

# Shallow-Seated Landslide Susceptibility Map of the Central-Western Quarter of the Astoria Quadrangle, Clatsop County, Oregon

2013

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Landslide Inventory, Susceptibility Maps, and Risk Analysis  
for the City of Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon

by William J. Burns and Katherine A. Mickelson

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## PLATE 4 EXPLANATION

This shallow landslide susceptibility map identifies landslide-prone areas within the area. This susceptibility map is not regulatory, and revisions can happen when new information regarding factors that affect landslide susceptibility is found or when future (new) landslides occur. Therefore, it is possible that there are areas susceptible to shallow landslides within the map that were not identified or that the conditions leading to such susceptibility developed after the map was prepared.

On the basis of several factors and past studies (described in detail by Burns and Madin, 2009), a value for depth of 15 ft (4.5 m) is used to divide shallow from deep landslides. This susceptibility map was prepared by combination of three factors: 1) calculated factor of safety (FOS), 2) landslide inventory data, and 3) buffers applied to the previous two factors. The factor of safety was calculated using conservative values such as having a water table at the ground surface. The landslide inventory data were taken from the corresponding inventory map. The combinations of these factors comprise the relative susceptibility hazard zones: high, moderate, and low as shown by the Hazard Zone Matrix below. The landslide susceptibility data are displayed on top of a base map that consists of an aerial photograph (orthorectified) overlain on the lidar-derived digital elevation model. For additional detail on how this map was developed see Burns and others (2012).

This susceptibility map is intended to provide users with relative hazard information regarding shallow landslide susceptibility within the area. The map is not intended to replace site-specific engineering geologic and geotechnical investigations. It is intended that this map will provide useful information to guide regional and site-specific investigations for future developments, to assist in regional planning, and to reduce risk in areas where moderate and high hazards intersect vulnerable population.

## SHALLOW-LANDSLIDE SUSCEPTIBILITY CLASSIFICATION

Each landslide susceptibility hazard zone shown on this map has been developed according to a number of specific factors. The classification scheme was developed by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (Burns and others, 2012). The symbology used to display these hazard zones is explained below.

**Landslide Susceptibility Zones:** This map uses color to show the relative degree of hazard. Each zone is a combination of several factors.

- HIGH:** High susceptibility to shallow landslides.
- MODERATE:** Moderate susceptibility to shallow landslides.
- LOW:** Low susceptibility to shallow landslides.

## Hazard Zone Matrix

Contributing Factors *	Final Hazard Zone		
	High	Moderate	Low
1) Factor of Safety (FOS)	less than 1.25	1.25 - 1.5	greater than 1.5
2) Landslide Deposits & Head Scarps (Shallow)	included	—	—
3) Buffers	2H-1V (head scarps)	2H-1V (FOS less than 1.5)	—

\*See explanation of corresponding contributing factors below.

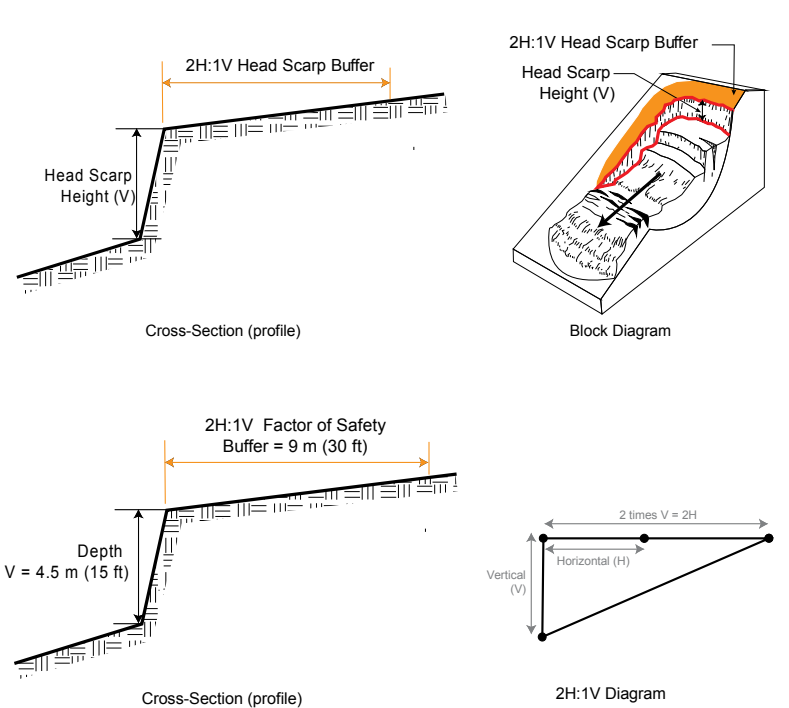
## 1 Factor of Safety Map



## 2 Landslide Inventory Map



## Buffers for Head Scarps and Factor of Safety Less Than 1.5



## LIMITATIONS

The shallow-landslide susceptibility protocol was developed with input from many sources, along with years of experience. Several limitations are worth noting and underscore that this hazard map is useful for regional applications but should not be used as an alternative to site-specific studies in critical areas. Limitations include the following:

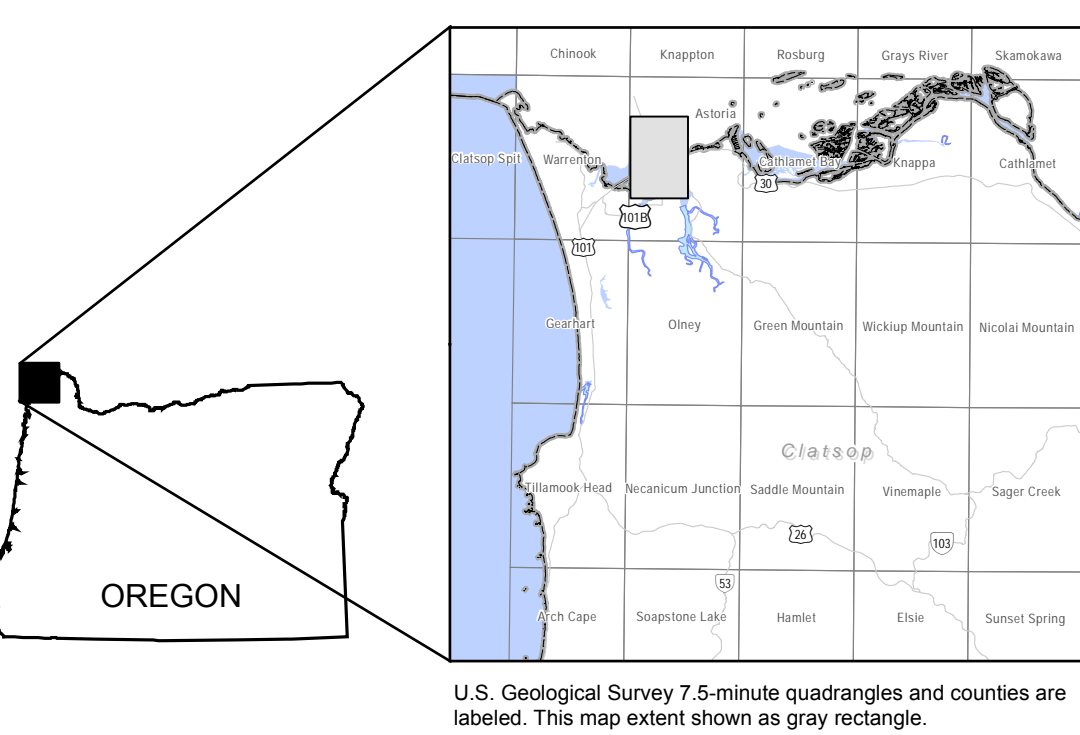
- Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the GIS and tabular databases, but it is not feasible to completely verify all of the original input data.
- The shallow landslide susceptibility maps are based on three primary sources: a) calculated factor of safety, b) landslide inventory, and c) buffers. Factors that can affect the level of detail and accuracy of the final susceptibility map include the following:
  - Factor of safety calculations are strongly influenced by the accuracy and resolution of the input data for material properties, depth to failure surface, depth to groundwater, and slope angle. The first three of these inputs are usually estimates (material properties) or conservative limiting cases (depth to failure surface and groundwater), and local conditions may vary substantially from the estimated values used to make these maps.
  - Limitations of the landslide inventory, which are discussed in the Special Paper 42 (Burns and Madin, 2009).
  - Infinite slope factor of safety calculations are done on one grid cell at a time without regard for the adjacent grids. The results sometimes underestimate or overestimate the level of stability for a certain area. We developed buffers for areas with low factors of safety to try to counter the tendency to underestimate susceptibility. We developed the focal relief method to try to reduce the problem of overestimation of susceptibility due to steep slopes with low relief. However, the overestimation and underestimation of susceptible areas is still likely in some isolated areas.
- The susceptibility maps are based on the topographic and landslide inventory data available as of the date of publication. Future changes in topography or new landslides may render this map locally inaccurate.
- The lidar-based digital elevation model does not distinguish elevation changes that may be due to the construction of structures like retaining walls. Because it would require extensive GIS and field work to locate all of these existing structures and remove them or adjust the material properties in the model, such features have been included as a conservative approach and therefore must be examined on a site-specific basis.
- Some landslides in the inventory may have been mitigated, thereby reducing their level of susceptibility. Because it is not feasible to collect detailed site-specific information on every landslide, potential mitigation has been ignored.

Because of these limitations this map is intended for regional purposes only and cannot replace site-specific investigations. However, the map can serve as a useful tool for estimating the regional landslide hazard and as a starting place for future detailed site-specific maps. Please contact DOGAMI if errors and/or omissions are found so that they can be corrected in future versions of this map.

## REFERENCES

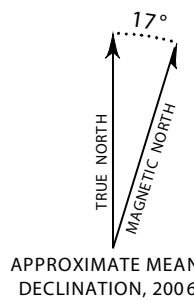
- Burns, W. J., and Madin, I. P., 2009. Protocol for inventory mapping of landslide deposits from light detection and ranging (LiDAR) imagery: Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Special Paper 42, 30 p.
- Burns, W. J., Madin, I. P., Mickelson, K. A., 2012. Protocol for shallow landslide susceptibility mapping: Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Special Paper 45, 32 p.
- Comforth, D. H., 2005. Landslides in practice: Investigation, analysis, and remedial/preventative options in soils: Hoboken, New Jersey, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., p. 596.
- Highland, L., compiler, 2004. Landslide types and processes, U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet 2004-3072 (ver. 1.1), 4 p.
- Turner, A. K., and Schuster, R. L., eds., 1966. Landslides: Investigation and mitigation: Transportation Research Board, National Research Council, Special Report 247, 676 p.

## LOCATION MAP

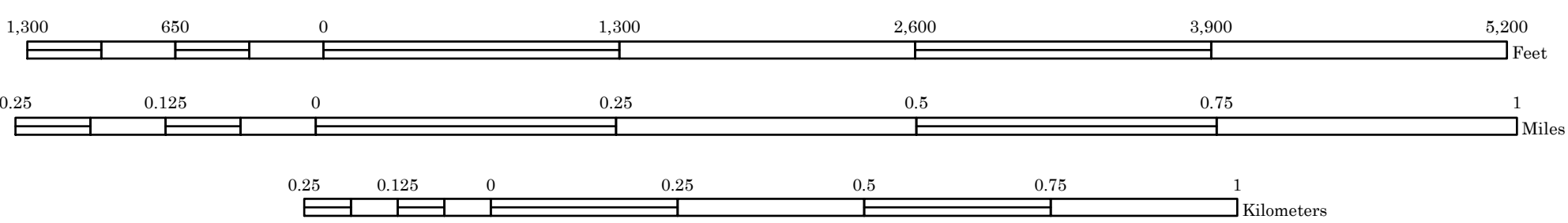


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Base Map:  
Lidar-derived elevation data are from Puget Sound Lidar Consortium, 2005. Digital elevation model (DEM) consists of a 3-foot-square elevation grid that was converted into a hillshade image with sun angle at 31.5 degrees at a 45-degree angle from horizontal. The DEM is multiplied by 5 (vertical exaggeration) to enhance slope areas.  
Orthophoto is from Oregon Geospatial Enterprises Office, 2005, and consists of 2005 orthophoto draped over DEM with transparency.  
Projection: North American Datum 1983, UTM zone 10 north.  
Software: Esri ArcMap 9.3, Adobe Illustrator CS2.  
Source File: Books\Publications\Astoria.mxd.



SCALE 1:8,000



Cartography by William J. Burns, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries  
Outside agency review by Ken Cook, Public Works Director, City of Astoria

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

This map depicts landslide susceptibility zones developed on the basis of limited data. The susceptibility zones were created following the protocol defined by Burns, Madin, and Mickelson (2012). This map cannot serve as a substitute for site-specific investigation by qualified practitioners. Site-specific data may give results that differ from those shown on this map.