Forty years have passed since a tremendous blast at Mount St. Helens—the deadliest eruption in U.S. history—transformed the landscape for hundreds of square kilometers in the Pacific Northwest. Satellite images acquired in the days around the eruption on May 18th, 1980, helped scientists understand the event; images acquired over the past four decades have given them insight into how a landscape recovers. The Landsat image shows the volcano with snow still blanketing its flanks despite the spring sunshine. By August, most of the snow on the mountain will melt. The image is the most recent, cloud-free view of the mountain from Landsat 8, which acquires images of any given place on Earth about once every two weeks.

The pair of supplemental air photographs show the volcano in more detail. At left is the dome, which has started to grow again, and at right are some of the lahar deposits along the Toutle River.