

Astronomy Picture of the Day

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Rock Slab Growing at Mt. St. Helens Volcano

Credit: Dan Dzurisin, [Cascades Volcano Observatory](#), [USGS](#)

Explanation: A new rock slab is growing at more than one meter a day on the [Mt. St. Helens](#) volcano in [Washington, USA](#). The [rock slab](#), growing since last November, now extends about 100 meters out from one of the volcano's craters. A recently made [time lapse movie](#) shows the [rock slab](#) growing. [Pictured above](#), a [helicopter](#) examines the [steaming hot rock slab](#) late last month. [Mt. St. Helens](#) underwent a [spectacular eruption](#) in 1980 but has been undergoing a [comparatively serene eruption](#) since 2004 September. A [new volcanic dome](#) has been building which is now about 100 meters above the 1980s dome. The rock slab is visible from the [Johnston Ridge Observatory](#) on the [erupting volcano](#).

Tomorrow's picture: [cloudy sky](#)