

**Contact:**

Shannon Hays, PIO  
Snohomish County  
[Shannon.Hays@snoco.org](mailto:Shannon.Hays@snoco.org)  
425-388-6621  
425-409-7916

## SR530 Oso Mudslide Five Year Commemoration

### *Updates and History Fact Sheet*

Information and Donations: [SlideMemorial.com](http://SlideMemorial.com)

### **Latest Updates**

#### **Gala Fundraiser:**

- The families of the victims, first responders, and community members will be hosting a gala benefit at the Seattle Marriot Waterfront Ballroom on June 22, 2019. Ticket sales coming soon. Donations and sponsorships welcome for the gala event itself. More information: [SlideMemorial.com](http://SlideMemorial.com) - Contact: Amy Lucas: [Amy.Lucas3@snoco.org](mailto:Amy.Lucas3@snoco.org).

#### **HWY Renaming:**

- A 23-mile stretch of Highway 530 between Arlington and Darrington (between mileposts 22 and 45) was renamed as the "Oso Slide Memorial Highway."
- The Washington State Transportation Commission unanimously approved a resolution renaming this part of the highway on Wednesday, February 20, 2019.
- The Highway signs are inscribed with "Oso Slide Memorial Highway" and will also show March 22, 2014 10:37am – the date and time of the slide along with the number 43 for the 43 victims lost.

#### **Mailbox Sculpture:**

- The mailbox sculpture is an important element and one of the first pieces of the permanent Oso Slide Memorial. The cluster of mailboxes acts as a symbol of the community around C Post Road and Steelhead Drive that was lost to the slide.
- Artist Louise McDowell was commissioned to create the piece in likeness of the original mailbox. The sculpture, titled "It was a Home," is made of bronze and steel.

#### **Resolutions:**

- A House Resolution, [HR 4623](#), was adopted on March 15, 2019 honoring the five year commemoration of the slide.
- A Senate Resolution, [SR 8628](#), is expected to be adopted today (March 22, 2019) honoring the five year commemoration of the slide and read into record at noon. All 43 victims' names will also be read.

#### **Memorial Updates:**

- The Snohomish County Parks team will be working through this year to complete site design details and obtain project permits.
- Pending funding and donations, the team expects to be in position to begin construction on the remainder of the permanent memorial in 2020.

#### **Fundraising Updates:**

- Fundraising efforts really began in 2018. Approximately \$75,000 has been raised through community events, outreach, and publicity through an awareness campaign sponsored by KIRO radio.
- Broader fundraising efforts continue to ramp up in 2019 and include a state budget request, large scale grant applications, fundraising dinner in Seattle on June 22 and requests for material donations.

- Snohomish County Parks received generous donations of design services by Reid Middleton, Perteet, Gregory Minaker and Northwest Hydraulic Consultants. These services will provide the detailed information needed to reach out for material donations, apply for several grants which need that type of detail and also obtain permits for completion of the project.
- Snohomish County Parks is working in partnership with representatives of the families through the non-profit organization Hope Unlimited on these fundraising efforts.
- To donate and learn more: [SlideMemorial.com](http://SlideMemorial.com)

## **HISTORY**

### **THE SLIDE:**

- On March 22, 2014 at 10:37am, the single deadliest landslide in United States history -- the SR530, or "Oso", slide -- engulfed the community around Steelhead Haven in Washington State. The mud and debris from the adjacent mountainside destroyed 49 homes and ended the lives of 43 people.
- The mud, soil and rock debris left from the mudslide covered an area 1,500ft long, 4,400ft wide and deposited debris 30 to 70ft deep. The overall size of the Oso Landslide was approximately 270Million cubic feet.
- The first people who rushed into the mud were friends and neighbors of those claimed by the slide. They were soon joined by local first responders, search and rescue volunteers and hundreds of others who came from across the state and the country, bringing expertise, equipment and unwavering dedication. Representatives from a dozen federal agencies worked side by side with active-duty military and people from nearly 100 area businesses who brought the skills needed to safely conduct search-and-recovery efforts in the difficult terrain. Working with them were people from 120 state, local and tribal governments from throughout Washington, including emergency management teams, fire crews, environmental experts, engineers, health officials and law enforcement officers. Those efforts were supported by a small army of volunteers representing dozens of relief groups and nonprofits.
- The response was massive and search efforts lasted four months until, on July 22, the last of the 43 victims was located. Recovery efforts to restore the vibrant Stilly Valley continue today.

### **THE MEMORIAL:**

- Shortly following the March 22, 2014 mudslide, discussions began circulating about creation of a memorial to commemorate the Oso mudslide. The intent of the memorial was to remember the lives of the 43 individuals who lost their lives, recognize the unprecedented response effort that followed the event, honor the community that was lost and provide information about the slide itself.
- On March 22, 2018, the Snohomish County Department of Parks announced plans to construct a permanent memorial located at the Oso slide site on behalf of the family members of the 43 victims of the 2014 SR 530 Slide.
- Based on several meetings with the families of victims, survivors, first responders, and community responders, Snohomish County Parks drew up concept plans for the memorial with MIG/Portico, a local interpretive design consulting team who contributed therapeutic design elements into the plan.
- The total cost of the SR 530 Mudslide Memorial is approximately \$6 Million (which includes a maintenance endowment) and has set aside seed money to begin the process of design. Funding is needed to complete the necessary studies, civil design and engineering of the site as well as construction of the Memorial and installation of its components. Additional improvements include installing a low barrier along the Whitehorse Regional Trail to discourage trail users and Memorial visitors from accessing the mudslide debris area. Parks is also working with a structural engineering team from Chudgar Engineering to preserve the First Responder flag pole and build a permanent foundation for it. If enough money is raised for the project, additional funds will be placed in a long-term Maintenance and Operation endowment.

**[www.SlideMemorial.com](http://www.SlideMemorial.com)**