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CASCADES VOLCANO OBSERVATORY WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday, August 28, 2015 10:03 AM PDT (Friday, August 28, 2015 17:03 UTC)

CASCADE RANGE VOLCANOES

Current Volcano Alert Level: NORMAL

Current Aviation Color Code: GREEN

Activity Update: All volcanoes in the Cascade Range of Oregon and Washington are at normal background levels of seismicity. These include Mount Baker, Glacier Peak, Mount Rainier, Mount St. Helens, and Mount Adams in Washington State; and Mount Hood, Mount Jefferson, Three Sisters, Newberry, and Crater Lake in Oregon. Additionally, GPS data from most of the major volcanoes, and sparse real-time hydrologic and geochemical monitoring, show no anomalous activity.

Recent Observations: Over the past two weeks, water released from Mount Hood's White River Glacier has generated sediment-laden streamflow and modest debris flows. The debris flows were detected on several seismometers located near the White River valley.

Such sediment-laden flows are relatively common in the valley after extended periods of hot weather. This year's warm temperatures have exposed many areas throughout the Cascades that are typically under snow cover. As a result, periods of increased rainfall in the months ahead may mobilize more sediment off the volcanoes than usual, and muddy streamflows and debris flows may be more frequent.

Fieldwork continues throughout the Cascades; highlights this week include campaign GPS at Mt Baker and gas measurements at Mt Hood.