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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Students in two Geography courses at Cariboo College this fall will be able to penetrate into the Mount St. Helens destruction area at least as far as the "blow-down zone", supplementing their classroom study of volcanic action.

Instructors Jim Miller and Barry Weaver have just received an official "red zone" permit from U.S. officials to take a busload of their Geography 111 and 112 students up the Toutle River Valley on the Thanksgiving weekend. Both instructors have made recent ground and aerial reconnaissance trips to the area to plan the field trip itinerary.

Participation in the field trip will involve a fee and will be optional, but is available only to those registered in the first-year Geography courses, both of which carry university transfer credit. The 111 course emphasizes man and his environment, and 112 is a laboratory course in physical geography.

Two weeks of preparatory lectures, including visual material, will be included in both courses for all students.

"The access permit makes it clear that this expedition must be a 'no official responsibility, at your own risk' affair," Miller and Weaver point out. "However, the precise extent of our approach to the volcano will depend on circumstances at the time of the trip. We're not taking any chances."

The students will leave Kamloops on Thursday October 8, and will spend Friday viewing the effects of volcano-caused flooding along the Cowlitz River in the Kelso-Longview area.

In their exploration of the Toutle River Valley on Saturday, including the immediate devastation area, the group will be accompanied by a geologist from the Department of Earth Science at Portland State University.

On Sunday they will study aspects of past volcanic activity on the slopes of Mt. Rainier. The final stop before the homeward trip on Monday the 13th will be at Yakima, where the emphasis will be on the economic effects of the volcanic ashfall.

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