



Value-added Opportunities for Extension Associated with Long-term Disaster Recovery Efforts: Lessons from the Washington SR530 (Oso) Slide

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College of
Agricultural, Human, &
Natural Resource Sciences



Presentation Outline

- The Mudslide
- Disaster Impact on the Community
- WSU Response
- Impacts
- Community Reaction
- What's Ahead
- Recommendations for Others
- Q & A



The Stillaguamish Valley



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The Mudslide

- History
- Size
- Speed
- Homes
- Lives
- Flood
- SR 530



Impact on Community

- Loss of Family and Friends
- Fear of Flood
- Protracted Stress
- Isolation
- Mental Health
- Environmental Contamination Issues



Photo by Adam Wallberg



Quote from a Survivor

“It’s super hard and still doesn’t feel like reality. There’s so much uncertainty right now. We just don’t know what is going to happen. We are taking it one step at a time, day by day.”

--Lilianna Andrews



Photo by Curt Moulton



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WSU Responds

President Elson Floyd:

- Reaches out to Mayors
- Reaches out to Students
- Asks WSU Extension to Lead
- Commits Resources



WSU SR 530 Mudslide Recovery Team

- WSU Extension
- WSU University Center, Everett
- WSU Colleges
 - Communications
 - Engineering and Architecture
 - CAHNRS
 - Arts and Sciences
 - Education
 - Veterinary Medicine



Team Members

- Mike Gaffney, Director, Division of Governmental Studies and Services and WSU Emergency Management
- Curt Moulton, Director, WSU Snohomish County Extension
- Monica Babine, Senior Associate for Digital Inclusion, Division of Governmental Studies and Services
- Bob Drewel, Interim Chancellor, WSU North Puget Sound at Everett
- Brad Gaolach, Extension Specialist, Community and Economic Development
- Jana Ferris, 4-H Educator, WSU Snohomish County Extension
- Janet Jayne, Office Manager, WSU Snohomish County Extension
- Sylvia Kantor, Science Writer, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences
- Susan Kerr, Extension Specialist, Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center
- Rob McDaniel, Program Unit Director, Community and Economic Development
- Judy Pendergrass, Community and Economic Development Coordinator, WSU Snohomish County Extension, Darrington, WA
- Christina Sanders, Assistant Director, Division of Governmental Studies and Services
- Phyllis Shulman, Intern Program Placement Coordinator, WSU Snohomish County Extension



Quote from WSU Recovery Team

“There’s a lot of energy and a lot of hope. As a university, we have a lot to contribute when a community is knocked down like this one has been.”

--Curt Moulton, WSU-Snohomish County
Extension Director



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Outreach Programs and Actions



- Tuition Waivers
- CED Position
- Economic Development
- WSU Student Interns
- K-12 Summer Program
- Disaster Response Committees
- Campus Engagement
- Landslide Commission
- Student Service Weekends



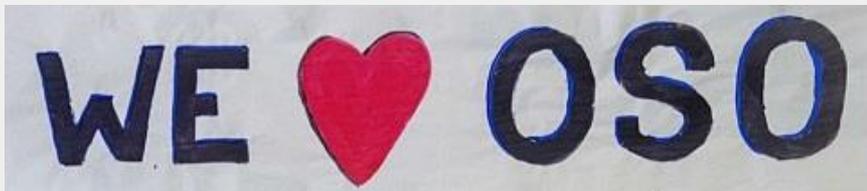
Community Response to WSU Engagement

- Elected Officials
- Community
- Students
- Faculty
- Press



Local Impacts

- Increased inter-community and inter-organizational understanding and cohesion
- Increased knowledge and utilization of WSU resources and expertise
- Strategic ED plan resulted in \$150K EDA grant
- Community input used to create community gatherings and leadership ops to improve quality of life
- Efforts to increase tourism successful
- Life-changing experiences for 12 student interns
- Website development (multiple)
- Snohomish County water source inventory completed



Local Impacts cont'd

- Engagement of local tribe in broadband discussions
- Leadership for Governor's SR 530 Landslide Commission and final joint report
- Teachers trained on teaching traumatized children
- Youth programming created NR STEM curriculum, increased STEM knowledge and skills, employed youth
- Community beautification through WSU student work weekends
- Efforts resulted in over \$462K in donations and grants



University Impacts

- Engagement of multiple Colleges
- Partnership with Center for Civic Engagement
- Collaboration with Associated Students
- On-Campus Fundraising Banquet (\$15,000)
- Student Service Trips
 - 60 Students
 - Nearly 1,000 Hours of Service
- Enhanced Visibility for Extension
- Expanded Connections across Campus



Quote from Student Intern

“I cannot express...the feelings of accomplishment and pride I have gained through this experience. To be able to dedicate my entire summer to this community was humbling... I saw a community in pain turn into a community of pride and resilience... This community may be shaken up and struggling but they are not giving up.”

--Colby Cavanaugh, 2014 WSU Intern,
530 Mudslide Response



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What's Ahead?

- 3-5 Year Commitment
- Economic Development Projects
- K-13 STEM Natural Resource Program
- WSU Student Intern Program
- Summer Youth Programs
- Publications



Recommendations for other LGUs

- Extension can have strong roles in disaster *preparation* and *recovery*, let EM *respond*
- Count on long-term engagement
- Address all aspects of Extension outreach: youth, CED, agriculture, NR, FCS
- Seek involvement from university colleagues in other colleges
- Foster long-term relationships built on trust and meaningful accomplishments
- Use as opportunity to advertise other Extension and university services and programs
- Leverage donations and fundraisers when applying for grants
- Keep scholarship in mind





WSU SR 530 Mudslide Team

Questions and Comments

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