

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

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New study maps coastal Curry County landslides

CURRY COUNTY, Ore. – A study released today by Oregon geologists found more than 3,000 landslide locations along the Curry County coastline – an area that’s known for landslide issues.

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) study identified and mapped existing landslide locations. Because land that has previously slid is more likely to slide again, knowing where landslides have occurred in the past is critical to understanding where landslides may occur in the future.

Landslides cover approximately one quarter of the 170-square-mile study area, says Bill Burns, DOGAMI engineering geologist.

“Mapping existing landslides provides the fundamental data for understanding the landslide hazard in any area,” says Burns. “For coastal Curry County, that landslide hazard is moderate to high.”

Landslides are common geologic hazard along the Oregon Coast. Excessive precipitation, steep slopes, landslide-prone geology, and earthquakes are factors in reactivation of existing landslides as well as the formation of new landslides.

As new development takes place in Curry County’s coastal communities, understanding and considering landslide hazards is incredibly important, Burns says.

“We can’t predict when and where the next landslide events will occur, but communities can become more resilient to the hazard by making well-thought-out development decisions,” he says. “These maps help guide those decisions.”

The Curry County landslide locations are included in version 3.2 of the Statewide Landslide Information Database for Oregon (SLIDO), released online today, which compiles all landslides that have been identified on published maps. The SLIDO interactive map at www.oregongeology.org/sub/slido makes locating landslides as simple as entering an address.

DOGAMI's mission is to provide earth science information and regulation to make Oregon safe and prosperous.

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About the study

Open-File Report O-14-10, Landslide inventory of coastal Curry County, Oregon, by William J. Burns, Katherine A. Mickelson, and Laura L. Stimely contains a report, maps, and geodatabase.

To preview this publication, visit: <http://bit.ly/1rvAmUC>

The report can be purchased on CD for \$30 from Nature of the Northwest Information Center, 800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 965, Portland, Oregon, 97232. You may also call (971) 673-2331 or order online at www.NatureNW.org. There is a \$4.95 shipping and handling charge for all mailed items.

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