results from the Imaging Magma under St. Helens (iMUSH) project are revealing new insights into the location and structure of magma beneath Mount St. Helens. As we analyze the terabytes of data collected, we will gain new insights into the geology beneath our feet. iMUSH is a four-year collaborative research experiment funded by the National Science Foundation. It is among the biggest, most comprehensive experiments undertaken on any volcano. The project involves seismic and electromagnetic experiments as well as detailed rock studies. Scientists from University of Washington, Oregon State University, Rice University, Cornell University, University of New Mexico, Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich, and the US Geological Survey are collaborating on this project. For additional details visit iMUSH.org.

11:30am and 1:30pm – Nathan Reynolds, Ecologist, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Mountain Goats, Mount St. Helens/ Lawetlat'la and the Traditional Culture of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe

For thousands of years, the ancestors of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe annually traveled to the slopes of Mount St. Helens/ Lawetlat'la to hunt mountain goats and collect wool. These fibers were spun into yarn, woven into capes and blankets, and traded throughout the pre-contact Northwest Coast as high-status items. Since the 1980 eruption, Mount St. Helens has been recolonized by mountain goats and now hosts an expanding population of more than 100 goats. Biologists from the Tribe, several agencies, and volunteer citizen scientists are working together to track population trends. Cowlitz members are again gathering tufts of wool from the upper slopes of Lawetlat'la, in hopes of recovering the lost art of weaving goat wool.

Johnston Ridge Observatory is open daily from 10:00am to 6:00pm beginning May 14, 2016.

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