Coastal Hazard Resilience Network: planning for coastal hazards, climate change, and sea level rise in WA State

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Building a Coastal Hazards Resilience Network in Washington
2014 Social Coast Forum

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What is resilience?

• **Resilience** The ability to persist (i.e., to absorb shocks and stresses and still maintain the functioning of society and the integrity of ecological systems) and the ability to adapt to change, unforeseen circumstances, and risks.

Or...

- Resilience: the capacity to recover quickly from shocks and stressors while at the same time reducing future risk
- Source: Pirani and Tolkoff, 2014.

- Resilience: it’s not just bouncing back, it’s bouncing *better*.
What is the Washington coast?
What are the hazards?

• In scope:
  – Climate change and SLR
  – Flooding
  – Earthquake
  – Tsunami
  – Storms
  – Landslides
  – Erosion
  – Liquefaction
  – Subsidence

• Out of scope:
  – Ocean acidification
  – Marine Debris
  – Oil Spills
Why a network?

- Overarching Goal: Establish a state-wide coastal resilience network to improve coordination and collaboration around issues involving coastal hazards and climate change impacts
- Funds down, hazards up
Grant Objectives

• With a CRest grant from NOAA Coastal Services Center, our objective is to create a Coastal Hazard Resilience Network in Washington
  – Linking existing federal, state, and local programs
  – Engage the public
  – Consider preparedness, recovery, risk and vulnerability, adaptation, and under-served or under-represented populations
The Washington CHRN will...

- Build Shared Understanding
- Improve End User Experience
- Increase Collective Capacity
First Meeting: Grant Year 1, Month 1

Federal
- NOAA
- FEMA

State
- Ecology
- Natural Resources
- Transportation
- Washington Sea Grant
- Parks
- Emergency Management

Academia
- University of Washington
- Western Washington University

NGO
- Nature Conservancy

Regional
- Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
Web development, Year 1, Month 4

• Building out [www.wacoastalnetwork.com](http://www.wacoastalnetwork.com)
  Features:
  directory of government employees who work on coastal hazard issues
  blog for resilience news
  library of important documents and resources
  event and grant calendars
  open web forum

Linked services:
  Email newsletter (based on focus group feedback)
  Twitter: @resiliencenetwa
Next steps

• Prototype: focus efforts on Pacific and Grays Harbor Counties

• Partnership with FEMA RX: they provide the venue (Resilience meetings), we provide more experts and communication skills
Further Goals

• Develop state agency consensus on a list of coastal resilience priorities, addressing coastal hazard and climate change research, management, and regulations
• Collaborate to leverage funds and resources to address identified priorities
• Develop and apply best practices for cross-hazard management across jurisdictional boundaries
• Develop cross-hazard maps
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