MAP SHOWING RECENT AND HISTORIC LANDSLIDE ACTIVITY ON COASTAL BLUFFS OF PUGET SOUND BETWEEN SHILSHOLE BAY AND EVERETT, WASHINGTON

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Abstract Many landslides occurred on the coastal bluffs between Seattle and Everett, Wash., during the winters of 1996 and 1997. Shallow earth slides and debris flows were the most common, but a few deep-seated rotational earth slides also occurred. The landslides caused significant property damage and interfered with rail traffic; future landslides in the area pose significant hazards to property and public safety. Field observations indicate that ground-water seepage, runoff concentration, and dumping at the tops of the bluffs all contributed to instability of the bluffs. Most landslides in the study area occurred in colluvium, residuum, and landslide deposits derived from the Vashon Drift, particularly the advance outwash. In the northern part of the area, colluvium derived from the Pleistocene

Whidbey Formation was also involved in shallow landslides. Comparison of recent activity with historic records in the southern part of the map area indicates that landslides tend to occur in many of the same areas as previous landslides. Landslides have been a significant problem in the Seattle area for many years, and numerous landslides occurred there as a result of major storms in 1996 and 1997. During this period, four major episodes of landsliding along the bluffs between Seattle and Everett impacted residential and commercial properties and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway, which runs along the shore of Puget Sound at the base of these bluffs. The landslides filled ditches along the tracks, covered railroad tracks, uprooted trees, blocked culverts, broke flexible surface drainage pipes ("tightlines"), caused bluff retreat (land damage) and structural damage to several homes on the bluffs, and derailed part of a freight train. In all, at least 100 different landslides covered one or both tracks of the railroad during the 1995/1996 and 1996/1997 wet seasons. Millions of dollars in direct costs accrued from debris removal, repairs, recovery operations, environmental

rehabilitation, landslide remediation, and lost or destroyed property. Additionally, significant indirect costs accrued to the BNSF Railway from delays, lost revenues, and rerouting of rail traffic. Fortunately, no deaths or injuries resulted from any of these landslides. Three of the four landsliding episodes occurred during or immediately after major winter storms. The first significant episode occurred during the storm of February 5-8, 1996 (Harp and others, 1996), which triggered several shallow slides and debris flows. However, the greatest concentration of landslides from that storm was mainly to the south of the study area. The second episode occurred the following winter from December 31, 1996 to January 2, 1997 (Gerstel and others, 1997; Baum and others, 1998). Wind and warm rain melted 1-2 ft of snow that had accumulated during the previous week; the resulting meltwater triggered numerous shallow landslides and debris flows throughout the study area (map and figs. 1 and 2). Two weeks later during the third episode, a deepseated rotational landslide occurred at Woodway, Washington (fig. 3). The Woodway landslide derailed five cars of a freight train operated by the BNSF Railway. (Shannon and Wilson, Inc., 1997a¹). The fourth episode occurred March 18-19, 1997, when a major rainstorm triggered more shallow landslides.

The inventory of recent landslides presented in this map constitutes a part of the information needed to assess the potential for landslides in the coastal bluffs that might impact rail traffic or damage private property. In the paragraphs that follow, we summarize the local geology, briefly review the findings of previous investigators, describe our methodology, describe the characteristics and causes of the landslides, and compare the locations of recent (1995-96 and 1996-97) landslides with locations of previous (1933-1960) landslides documented by Shannon and Wilson, Inc. (1960²). The map shows the distribution of the recent landslides along the bluffs next to Puget Sound in the entire map area and of the previous landslides in the southern part of the map area. We mapped outlines of recent landslides from aerial photographs taken in 1997 and supplemented our mapping with field mapping by Shannon and Wilson, Inc., (1997b³) in three selected areas indicated on the map. We conclude by discussing landslide susceptibility and frequency in the area, and what additional information is needed to quantify landslide hazard so that appropriate actions can be taken to reduce landslide losses in this area. Sound Transit (The Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority) has proposed to

add the operation of commuter trains in the BNSF rail corridor to the existing traffic, so exposure of rail traffic to landslides is likely to increase in the future even if the average frequency of landslides remains constant. Assessing the potential for future landslide impact to the railway is important for determining the safety of such operations. Continuing population growth in the Seattle area will likely result in increased residential development on and near the bluffs between Seattle and Everett. Information contained in this map may help potential developers, homeowners, and officials of local governments to identify areas of high landslide incidence so that they can take appropriate actions to minimize landslide losses in these areas.

Surficial geology

The surficial geology of the study area consists mainly of Pleistocene glacial, alluvial, and marine sediments; little or no bedrock is exposed in the map area. Major Quaternary stratigraphic units in the map area include nonglacial sand, silt, and clay of the Whidbey Formation and sequences of glacial deposits, including the Double Bluff Drift, the Possession Drift, and the Vashon Drift (Crandell and others, 1965; Mullineaux and others, 1965; Smith, 1975, 1976). The basal member of the Vashon Drift is a widespread deposit of dense glaciolacustrine clay and silt, called the Lawton Clay Member (Mullineaux and others, 1965). The Esperance Sand Member of the Vashon Drift overlies the Lawton Clay Member. For convenience we will refer to these units as the Lawton and the Esperance. The contact between the Lawton and the Esperance is transitional over several tens of feet, where layers of sand and clay interfinger; within this transition zone individual strata are laterally discontinuous. Tubbs (1974) identified this transition zone as the source area of many landslides in Seattle. The Esperance becomes pebbly near the top and grades into the coarser, more poorly sorted Vashon advance outwash. Till of the Vashon Drift, which is generally compact and hard, overlies the Vashon advance outwash or the Esperance. Recessional outwash locally overlies the till. In the northern part of the map area, the Esperance unconformably overlies glaciolacustrine silts and clays of the Possession Drift or the medium-bedded alluvial deposits of the Whidbey Formation. The Whidbey Formation rests unconformably on the Double Bluff Drift, which consists of cemented gravel, pebbly glaciolacustrine silt, and massive silt. Several large post-glacial landslide deposits occur along the bluffs (Smith, 1975, 1976). These include deposits from deep rotational and translational landslides that range in age from late Pleistocene to Holocene. Smith (1975) attributed some of these slides to lowering of water levels during ablation of the Vashon ice sheet. Some are active or show

Methods and what is shown on the map The map shows three kinds of data: (1) outlines of landslides that resulted from the winter storms of 1995-96 and 1996-97, (2) point locations where landslides affected the railroad in 1995-96 and 1996-97, and (3) areas of historic (pre-1960) landsliding in the southern part of the map area. We compiled the landslide inventory from a combination of USGS data and BNSF data on file at the office of its consultant, Shannon and Wilson, Inc. The railroad data are included by permission of BNSF. Most of the original data were in foot-pound units and most potential end users of this report are likely to use foot-pound units, therefore we have used foot-pound units rather than SI (metric) units in this report. We mapped the outlines of landslide scars and deposits on 1:24,000-scale USGS topographic maps primarily by interpretation of 1:12,000-scale color aerial photography acquired by the USGS through a private contractor on May 7, 1997. We performed ground reconnaissance of several areas between Seattle and Mukilteo in the winter and spring of 1997 to observe locations and characteristics of reported landslides (Baum and others, 1998). Harp, assisted by W.Z. Savage, performed aerial reconnaissance of landslides along the bluffs in April 1997. We checked this inventory against 1:6,000-scale color aerial photography acquired earlier in 1997 for use by Shannon and Wilson, Inc. under contract to BNSF. This check resulted in several additions or modifications to the inventory

mapping in a few places. The 1:6,000-scale photographs had a low sun angle, which

made many of the landslide scars and deposits more difficult to see than on the 1:12,000-

evidence of recent movement; others show no evidence of recent movement.

scale photographs; however, the larger scale enabled us to see a few details locally that were not readily visible on the 1:12,000-scale photographs. We also added landslides that Shannon and Wilson, Inc. (1997b) had mapped in the field under contract to BNSF for detailed studies of three areas where landsliding was particularly severe in 1996 and 1997 Point locations, referenced by railroad milepost, show approximately where landslides impacted or came near the railroad. These point locations were derived from a table prepared by Shannon and Wilson, Inc. (1997c⁴) on the basis of their field investigations. Generally, this table included only landslides that were close to the railroad or threatened it. A table of landslide data referenced to these locations appears in Appendix A. This table contains landslide classification, dimensions, slope angle, geologic materials, seepag and related information compiled by Shannon and Wilson, Inc. from their field investigations. We have reinterpreted the landslide classifications to make them consistent with the nomenclature of Varnes (1978). These include earth slides, debris flows, rapid earth flows, and rotational earth slides (slumps) or combinations thereof. Our reinterpretation is based on Shannon and Wilson's descriptions of individual landslides and our field reconnaissance of the area. We could determine the map locations of a few railroad mileposts from the railroad's track chart; milepost locations between the known locations were interpolated linearly along the track. Consequently, some of the point locations do not correspond exactly with the locations of mapped landslides. In most instances we do not know which mapped locations correspond to the point locations. Shannon and Wilson, Inc. (1960) previously documented historic landslide areas (areas known to have produced landslides in the past) for the Great Northern Railway. We

have plotted these areas from about milepost 7.2 to about milepost 12, the only area for which location data were readily available. These areas were originally drawn on oblique aerial photographs of the bluffs so their representation on the inventory map is approximate. The 24 areas of historic landsliding shown on the map account for approximately 159 individual landslides that occurred between 1933 and 1960 (table 1). Few data on the classification or dimensions of these historic landslides are available, but study of the oblique aerial photographs indicates that at least some of the landslides were similar to recent ones.

Previous work regarding landslide triggers Landslide occurrence in the area has been linked to precipitation, snowmelt, and groundwater seepage. Several landslides occur almost every year during the wet season. which usually lasts from October through April (Thorsen, 1989). Winter storms have triggered significant numbers of landslides in 1934, 1972, 1986, 1990, 1996, and 1997 (Tubbs, 1974; Laprade, 1986; Miller, 1991; Gerstel, 1996; Harp and others, 1996; Baum and others, 1998). Tubbs (1974) identified numerous seeps and landslide source areas in the transitional contact between the Lawton and the Esperance and concluded that groundwater seepage there contributed to landslide occurrence. Tubbs also recognized several human activities, including drainage diversion and hillslope grading, that contributed to the 1972 landslides. Thorsen (1989) attributed most landslides in the Seattle area to excess ground water, whereas Gerstel (1996) concluded that both seepage of perched ground water and infiltration of surface water contributes to instability of thin colluvium and fill overlying glacial materials.

Shallow earth slides and debris flows were the most common types of landslides that occurred along the bluffs, but a few other types also occurred. Field observations by Shannon and Wilson, Inc. (1997b) and the USGS and study of aerial photographs indicate that many of the slides were shallow features that removed vegetation and colluvium from the slope. In particular, shallow earth slides or earth-slide and debris-flow combinations occurred at 89 of the 121 sites where landslides affected the railroad in 1995-96 and 1996-97 (for example, see fig. 1). Another 21 were classified as debris flows or rapid earth flows. A few rotational earth slides occurred, including the deep-seated Woodway landslide, which was a combination rotational slide and debris flow (fig. 3). Several of the shallow landslides formed by slumping at the toes of pre-existing deep rotational or

Landslide Characteristics

translational slides. Landslides ranged in size from a few cubic yards to about 100,000 yd³ and they covered the tracks in about 100 places. Appendix A summarizes the surface dimensions of landslides that affected the railroad. Length and width vary significantly, but the long dimension is generally downslope. Observed or estimated thickness of the shallow earth slides in colluvium on steep slopes ranges from 2 to 10 ft and probably averages about 5 ft. Some slides originated in colluvium on mid-slope benches; colluvium ranged in thickness from 5 to 10 ft at the downhill edges of the benches. Large translational slides ranged in thickness from 10 to 30 ft or more, and the large rotational slide at Woodway was 50 ft thick (perpendicular to the bluff face) at the source and left deposits 10-40 ft

The few available observations of the speed or duration of these landslides coupled with local experience indicate that most landslides were rapid and lasted less than a minute. Some landslides consisted of several separate pulses that occurred several hours apart, but each pulse lasted a less than a minute. Circumstances surrounding the main pulse of the Woodway landslide are consistent with duration of less than 20-30 seconds. The main pulse of the Woodway landslide struck the train as it was passing and pushed several cars into Puget Sound. Three engines and one other car had pushed through thin debris on the track before the slide struck. A secondary pulse that occurred several hours later lasted about 15-20 seconds according to eyewitnesses (Shannon and Wilson, Inc., 1997a). Accounts of other recent landslides around Puget Sound similarly indicate duration of a few seconds or tens of seconds (Bjorhus and Tu, 1997); however a few large, persistent, slow-moving slides also exist in the area (for example, large slow translational landslides occur on a mid-bluff bench north of Carkeek Park). Shallow earth slides and debris flows that covered the tracks originated at the toes of some of these slow-moving

Field observations point to some natural geologic and hydrologic factors as well as human-influenced factors that contributed to landsliding in 1996-1997. The immediate cause of recent landslides was the action of excess water due to heavy precipitation in the area. The occurrence of landslides during or immediately after precipitation events makes it clear that the action of water is the triggering mechanism. The underlying instability of Puget Sound coastal bluffs results from their steep slopes in combination with the stratigraphy, structure, shear strength, and hydraulic properties of the geologic materials that make up the bluffs. Wave erosion probably helped maintain the steepness of the bluffs until the BNSF railway right-of-way was developed in the late 1800's with a seawall and revetments to help protect the toe of the slope. Effects of geological materials, seepage and runoff concentration, coastal erosion, and human-induced changes are discussed

Factors that Contributed to Landslide Occurrence

Certain geologic units appear to be more susceptible to landsliding than others, and different units are more susceptible in the northern and southern parts of the study area. This is due in part to the distribution of geologic units between Seattle and Everett. In the southern part of the map area, landslides formed in colluvium and residuum derived from the Vashon Drift. Lower stratigraphic units such as the Whidbey Formation are largely unexposed in the bluffs south of the Snohomish County line (see map), so they are not a factor in landslides there. Sand, derived from the Vashon advance outwash and the Esperance, is the most common component of the landslide material. Blocks of till and silty sand and gravel derived from the Vashon Drift or equivalent were present in the deposits of a few landslides. Clay and silt from the transition beds were also present in deposits of about a quarter of the landslides. Many shallow earth slides and debris flows occurred in sandy colluvium that mantled steep slopes of Lawton. Shallow slides also formed in colluvium at the downhill edges of benches and slid down the steep slopes below. The Woodway landslide was unusual, in that the entire thickness of the Lawton and overlying materials failed as a deep rotational slide (Laprade and others, 1998; Arndt. 1999). Landslides that involve failure of the Lawton (or equivalent) are uncommon

throughout the map area (W.T. Laprade, oral commun., 1997). In the northern part of the map area, landslides formed in colluvium derived from the Vashon Drift and the Whidbey Formation. Shallow earth slides and debris flows formed in colluvium that mantled steep slopes of the Whidbey Formation. Relatively deep translational and rotational earth slides also formed in colluvium and Vashon Drift at the tops of the bluffs. Material calving off the toes of these deep slides will continue to create shallow slides and debris flows on the steep slopes below. Comparison of the mapped landslide locations with published geologic maps (Smith, 1975, 1976) indicates that recent landslides also occurred in old landslide deposits and landslides that were active in the 1970's. Recent (1996 or later) landslides formed in nine of the ten old (probably late

Pleistocene) landslides mapped by Smith (1975, 1976). Recent landslides also occurred within the boundaries of 16 of the 21 active landslides that Smith (1975, 1976) mapped. Observations confirm that groundwater seepage contributed to many of the landslides. Seeps were present at about 60 percent of sites where landslides impacted the railroad (Appendix A). Seepage was likely present at many other landslides at the time they occurred, but evidence was not directly observed later when Shannon and Wilson, Inc. did their landslide inventory. Seeps related to landslides were present in several settings: at the heads of shallow landslide scars on steep slopes, at the downhill edges of benches and basins, and on the surfaces of large landslides.

Runoff concentration was locally a significant cause of landslides on the bluffs.

Several shallow landslides were centered on small streams that originated at natural seeps on the benches or at the mouths of drain lines. Broken drain lines originating from upslope residences were observed in the source areas of many shallow landslides and debris flows. Where the stream channels have become incised, shallow landslides also occurred on the channel walls. Erosion at the base of the bluffs by wave action probably contributed to their instability from the end of the Vashon glaciation until the railroad right of way was developed to protect the toe of the slope. The sea wall and stone revetments that protect the railroad embankment were probably constructed in the late 1800's. Since then, they have

protected the base of the bluffs from wave erosion and have probably increased the stability of the bluff. Continued landslide activity higher up on the bluff face indicates that any such increase has been insufficient to completely overcome the long-term instability of the bluffs. However, retreat of the bluffs during the winters of 1995-96 and 1996-97 might have been greater had the sea wall and embankment not been present. Aside from these natural causes, several human-induced changes to the area may have altered the stability of the bluffs. In a few instances, dumping of material at the top of the bluff has resulted in unstable masses perched at the bluff tops. Such cases are easily identified by the abundance of yard waste, construction waste, and other artificial material in the landslide debris. Where the dumped material is soil or earth fill, it can usually be recognized as such in the landslide scar. These include landslides at mile posts 16.9 and 26.37 that covered the tracks. Dumping fill at the top edge of bluffs has also been recognized as a contributing cause of landslides on Capitol Hill in Olympia, Wash. (Gerstel

Additional Information Needed to Quantify Landslide Hazards This inventory provides a starting point for considering landslide hazards to private property, rail operations, and other activities in the map area. Additional steps of mapping landslide susceptibility, estimating potential landslide runout (travel distance), determining frequency of landslide occurrence, and combining those factors into a probabilistic

landslide hazards map are needed as input for a modern risk-based decision-making

process to evaluate potential landslide mitigation strategies for the area. The relationship between locations of recent and historic landslides is relevant to landslide susceptibility provided external factors do not skew the spatial distribution of locations. Skewing might result from factors such as incomplete or short records of landslides or peculiar characteristics of a given storm. Using a long enough period of record to represent multiple triggering events should subdue effects of varying rainfall, wind direction, and other characteristics of single storms that might tend to skew the landslide distribution. Combining field reconnaissance with mapping from aerial photographs that have been taken after a landslide event helps to produce more complete records of the landslides. Recent landslides shown on the map resulted from three different storms and the areas where historic (1933-60) landslides occurred resulted from many storms. Remaining factors that could influence the distribution of landslides should be related to the topography (slope, slope aspect, and relief) or geology (structure, physical properties, and hydrology).

The locations of recent landslides mapped in this study coincide closely with locations of historic landslides documented by Shannon and Wilson, Inc. (1960). The recent landslides occurred in or adjacent to nearly every area of known historic landslides (see map). We infer from the coincident locations of recent and historic landslides that the distribution of bluff instability has not changed significantly since 1933 and that future landslides are likely to occur in the same general areas as past landslides. Field observations indicate that it is particularly common for shallow landslides to occur in the same places on the steep slopes where colluvium and landslide material accumulates downslope from large landslides. Many examples of this occur near Carkeek Park (see map). Repeated occurrence of shallow earth slides and debris flows is less likely from the same spot in other geologic settings along the alignment. For example, after a landslide occurs in the colluvium and residuum that forms on thick sequences of outwash between Edmonds and Meadowdale (near 5,298,000 m N.) it takes several years for loose material to accumulate to sufficient thickness to spawn another slide. In these areas, shallow slides or debris flows will occur in adjacent areas before repeating in the source area of a past

Correlation noted earlier between locations of mapped landslide deposits (Smith, 1975, 1976) and locations of recent landslides similarly suggests that areas of past landsliding are prone to repeated landsliding. Roughly two-thirds of the recent landslides occurred within the bounds of mapped landslide deposits. The remaining one-third of the recent landslides occurred in several steeply sloping areas where Smith (1975, 1976) had mapped other deposits. Shallow landslides may have occurred previously in these areas but left little evidence behind. Vegetation commonly obscures the scars and deposits of shallow landslides within a few years of their occurrence. Consequently a map showing areas of previous landslide activity may be a better indicator of bluff stability than a map

A comprehensive landslide susceptibility map of the area would show all the potential source areas of landslides. Potential source areas have similar geologic, hydrologic, and topographic characteristics to the source areas of recent landslides (described above). Susceptibility mapping could be accomplished either by application of deterministic slope stability models that account for these characteristics, by field mapping, or a combination of both. Areas where landslide remedial measures are in place and functioning according to design could be accounted for in ranking the susceptibility. Frequency of landslide occurrence along these coastal bluffs is significant to

determining appropriate mitigation for landslide events of different magnitudes. Broad estimates of frequency can be derived from available historic data. Year of occurrence is known for about one-fifth of the landslides listed in table 1 and of that fifth, at least one landslide occurred during 15 of the 28 years of record (1933-1960) somewhere in one of the areas of historic landsliding shown on the map. These sparse data indicate that isolated landslides occurred, on average, at least once every 2 years. This estimate is an upper bound; actual average time between single occurrences is probably less than 1 year, considering that dates are known for only one-fifth of the landslides. A minimum of three slides occurred in at least 4 of the 28 years of record, in 1933, 1949, 1951, and 1960 (table 1). Assuming that slides in a given year occurred in response to the main storms of that year, events having three or more landslides occurred, on average, at least once every 9 years. The occurrence of six major storms that triggered multiple landslides in the 26-year period 1972-1997 are consistent with a shorter interval for multi-landslide events of about once every 5 years. These storms occurred in late February and early March 1972 (Tubbs, 1974), January 1986 (Laprade, 1986), January 1990 (Miller, 1991), February 1996 (Gerstel, 1996; Harp and others, 1996), December 1996 (Gerstel, 1996; Baum and others, 1998), and March 1997 (Baum and others, 1998). More detailed data on landslide occurrences could be analyzed to determine accurate return periods and to assess the feasibility of forecasting times of increased likelihood for multiple and single landslide

Landsliding on the bluffs between Seattle and Everett, Wash., poses a significant but intermittent hazard to private property and rail operations in the area. Recent landslides damaged several residences on the bluffs. Landslides blocked one or both tracks in about 100 places and came close to the tracks in about 30 more locations during 1996 and 1997. Although most landslides that temporarily blocked the tracks did not collide with trains, one large slide derailed part of a train and caused significant damage. Frequent commuter train traffic to be developed in the BNSF right of way under a light-rail plan adopted by Sound Transit (Sound Transit Resolution No. R2000-10) could increase exposure of passengers to landslides. These small, relatively light commuter trains might be easily derailed or damaged by impact of small- to medium-sized landslides. Additional data that would enable the operators of the commuter rail system to anticipate the onset of landslide activity might help them to avoid landslide-related accidents. Careful analysis of landslide probability and processes along the bluffs could aid in evaluating the need for other remedial measures.

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Area of detailed mapping by Shannon and Wilson, Inc. Puget Sound 550,000 m E Figure 2 122 20' Figure 2. Landslides south of Mukilteo, Snohomish County, Wash. These slides severely damaged the lawns behind two homes,

stripped vegetation from the steep slopes above the railroad, and deposited material on the tracks. Movement near the top of the slope is predominantly translational and the extension fractures in the lawn are consistent with retrogressive failure from the edge of the steep slope.

Table 1. Areas of historic landsliding along coastal bluffs (1933-1960) from Ballard

lower portion of slope.

adjacent to the railroad.

onto the railroad.

onto the railroad. Shallow earth slides/debris flows occur on the steep slopes

southern flank of a larger, 200-ft-wide slide. Head scarp is about 200 ft from the

originating from the steep slopes adjacent to the railroad.

to the Highlands, Seattle, Washington

5,305,000 m N 5,305,000 m N MP 23.35 47 52' 30" Puget Sound

47 55'

47 52' 30"

5,300,000 m N

[Summarized from plates 3-8 of Shannon and Wilson, Inc. (1960). Area number keyed to map. The approximate mile post location is given in the second column to aid in locating individual areas.] Two landslides, 1950, 1956 7.4 Five landslides, 1949-1960 Landslide, about 1960 7.55 Landslide, active in 1936 7.74 Landslide, 1937 Landslides, 1949, 1955 8.9-9.2 Thirteen landslides recorded through 1960 Three small landslides, 1940, 1957, 1960 9.4-9.5 Four landslides, 1951, 1954, 1957, 1958 Series of landslides in 1941 and two landslides in 1951 9.7 Approximately 50 landslides recorded 1933-1960 10.4-10.6 Minor slumping or spalling near top of bluff Minor slumping or spalling near top of bluff Five landslides, 1949-1960, evidence of earlier slides 5,300,000 m N on earlier photographs. Fresh landslide scar visible on 1960 oblique aerial Meadowdale photograph, approximately 30 landslides recorded between mile post 11.0 and 11.2 from 1933 through 1960. Minor slumping or spalling near top of bluff Fresh landslide scar visible on 1960 oblique aerial Fresh landslide scar visible on 1960 oblique aerial Landslide active in 1960 Approximately 20 landslides recorded through 1960, fresh landslide scars visible on 1960 oblique aerial Eleven landslides recorded 1955, 1956 Landslide December 1959-January 1960 covered tracks and deposited material on the beach. Slide was 350-400 ft wide.

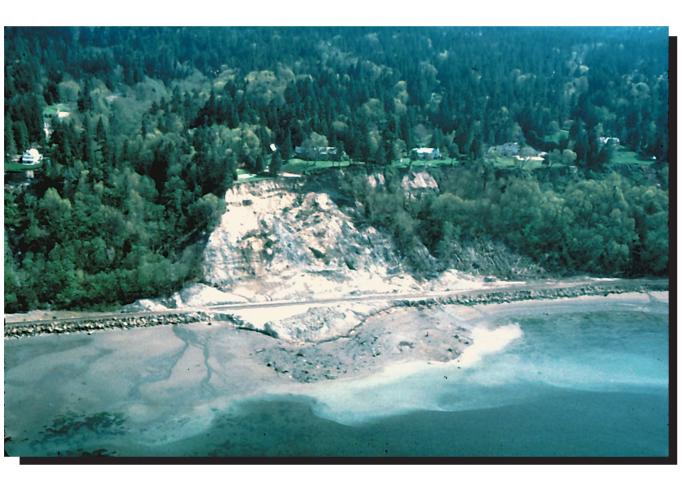


Figure 3. The January 15, 1997, Woodway landslide, Snohomish County, Wash. This complex landslide began as a deep-seated, rotational slide. Much of the slide mobilized into a debris flow that derailed several cars of a passing freight train. Shallow earth slides and debris flows also occurred on the slope directly south (to the right) of the rotational slide.

122 22' 30" 545,000 m l MP 17.67 Edmonds 5.295.000 m N 5,295,000 m N Puget Sound 122 22' 30" 47 47' 30"

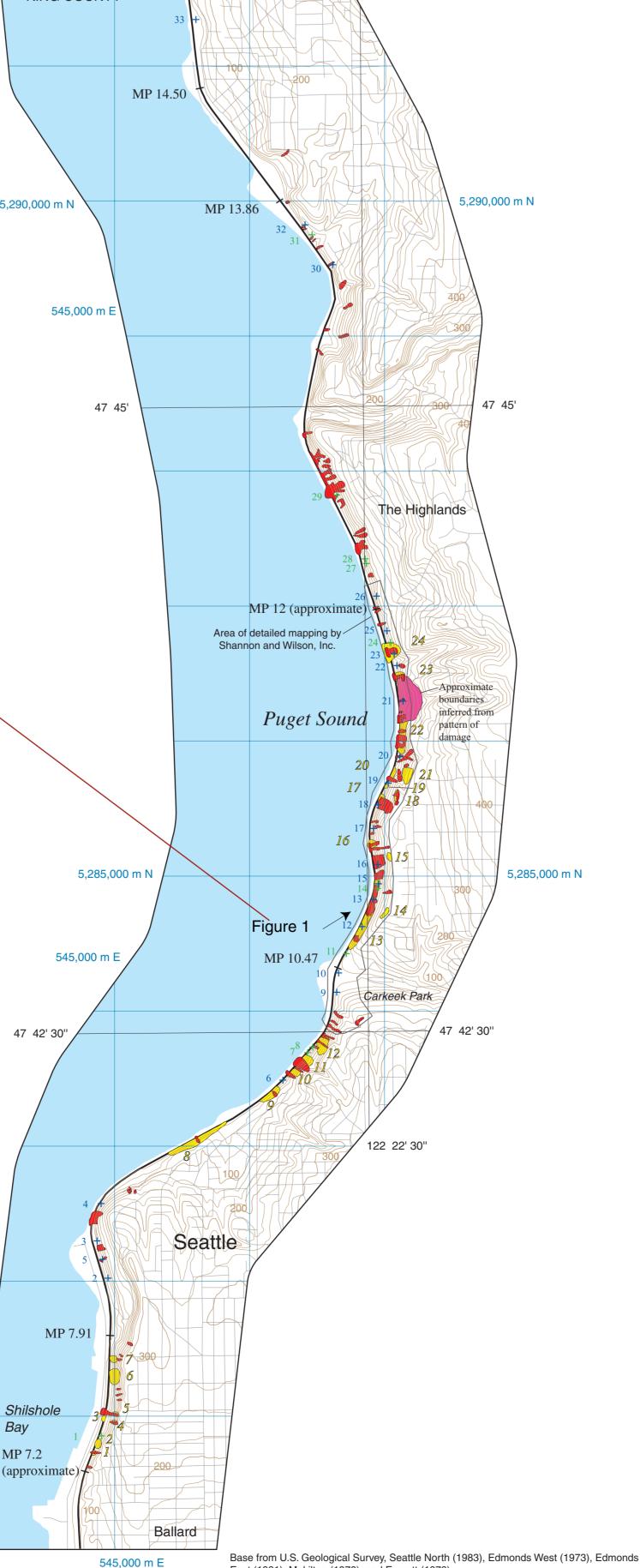
Figure 3 SNOHOMISH COUNTY KING COUNTY MP 14.50 5,290,000 m N 5,290,000 m N MP 13.86 545,000 m E 47 45' The Highlands

Figure 1. Shallow landslides north of Carkeek Park, Seattle, Wash. Much of the material in these slides originated at the edge of the midbluff bench. Slow-moving, deep-seated landslides occupy the bench, and material calves off the toes of these slides during or after severe

Scale 1:24,000 1 Kilometer 1000 2000 3000 Feet Contour Interval 25 feet NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929 **EXPLANATION** Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway—Line segment crosses track at location of railroad mile post at bridge or road intersection as descibed in track chart MP 14.50 Shallow earth slide or debris flow that occurred in 1996-97 Deep-seated landslide that occurred in 1996-97 Historic landslide areas mapped by Shannon and Wilson, Inc. (1960)—Keyed by Landslide scarp—May predate 1996 landslides Locations where a debris flow or rapid earth flow covered the tracks or otherwise affected the railroad in 1996-97—Keyed by number to Appendix A

Locations where a slump or shallow earth slide covered the tracks or otherwise

affected the railroad in 1996-97—Keyed by number to Appendix A



East (1981), Mukilteo (1973), and Everett (1973)

Projection and 1000-meter grid, Zone 10, Universal Transverse Mercator

Tabulation of data on recent landslides that affected the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (modified from Shannon and Wilson Inc., 1997c). Approximate locations are keyed by number to the map. (gpm=gallons per minute) Debris flow M1/M2 Gravelly, clayey, silty sand over clay/silt Yes (30-50 gpm) Slide started at the crest of the slope (colluvium in old slide bowl) and flowed over Shallow embankment failure. Existing crack is located about 12 ft from end of tie on Shallow earth slide (2) Two small shallow earth slides. Slide debris sand/clav/silt Slump toeing out in ditchline. Complex slide as much as 400 ft long with track. 8.60 Slide debris sand/clay/silt Water on ground surface, flowing Existing landslide. This slide generally moves several months after heavy rainfall. Slump/shallow earth slide M1/M2 Sand over clay/silt 9.94 30-45 10,000 Debris flow M1/M2 Yes (50 gpm) 1,350 Shallow earth slide/debris flow Large blocks of advance outwash sand, till, and trees slumping to the railroad over Slump/shallow earth slide 30,000 M1/M2 Till and sand Slump/shallow earth slide Colluvium and advance outwash sliding over the Lawton Clay Member bench and Debris flow Colluvium and advance outwash sliding over the Lawton Clay Member bench and Slump/shallow earth slide M1/M2 Sand over clay Yes (~40 gpm) Historic slump and earth flow area. Recent activity consists of shallow earth slides Two debris flows that started as shallow slides. Five debris flows that stated as shallow slides, spread over a length of 170 ft. 10.82 Shallow earth slide/debris flow (5) 10.90 Three small debris flows on south flank of 440-ft-wide older slump. Seepage along Slump/shallow earth slide Fine sand both flanks. Shallow slides along head scarp. Bench area wet, water at ground Shallow (less than 12 in. thick) earth slide exposing clay/ silt. Shallow earth slide Shallow earth slide that did not reach track. Weathered till or advance outwash sand slumping over the clay bluff above the 11.25-11.35 Slump/shallow earth slide 120,000 M1/M2 Till over clay railroad. Soil streaks down face of clay bluff show how the material failed over the top of the clay and accumulated on the colluvium bench above the railroad. Yes (50 gpm) Shallow earth slide 30-60 16,000 Small slumps and shallow earth slides from face of steep bluff above railroad. Slump/shallow earth slide M1/M2 Slumps originated along seepage at clay and sand contact. Current failure is on Shallow earth slide 12.05 12.05 18.000 12 19 M1/M2 Sand and gravel Sand, clay, and silt 13.70 Shallow earth slide Gravelly sand 14.80 Shallow earth slide 300 Sand 15.90 15.8-15.9 150.000 M1/M2 Sand/clay 16.90 5,625 Sand and yard waste Sand and gravel 19.30 2,400 Shallow earth slide Sand and gravel 19.40 Shallow earth slide 10.000 Sand and gravel Slight 19.50 Shallow earth slide 30.000 M1/M2 Sand and gravel 19.65 Shallow earth slide 6,750 M1/M2 Sand, some gravel 18,000 Shallow earth slide Sand, some gravel Shallow earth slide Gravelly silty sand Medium-coarse sand, till on top 20.90 Shallow earth slide Shallow earth slide Gravelly sand Shallow earth slide 21.90 Shallow earth slide 2.100 M1/M2 Sand, sandy silt 22.00 Slope erosion Gravelly sand Shallow earth slide/erosion 22.15 Shallow earth slide 35-70 1,750 4,000 22.40 Shallow earth slide Rapid earth flow Yes (30-50 gpm) Sand, silt, clay 24.33 Shallow earth slide Sand, silt, clay 24.50 Shallow earth slide M1/M2 Sand, silt, clay Yes (100 gpm) 24.55 Shallow earth slide Sand, silt, cla Shallow earth slide 1,500 Shallow earth slide 25.10 Shallow earth slide Yes (1-2 gpm) 25.20 2.000 Shallow earth slide 25.30 25.30 Slump/shallow earth slide 13,500 Gravelly silty sand w/cobbles (till) Gravelly silty sand w/cobbles (till) Gravelly silty sand w/cobbles (till) Silt to silty fine sand w/gravel Shallow earth slide Gravelly silty sand over clay 25.54 5.000 Shallow earth slide Clavev silt 25.56 Shallow earth slide Fine sandy silt Shallow earth slide Silty gravelly sand Shallow earth slide M1/M2 Gravelly clayey silt/silty clay Yes (1-10 gpm) M1/M2 Clay and silt Shallow earth slide Shallow earth slide Gravelly clay (till) Gravelly silty sand over gravelly clay (till) Yes Rapid earth flow Gravelly, silty sand over sand Shallow earth slide/debris flow Gravelly sandy silt w/cobbles 26.67 Debris flow/shallow earth slide Clayey silt, trace sand and gravel 26.69 Clayey silt, trace sand and gravel Shallow earth slide Gravelly sand Yes (~20 gpm) 26.83 35,000 M1/M2 Shallow earth slide Gravelly sand 26.91 14.000 M1/M2 Shallow earth slide Cobbles, gravel, sand 26.94 Shallow earth slide 6.000 M1/M2 Gravelly sand 27.00 Debris flow 30,000 Yes (30-50 gpm) M1/M2 Shallow earth slide Yes (20 gpm) Gravelly sand 27.30 Shallow earth slide 2.250 Gravelly sandy silt 27.37 Shallow earth slide 1,500 Gravelly sandy silt 50,000 Yes (flow not estimated) Shallow earth slide Gravel and sand Shallow earth slide 4,200 Gravel and sand Slump/shallow earth slide Gravel, sand, silt Shallow earth slide Gravelly sand 28.05 Shallow earth slide 1,000 Gravelly sand 29.20 Shallow earth slide 600 Sand, silty sand 29.30 3,600 Shallow earth slide Sand and clay Shallow earth slide 29.40 29.40 M1/M2 Debris flow Organics 2,400 100 29.50 Shallow earth slide M1/M2 Gravelly sand/silty clay 29.55 Debris flow 3,200 Organics and gravelly sandy colluvium Yes Organics and gravelly sandy colluvium Yes Shallow earth slide 103 29.61 Shallow earth slide Organics and gravelly sandy colluvium No 29.79 4,000 Organics and gravelly sandy colluvium Yes Shallow earth slide 105 29.81 1.800 Organics and gravelly sandy colluvium No Shallow earth slide 30.09 Shallow earth slide 1,000 Organics only Shallow earth slide 1,800 Organics only 108 30.10 3,500 Shallow earth slide Organics only Debris flow Organics and gravelly sandy colluvium Yes 110 30.19 Shallow earth slide 110 4,950 M1/M2 Organics and gravelly sandy colluvium No Organics and gravelly sandy colluvium Yes 110 2,750 30.21 30.2 (E) Debris flow M1/M2

Organics and gravelly sandy colluvium No

Organics and gravelly sandy colluvium No

Sand, minor clay

Sand and clay

Sand over clay

Sand over clay

Sand over clay

Sand over clay

Sandy colluvium

Gravelly sand

Gravelly sand

Sand over clay

Sand over clay

Colluvium

Colluvium

Sand over clay

Sand over clay

Gravel, sand, clay

Gravel, sand, clay

2,400

1,600

5,500

6,000

8,000

5.600

3,500

6,000

6,000

2,700

2.000

3,000

40,000

120

150

**M1=main track 1, M2=main track 2, single=only one main track, siding=a short track next to the main track, highline=elevated main track

M1/M2

M1/M2

M1/M2

4,500 Highline Sand over clay

M1/M2

Shallow earth slide

Slump/shallow earth slide

Debris flow

Debris flow

Debris flow

1784.4 Slump/shallow earth slide

*Direction: where noted, E=east of mile post, W=West of mile post.

114

127

130

30.80

31.42

31.43

31.44

31.8

31.88

1783.9

31.4 (4)

31.4 (E)

1783.9

Slump. Did not reach track. Seepage at clay silt/sand contact. Debris flow from adjacent property blocked railroad culvert with debris and overtopped track. Large debris flow that covered both mains. A smaller shallow earth slide (50 ft wide and 100 ft high) that did not reach the track is located 50 ft to the south. Small shallow earth slide that involved colluvium over till. Numerous flexible drainage pipes are present on the bluff. They discharge into the colluvium in the lower part Blocked ditch. Large rotational slide, known as the Woodway landslide. Shallow earth slide caused by weight of saturated yard waste and discharge from Shallow slide, several undercut areas have potential to slide eventually. Slide originated in upper 40 ft of 100-ft-high slope. Several interconnected shallow earth slides originated from the upper 40 ft of the Slide occurred on lower part of hydroseeded old slide. Shallow slide exposed old drainage pipe buried in yard waste and colluvium. Scarp extends beyond recent slide limits. Potential for more sliding. Small shallow earth slide (15 ft high x 10 ft wide) about 80 ft south of larger slide at Slide occurred in upper 20 ft of 35-ft-high slope. Broken drainage pipe at top of slope. Scarp is present at midslope above colluvium. Runoff drained onto slope from new development upslope of bluff. Three washouts occurred in the lower 30 ft of 70-ft slope. Erosion occurred where the slope flattened out in the colluvium. Three shallow earth slides to the south, slope erosion at two spots to the north. Shallow earth slide with erosion channels through the center of scar. Shallow earth slide occurred about midslope on a 120-ft-high bluff. Most slide debris stopped at bench about 45 ft above track Existing landslide toe next to railroad. Shallow slide that started at top of slope. Material flowed over ground surface at toe Shallow earth slide. Common origin point at crest, but two flow paths to toe of slope. Old slide area. Shallow slide. Slide was 15 ft wide on Main 2 but about 50 ft wide on the slope. Slide bowl located near the crest of the slope and partially undermines two properties. It appears that the slide occurred in the soils above the mid-slope bench. Debris flowed to railroad Slide orginated at the top of the slope and slid over lower slope. Failure occured along the drainage pipe alignment. Weathered sandy till flowing over ground above contact with clayey till. Seepage at sandy till/clayey till contact. Slump block above clayey till. Sandy till flowing over ground above contact with clayey till. Perched slump block positioned between two slides that will eventually fail to railroad. Shallow slide. Colluvium slide over clay bluff. Old slide area. Lower 2/3 of slope is a shallow slide. Bench located above 2/3 point of slope. Shallow slide flowed over lower part of slope. Yard waste and gardening equipment Shallow earth slide. Small bench at top of slope. Sand, cobbles, boulders exposed in Shallow earth slide occurred in the upper portion of the slope and the debris slid over lower slope. Fill failed at the top of slope and flowed over in-place clay down to retaining wall. Failed in fill or outwash sand at top of slope. Flowed over lower slope to railroad. Several seeps from top of slope, 10-20 gpm. Small shallow earth slide/debris flow in old slide area At toe of large historic slide. 20 gpm seepage on north end, historic landslide. Seepage from bench above railroad. Three shallow earth slides in historic slide area. Seepage over ledge in existing slide Three to four small (<20 ft wide) shallow earth slides that did not break slide fence but partially blocked the ditch. Numerous small shallow earth slides from steep part of slope near head scarp. Existing slump. Cracked block of till in head scarp. Toe was undercut by erosion from Small shallow earth slide at mile post 28.05 did not affect track. Shallow earth slide in colluvium on bluff below Mukilteo Blvd. Shallow earth slide was about 20 ft wide at the top of the 100-ft-high bluff. Mud flowed through a narrow chute and covered about 30 ft of track. Debris flow from the upper part of the slope was deposited on the track. Shallow earth slide above and on the southwest side of intact colluvium. Flow and shallow earth slides on both sides of eroded chute deposited debris over Shallow earth slide on the southwest flank of what may be an old slide bowl. Large amount of construction debris may have contributed to the slump in upper part of slope. The debris did not reach track. Two shallow earth slides, each about 25 ft wide, separated by 20-ft-wide strip of intact colluvium. Sand sliding over clay in 100-ft-wide slump. Steep head scarp as much as 15 ft high. Seepage over railroad retaining wall at several locations. Sand and yard waste sliding over clay. Spring from groundwater perched on clay flowing over retaining wall. Debris from shallow earth slide overtopped retaining wall. Sand sliding over clay. Springs at sand/clay contact. Blowouts in sand just above Debris flow covered both tracks. Large shallow earth slide possibly initiated by surface runoff over crest of slope. Deep seated slump with sand sliding over clay. Spring at sand-clay contact. Runoff from upslope source eroded slope and deposited debris on M2. Runoff from upslope source eroded slope and deposited debris on M2. Multiple shallow earth flows from steep slope adjacent to the railroad. Large slump on bench above railroad. Sandy colluvium sliding over silt/clay deposit. Multiple shallow earth flows from steep slope adjacent to the railroad.

Shallow earth slide for steep slope adjacent to railroad.

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