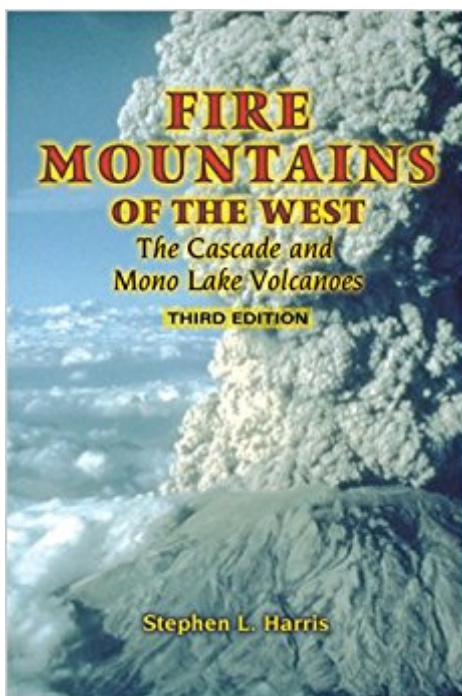


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Fire Mountains Of The West: The Cascade And Mono Lake Volcanoes



Synopsis

The recent volcanic activity at Mount St. Helens is a continuing reminder of the explosive power of our western volcanoes. *Fire Mountains of the West: The Cascade and Mono Lake Volcanoes* is Stephen Harris's completely revised, thoroughly researched account of the volatile history and deadly potential of volcanoes spanning the West from California to southwestern British Columbia. *Fire Mountains of the West* is intended for the general reader with an interest in the geologic forces that shape our western mountainscape. It begins with an introduction to volcanoes, the processes that create them, and the glaciers that sculpt them. The heart of the book is a fascinating biography of each of the major volcanoes of the West. From the subterranean lava tube caves of the Medicine Lake volcano to the fire-and-ice formation of Mount Garibaldi, from the cataclysmic collapse of Crater Lake to the incinerating blast of modern Mount St. Helens, and from deadly volcanic gas presently killing trees at Mammoth Mountain to massive mudflows waiting to burst from Mount Rainier, Stephen Harris brings to life in dynamic, crystal-clear language the geologic story behind each of the major volcanoes of the Cascade Range and Mono Lake area. Dramatic photos and illuminating maps and diagrams graphically illustrate the features of these magnificent mountains. A brief section at the end of each chapter gives directions and descriptions for those visiting the volcano. Harris also offers a careful appraisal of the prospects of each for future eruptions some of which may be more devastating to human life and property than any in the past. The book ends with a hypothetical account of a future eruption at Mount Shasta. With a rare ability to describe geologic processes in layperson's terms and elegant prose, Harris inspires in readers great respect and awe for the rugged beauty as well as the violent potential of these majestic fire mountains.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This well-illustrated volume is probably the best introduction available concerning the geology, history, and hazards of each of the West's potentially eruptive volcanoes." --Natural Hazards Observer

Stephen L. Harris grew up in western Washington where the views of Mount Rainier, with its mantle of glacial ice and steaming summit crater, inspired a life-long interest in the eruptive potential of the Cascade volcanoes. During the last several decades Harris has experienced intimately some of nature's most spectacular powers. He has climbed over, under, and inside active glaciers, scaled icy mountains to camp inside steaming craters, shuddered with the thrill of the earth trembling beneath his feet, and viewed a death-dealing volcanic eruption at close range. In 1976 he published *Fire and Ice*, the first book devoted to surveying the geologic history and assessing the volcanic hazards of each major peak in the Cascade Range. Pursuing an avocation in geology, Harris has also published *Agents of Chaos* (Mountain Press, 1990), which deals with earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, and other natural disasters. He contributed the section on geologic hazards to *Restless Earth* (National Geographic Books, 1997) and the chapter on Archaeology and Volcanism to the *Encyclopedia of Volcanoes* (Academic Press, 2000). A Woodrow Wilson Fellow at Cornell University, where he received his MA and PhD in English literature, Harris is now a professor emeritus of humanities and religious studies at California State University, Sacramento. While teaching at CSUS, Harris created and taught a survey course called Volcanoes and the Human Environment. His regular column, *Western Geology Illustrated*, appeared in *American West* for six years, and he wrote several articles on volcanic and earthquake hazards in the West for *Columbia* and *Pacific Northwest* magazines. He has frequently appeared on local and national television, including four interviews on ABC's *Nightline* with Ted Koppel.

I ordered this book for a geology course. It arrived on-time in a cardboard box. This book is very well written and informative about PNW volcanos. This book is a solid read for anyone interested in geology. I recommend ordering college books through because of the reduced price and the hassle free buyback program.

Well researched and well written. This is a great study of the Cascades volcanos. Recommended for

beginning students of volcanos as well as those who want to deepen their knowledge.

For anyone with a fascination for all things volcanic, as I have, this is the book for you!

No problems

Informative,

I would recommend this book to anyone who was hiking or camping in the cascades as well as the curious or even a geology major in college.

I love this book. I travel Washington State to California couple times a year and I love to reference this book when I see the volcanoes on my trip. Excellent information.

This book is very well researched and written in a manner that brings the history of these volcanos to life. Extremely interesting and enjoyable reading.

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