

Stream Gauges

USGS, Cascades Volcano Observatory (CVO)

Stream gauges measure the amount of water flowing in streams and rivers and suspended sediment in the streams and rivers draining Mt. St. Helens. Stream gauges also measure river water surface elevation every 15 minutes, which can be calculated to determine the volume of water transported over time. Stream gauge data, in conjunction with stream cross sectional line measurements at over 300 fixed locations on Mt. St. Helens, help staff at CVO monitor how the rivers and streams change over long periods in order to identify areas of erosion and deposition, changes in channel location and geometry and to compute the amount of sediment that transported through the drainage basins.

Currently, the USGS operate 3 Stream gauges, two within the Mt. St. Helens Volcanic National Monument and one on USFS land adjacent to the monument.



Photograph showing CVO staff conducting maintenance on the Castle Lake Stream Gauge.