



Lassen Peak and Mount St. Helens Comparison



Similarities

Both volcanoes:

- Involve a series of explosions, which took place over a few months time.
- Sent at least one major eruption of gas and ash to great heights.
- Produced an acidic dacite ash.
- Produced steam deposits of ash, which trailed out about 30 miles.
- Resulted in a display of countless logs, which lay in rows pointing away from the explosive hot blast.
- Were snow-covered and mudflows were fed by the snowmelt.
- Released ash into the air where it traveled in quantities for at least 100 miles.
- Caused reduced visibility for many days.
- Produced small craters scattered over the area due to steam, ash, or lava chunks. Lassen was the only one with lava chunks, also known as hot rocks.
- Had domes form in one or more vents. Mount St. Helens is still temporary as far as a prevention of further eruption is concerned.

Differences

- Mount St. Helens did not have extruded lava
- Lassen produced three craters, Mount St. Helens produced two.
- Lassen has a main lava and mudflow on May 19 prior to the great explosive eruption on May 22.
- Lassen's explosive action was not as wide as the mudflow.
- The width of blow down on Lassen was only 1 ½ mile wide.
- Timber destroyed by flow of explosive blast at Mount St. Helens was 1 billion board feet versus 4.5 million board feet at Lassen.
- Melted snow is considered a major source of mudflow in Lassen's eruption.
- A cloud rose 5 miles high from Lassen, and 12 miles high above Mount St. Helens.
- Eruptions lasted four years at Lassen, eruptions began in March 1980 at Mount St. Helens and are continuing.
- Mud marks on trees reached 6 ½ feet high at Lassen.