

### Tubularman

### Boomer Cardinale



### Trees are returning to Mount St. Helens

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

WASHINGTON — Trees are growing back slowly on Mount St. Helens, just as they did after a volcanic eruption five centuries ago, but complete reforestation may be 165 years away, a study said Tuesday.

The research on tree rings published in National Geographic Research & Exploration journal offers a glimpse at the life of the volcano in southwest Washington, from the catastrophic blast in 1480 to the most recent eruption in May 1980.

"Basically we were able to reconstruct everything the volcano did in detail for the last 500 years," said David K. Yamaguchi, the study's author and researcher of catastrophic forest disturbances.

"That kind of detailed picture is rare for volcanoes around the world," he said in a telephone interview from Boulder, Colo., where he works at the University of Colorado's Mountain Research Station.

The wide variance in regrowth on the once-barren moonscape around Mount St. Helens mimics the pattern of trees that began growing after the eruption of 1480, Yamaguchi said.

Yamaguchi, who previously worked for the U.S. Geologic Survey's Volcano Observation Center in Vancouver, Wash., spent three summers "driving around the volcano in my beat up car" taking samples from 600 stumps.

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