# Volcano Hazards and GeoPRISMs science

### Seth Moran, USGS Cascades Volcano Observatory

# **Volcano Hazard: Definition**

- Products and/or events related to a volcano with the potential to cause damage/economic loss or casualties (eruption not required)
- → Characterizing hazard includes determining:
  - a) How long will it last (e.g., duration of ash production)
  - b) Spatial extent (e.g., define areas with elevated  $CO_2$ )
  - c) Nature of event (e.g., lahar vs. pyroclastic flow)
  - d) Nature of onset (e.g., time between start of unrest and eruption)
  - e) Likelihood of future occurrences



## **Volcano Hazard: Definition**

Risk

### **Natural Hazard**

#### Potential catastrophic and chronic events

- Past recurrence intervals
- Future probability
- · Speed of onset
- Magnitude
- Duration
- Spatial extent

### Vulnerable System

## Exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity of:

- Population
- Economy
- · Land use and development
- Infrastructure and facilities
- Cultural assets
- Ecosystem goods and services

#### Ability, resources, and will to:

- Mitigate
  Respond
- Prepare 
  Recover

Wood, 2011, http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2011/3008/



# NVEWS: US Volcano Threat (risk) Assessment

#### "Very High Threat" US Volcanoes

Table 6: Results of NVEWS gap analysis. The monitoring gap for each volcano is determined by subtracting the value of the current monitoring level from the required monitoring level. Threat groups are color coded: very high threat is red, high is orange, moderate is yellow, low is blue, and very low is green. Gray highlighting indicates volcanoes that currently are erupting or showing heightened unrest (as of April 2005).

Volcano	State	Aviation- Threat Score	Threat Score	Required Monitoring Level	Current Monitoring Level	Monitoring Gap
Kilauea	HI	48	324	4	4	Eruption
St. Helens	WA	56	267	4	4	Eruption
Rainier	WA	35	244	4	2	2
Hood	OR	28	213	4	2	2
Shasta	CA	37	210	4	2	2
South Sister	OR	28	194	4	2	2
Lassen Volcanic Center	CA	31	186	4	2	2
Mauna Loa	HI	4	170	4	3	Unrest
Redoubt	AK	44	164	4	3	1
Crater Lake	OR	35	161	4	1	3
Baker	WA	14	156	4	2	2
Glacier Peak	WA	35	155	4	1	3
Makushin	AK	34	152	4	3	1
Akutan	AK	42	140	4	3	1
Spurr	AK	44	130	4	3	Unrest
Long Valley Caldera	CA	29	128	4	4	0
Newberry Volcano	OR	28	126	4	2	2
Augustine	AK	44	123	4	3	1



Cascade Volcanoes

From Ewert et al., 2005

# **Volcano Hazard: Definition**

- Products and/or events related to a volcano with the potential to cause damage/economic loss or casualties (eruption not required)
- → Characterizing hazard includes determining:
  - a) How long will it last (e.g., duration of ash production)
  - b) Spatial extent (e.g., define areas with elevated  $CO_2$ )
  - c) Nature of event (e.g., lahar vs. pyroclastic flow)
  - d) Nature of onset (e.g., time between start of unrest and eruption)
  - e) Likelihood of future occurrences



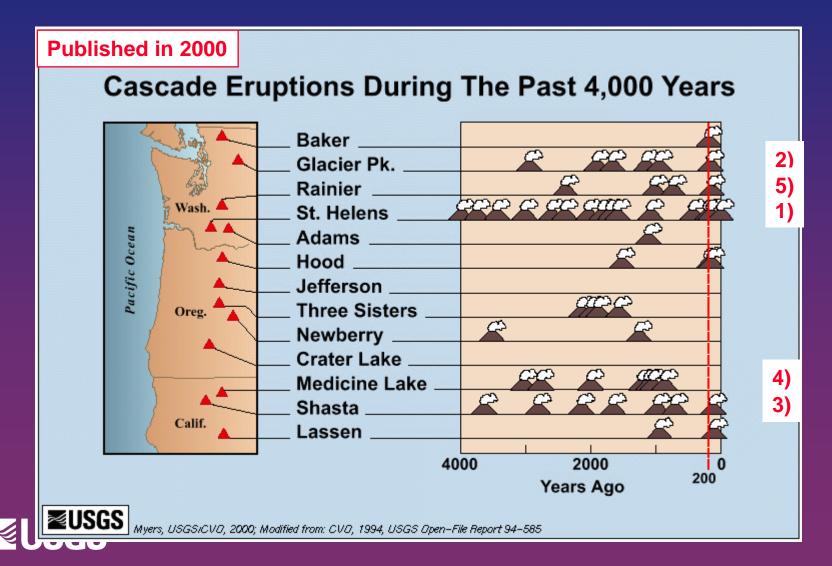
# **Volcano Hazard: Definition**

- Products and/or events related to a volcano with the potential to cause damage/economic loss or casualties (eruption not required)
- → Characterizing hazard includes determining:
  - a) How long will it last (e.g., duration of ash production)
  - b) Spatial extent (e.g., define areas with elevated  $CO_2$ )
  - c) Nature of event (e.g., lahar vs. pyroclastic flow)
  - d) Nature of onset (e.g., time between start of unrest and eruption)
  - e) Likelihood of future occurrences

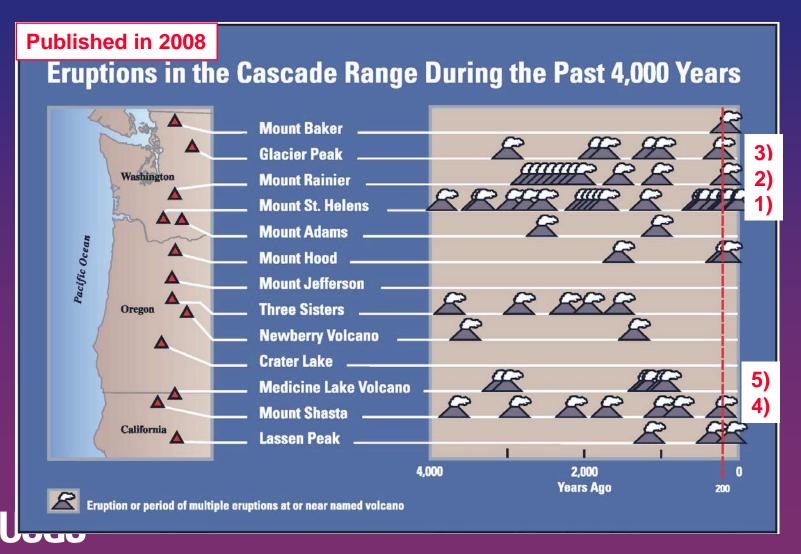
### **Geology** Geology & Geophysics



# Eruption frequency: Improved knowledge from geologic mapping

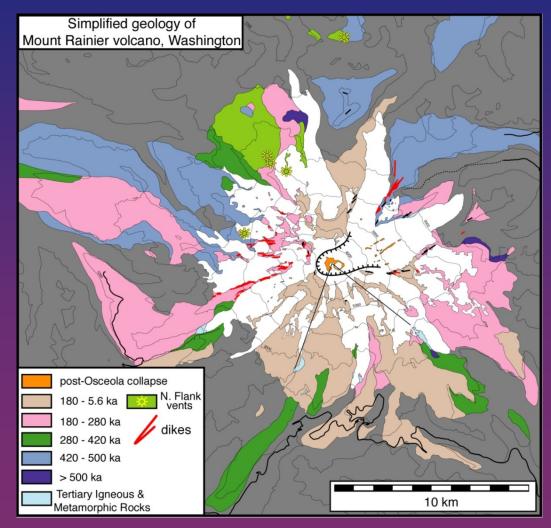


# Eruption frequency: Improved knowledge due to geologic mapping



### Ē

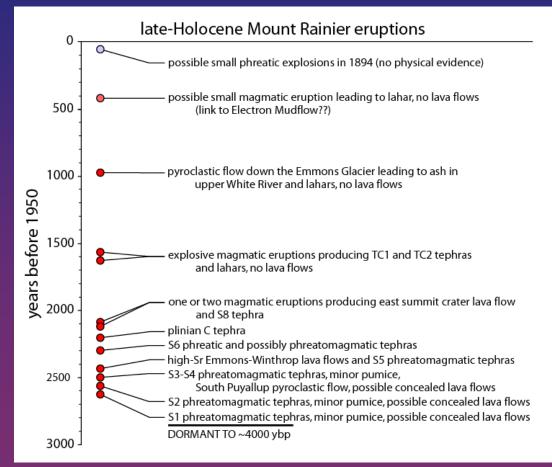
# Eruption frequency: Improved knowledge from geologic mapping





Sisson (pers communication, 2009)

# Eruption frequency: Improved knowledge from geologic mapping





From Sisson & Vallance, 2009

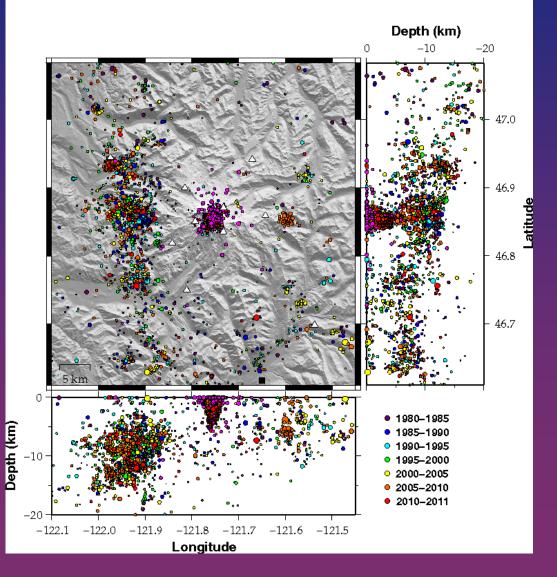
How are models of magmatic systems relevant to understanding volcano hazards?

- 1) Give a geologic context in which to interpret signs and symptoms of unrest (e.g., earthquakes, deformation, degassing).
  - Provides working hypotheses for interpreting unrest
  - → Reduces uncertainty during unrest



**Rainier seismicity** 

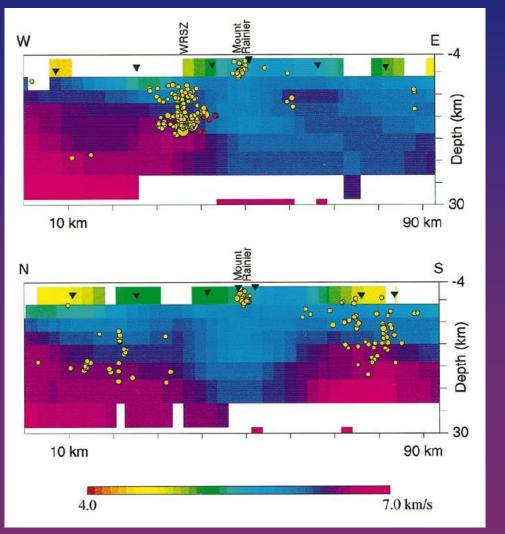
Why are there earthquakes at Mount Rainier?





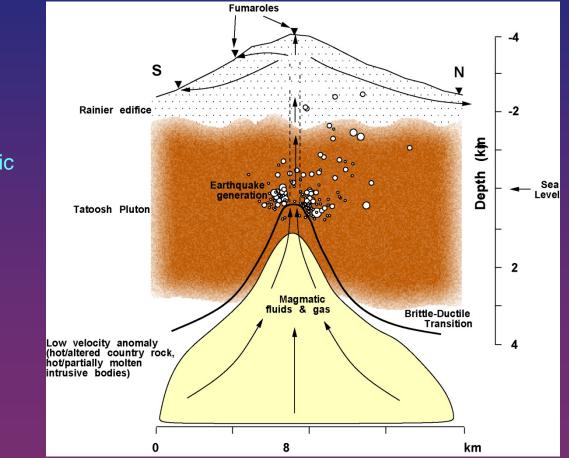
#### **₽**

## Magmatic system models & hazards





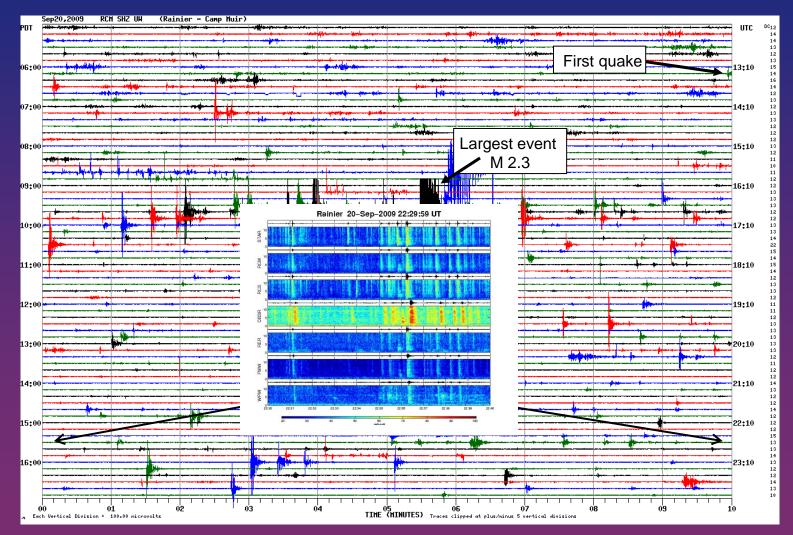
Moran et al., 2000



Mount Rainier Seismic/geologic model

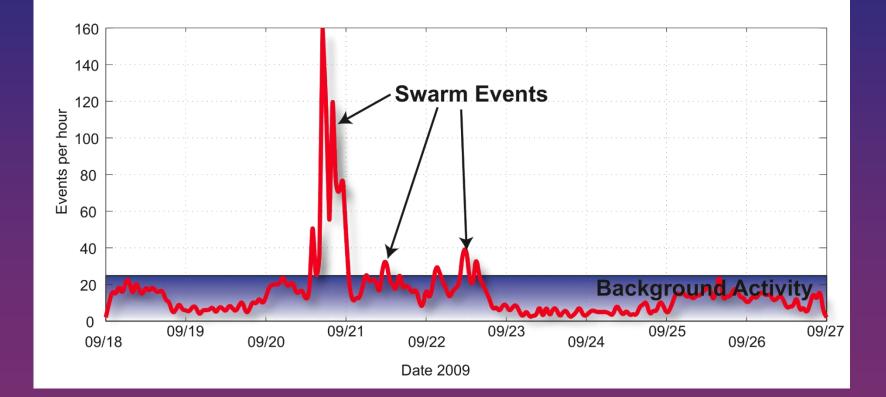






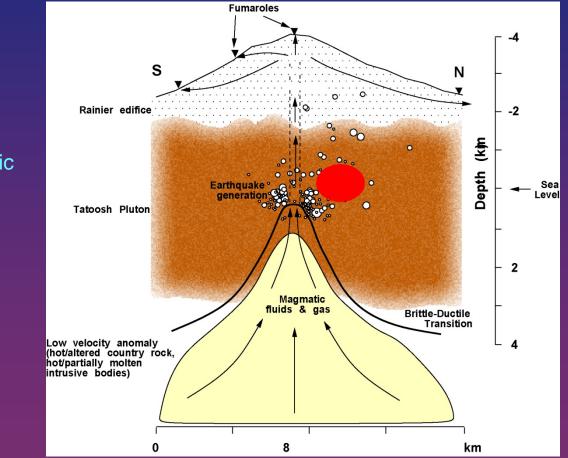
Mount Rainier swarm -- 09/20-09/23, 2009

**≥USGS** 



Mount Rainier swarm -- 09/20-09/23, 2009

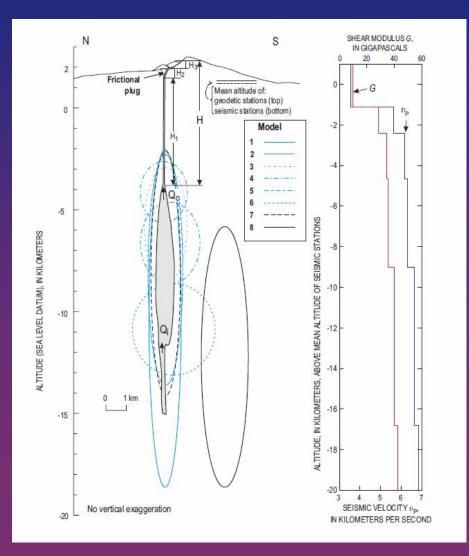
**≥USGS** 



Mount Rainier Seismic/geologic model



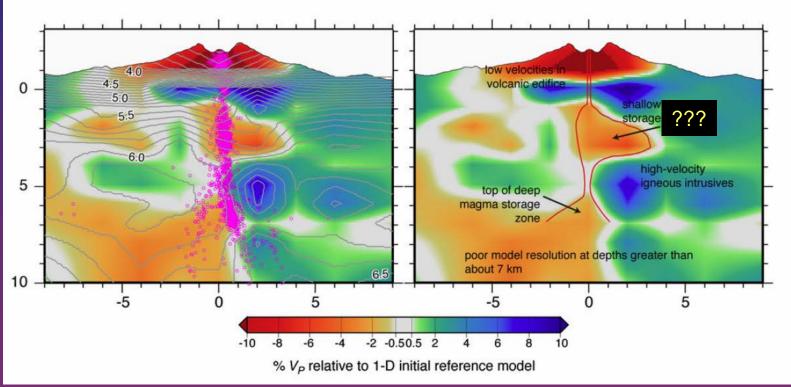




**≥USGS** 

Answer is model dependent

Mastin et al., 2008



G.P. Waite, S.C. Moran / Journal of Volcanology and Geothermal Research 182 (2009) 113-122

Waite and Moran, 2009



How are models of magmatic systems relevant to understanding volcano hazards?

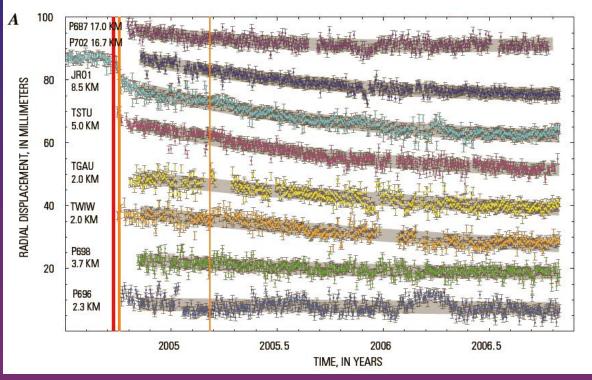
- 1) Give a geologic context in which to interpret signs and symptoms of unrest (e.g., earthquakes, deformation, degassing).
  - Provides working hypotheses for interpreting unrest
  - → Reduces uncertainty during unrest
- 2) Provide starting point for detecting short-term changes in nearsurface material properties (e.g., velocity, attenuation)
- 3) Deep LPs





Mount St. Helens GPS data, 2004-2006

When will eruption end?



Lisowski et al., 2008

