NEWS

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New Instruments to Connect Mount St. Helens to National Network that Monitors Deformation and Strain of the Earth's Crust Along the Boundary of the Pacific and North American Plates

COUGAR, WA – On **Friday, September 22 at 10:30 a.m.** scientists and engineers from the Plate Boundary Observatory (PBO) will be available at Windy Ridge Viewpoint to describe the deep borehole strain meter that is being installed on Windy Ridge as well as GPS and tiltmeter instruments that are currently being deployed on the volcano. Media representatives will have an opportunity to watch engineers lower instruments into the 700 foot deep borehole and to examine GPS and tiltmeter instrumentation. Monument Scientist Peter Frenzen and Mike Hasting and Katrin Hafner with the Plate Boundary Observatory will be available for interviews about the instrumentation and the upcoming two-year anniversary of the onset of renewed activity at Mount St. Helens.

In the weeks ahead, PBO crews will complete installation of a network of 17 new instruments around Mount St. Helens (4 deep borehole strain meters, 9 GPS stations and 4 tiltmeters). The PBO installations are part of an intensive study that is designed to look at movement and strain in the earth's crust associated with ongoing eruptive activity at the volcano. The new equipment will add to the existing USGS Cascades Volcano Observatory and Pacific Northwest Seismograph Network instrumentation and will provide additional insight on the interaction between the magma body beneath the volcano and movement of overlying earth's crust.

The Mount St. Helens instruments are part of a national network that is being deployed across the continental U.S. as part of the National Science Foundation funded Earthscope research initiative. For additional information see http://www.earthscope.org/overview/index.php. The Plate Boundary Observatory focuses on deformation and strain in the earth's crust. For additional information see http://www.earthscope.org/pbo/index.php

Media representatives are asked to contact Peter Frenzen (360) 449-7835 or pfrenzen@fs.fed.us to RSVP so we know who will be coming. Windy Ridge Viewpoint is located at the end of Forest Road 99 on the NE side of the volcano. For location of Windy Ridge Viewpoint please see the Gifford Pinchot National Forest vicinity map
http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/04maps/documents/GP_Vicinity_05.pdf

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