

# Cascadia: Responders from east side might help west

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## Mutual aid

In 2015 Umatilla County signed a “sister county” agreement with Tillamook County, agreeing to send its public works director and other staff to the coast to help in the event of a major natural disaster.

Public works director Tom Fellows said he and his Tillamook County counterpart have both taken multiple trips to their sister county to tour infrastructure, meet employees and get familiar with the available resources.

“The initial thought is that if something happens down there, there’s not only going to be chaos, but leadership down there is going to be focused on their own families — as they should be — so we could bring in some leadership,” he said.

Fellows said both counties have expressed an interest in expanding the agreement to other departments such as health and law enforcement.

Umatilla County’s ongoing partnerships with Morrow County would also come into play. Morrow County emergency manager John Bowles said his county doesn’t have the resources of some of the larger counties in the state, but they would contribute what they could, which might include things like caring for livestock rescued from the west side of the state.

“We have the land that we could take a chunk and throw some sheep or cattle or horses on it in the event of an emergency,” he said.

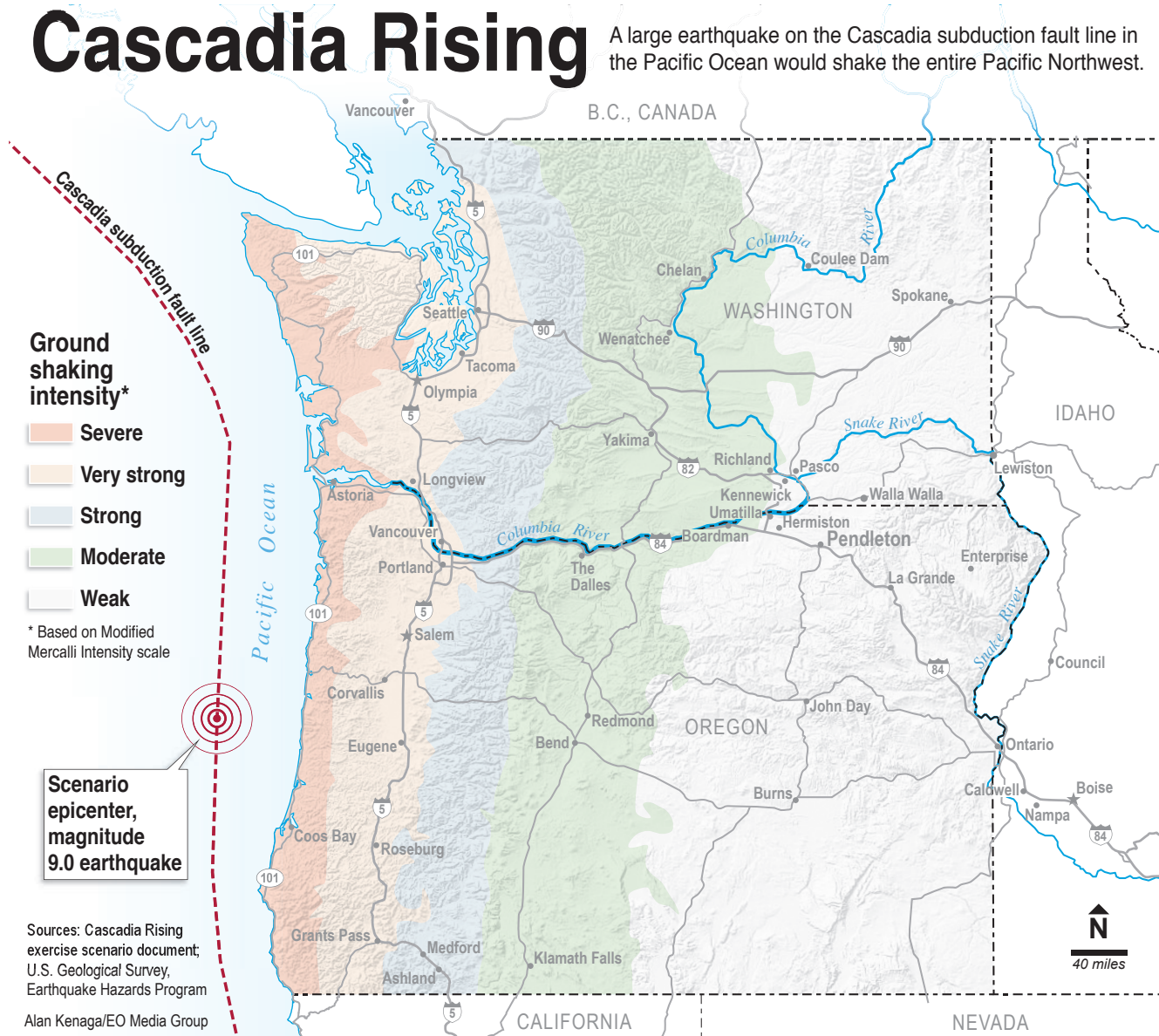
Bowles said in the coming months the Morrow County Sheriff’s Department plans to use its Facebook page and other venues to provide educational materials about emergency preparedness.

According to the state’s Cascadia Subduction Zone plan, firefighters, law enforcement, engineers, building inspectors, medical personnel and others from the east side of the state will also be requested to help on the west side.

## Influx of people

Umatilla County emergency manager Tom Roberts said he could see Umatilla County quickly becoming sandwiched between refugees from the west and volunteers and journalists pouring in from the east.

Many of the people coming from the west side of the state will likely have injuries sustained as buildings and bridges collapsed. Nick Bejarano, com-



munications director for Good Shepherd Health Care System, said immediately after Cascadia they would implement their emergency operations plan.

“We would call in all nurses and physicians within driving distance that could make it in,” he said, calling it an “all hands on deck” situation.

Bejarano said as many as 60,000 injured and hospitalized people from the west side of the state will need to be triaged and evacuated to hospitals still in operation. The hospital in Hermiston is only licensed for 25 beds, and many Eastern Oregon hospitals have similarly small numbers, so he said patients being flown out of the west will be sent as far away as Utah. However, Good Shepherd would take in as many people as it could handle, including those with less serious injuries who could be stitched up and released.

The Red Cross and FEMA, meanwhile, would be working to set up shelter. In Oregon the state estimates 520,000 people will need shelter in the aftermath of Cascadia, while about 500,000 more will stay in their own makeshift shelters but still



EO Media Group/File Photo

**Friends and family watch as four Oregon Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopters with the 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, fly in formation over the runway at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport in Pendleton. The airport would become a critical resource if the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake strikes the Pacific Northwest.**

need support with food and water.

Monique Dugaw, communications director for the Cascades region of the Red Cross, said the nonprofit works closely with the government during disasters and participated in the Cascadia Rising drill. After an earthquake the Red Cross would start by providing shelter.

“We would be focused on meeting immediate needs, a cot,

a blanket, a place to stay that’s safe and warm, three meals a day,” she said.

## Sending out supplies

The government plans to use Robert’s Field in Redmond as the Federal Incident Support Base on the assumption it remains mostly undamaged during Cascadia.

Steve Chrisman, manager of the Pendleton Airport, said he

recently sent a pitch to the state arguing that Pendleton should be the backup or secondary location for sending supplies and volunteers west.

“Pendleton for a lot of reasons seems like a pretty logical backup,” he said.

He pointed out that the Pendleton Airport has a “massive” concrete apron for staging surrounded by more than a thousand acres of flat land to set up camps. The airport includes an Oregon National Guard hangar and armory, two runways large enough to land a Boeing 737 and a 34,000-square-foot hangar for staging. Nearby resources like the Pendleton Convention Center, Round-Up Grounds, farms and 1,400 hotel rooms could also be utilized.

“We have a lot of food processing in the area, whereas they would have to ship a lot of that to central Oregon,” Chrisman said.

The locations would also be more conveniently located to ports along the Columbia River, where supplies could be sent by boat if bridge collapses were not blocking the river too far east.

*Coming Wednesday: Cascadia: Day 30.*

## MAKE A NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

EO Media Group

PENDLETON — In the days following a major natural disaster when government and nonprofit resources are still overwhelmed, one of the best ways to help can be taking care of others.

Ralph Werner of Hermiston, inspired by the book “When All Plans Fail” by Paul Williams, is laying the groundwork for those efforts now by creating a neighborhood disaster plan with the 18 houses surrounding his.

“If no one knows what to do, we have chaos,” he said.

Werner started by going door to door and asking his neighbors to fill out a questionnaire that will be compiled and redistributed to the neighborhood. The survey asks for contact information, the names and ages of people living in the house, the location of utility shut-offs (most fires after earthquakes start with natural gas leaks) and a list of useful skills such as medical training or plumbing repair.

Werner has also created a nine-step plan for everyone to follow. Once they have checked off the personal items — such as turning off utilities and dressing in protective clothing — Werner asks everyone to place a special card in the front window indicating whether they are OK or need help.

“If no card is visible, we will check on them in case they are injured and can’t reach the window,” he said.

Next, the plan asks everyone to report to the “neighborhood care center” — in this case, Werner’s house. There, the neighbors will break into teams, with some checking on “special needs” houses (those with children or elderly/disabled residents) while others will take first aid kits out in search of the injured or stay at the center to listen for updates on the NOAA weather radio.

Werner said he would encourage all neighborhoods to implement similar plans of their own, which will allow people to organize and find those who need help as quickly as possible. Businesses, church congregations, extended families and other groups should also consider who might need checking on or how to communicate in the event of an emergency.

# Wetlands: ‘Still a lot of work to be done’

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Expecting a negative retort, Kidd was surprised by the man’s next question. “Why aren’t there any more wapato?” he said.

For more than a decade, numerous organizations, including the National Park Service, have worked to restore wetlands in the Youngs Bay watershed. Kidd, an environmental science and resources Ph.D. candidate at Portland State University, recently submitted her dissertation for review. The dissertation details the progress of the restoration effort based on her study.

## Watershed development

Settlers near the turn of the 20th century cleared much of the watershed for development, building dams for irrigation and allowing cows to graze. The result: 97 percent of tidal wetlands in the watershed disappeared from 1880 to the early 1990s, Kidd said.

Native wildlife and plant species, like the wapato plant noted in explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark’s journals, were completely decimated.

“It lost any sense of natural diversity that would have been there,” said Madeline Ishikawa, a habitat restoration program manager with the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce. “It was very flat.”

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park’s expansion in 2005 included roughly 100 acres of wetlands near the Lewis and Clark River.

Since the expansion, the park has worked with numerous organizations, including the Columbia River Estuary Taskforce, to restore the wetlands. Kidd’s surveyed the results of these projects as part of her study.

Projects involved revegetation, removing tide gates and some levees, modifying tidal channels, removing fill material, building a bridge to allow fish passage, placing wood debris and creating and enhancing side channels.

## Return of the wapato

While wapato plants have not returned to the wetlands naturally as a result of the restoration, the Park Service planted roughly 20,000 bulbs near Colewort Creek in late 2012 and early 2013, parks service Chief of Resource Management Chris Clatterback said. The park is also growing the plants at its nursery.

The projects cost almost \$1.5 million. Lewis and Clark National Historical Park contributed 20 percent of the funds along with numerous other governmental and nonprofit groups.

Topographical diversity was a key to the projects, Ishikawa said. Methods such as creating hummocks out of wood debris allowed for a wider array of plant life, avoid creating muddy flats and account for future rises in sea levels, she said.

While they expected the land to eventually reclaim characteristics of wetlands, project leaders were surprised by the speed of the restoration, Clatterback said.

## What remains

One thing that remains despite the progress, however, are non-native species in upper marshes. There, plants such as reed canary grass and common rush have edged out native plants like bulrush and wapato, Kidd said.

At the beginning of her study, Clatterback asked Kidd to determine whether one of two things was to blame: a lack of exposure to tidal water or lack of salinity. For the most part, lack of salinity was the larger issue, Kidd’s study concludes.

Protecting and restoring seed banks in the higher marshes would be the most effective way to combat this issue, Kidd said.

“As we move forward, we need to take a more active role in restoring these high marsh zones,” she said.

Kidd’s study has informed the park service’s future design plans and has highlighted areas the park should emphasize in future restoration efforts, Clatterback said.

“You should really try to maximize that low marsh even if you sacrifice some restoration in the high marsh,” he said.

One certainty is that the ever-changing biological and land use changes in wetlands owned by the park service and throughout the Youngs Bay watershed will lead to more projects and studies.

“I don’t think we’re near the end of finding areas out there that need to be restored,” Ishikawa said. “I think there’s still a lot of work to be done out there.”

# Protests: Group faced off with Portland police

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A rally in downtown Los Angeles also drew thousands. Demonstrators there called attention to Trump’s crack-down on immigration and his party’s response to climate change and the environment. Organizers said they chose to rally on the holiday as a way to honor past presidents by exercising their constitutional right to assemble and peacefully protest. They chanted: “Love not hate makes America great.”

In Chicago, several hundred rallied across the river from the Trump Tower, shouting “Hey, hey, ho, ho, Donald Trump has got to go.”

Rebecca Wolfram of Chicago, who’s in her 60s, said concerns about climate change and immigrant rights under Trump prompted her to start attending rallies.

“I’m trying to demonstrate as much as possible until I figure out what else to do,” said Wolfram, who held a sign that said “Old white ladies are really displeased.”

Several hundred demonstrated in Washington, D.C. Dozens gathered around the fountain in Dupont Circle chanting “Dump Trump” and “Love, not hate: That’s what makes America great.”

Dozens marched through midtown Atlanta for a rally named with a Georgia flavor: “ImPEACH NOW! (Not My) President’s Day March.”

Hundreds of protesters chanting “This is what democracy looks like” marched through Salt Lake City.

The Salt Lake Tribune reports that the crowd marched to push back against Trump and



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

**About 50 people gathered at the intersection of Commercial and Eighth streets as part of Not My President’s Day protests nationwide Monday. “Our message is positive,” said Laurie Caplan, an organizer of the protest through Indivisible North Coast Oregon. “We want to keep our democracy strong.”**

his administration’s stance on such issues as the environment, immigration, free speech and Russia.

Some people raised signs that said “Not My President,” while others held up a large American flag. Protester Reg Brookings warned the crowd that Trump is trying to divide the country by making such groups as immigrants the enemy.

## Portland protest

A small but unruly group of protesters faced off with police in downtown Portland, Oregon.

The Oregonian reports the police confronted the crowd in front of the Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building. Police took some people into custody.

Hundreds of Trump opponents and supporters turned out in Rapid City, South Dakota.

A larger anti-Trump faction stood on a street corner as part of a “Not My President” protest, similar to other demonstrations being held across the country. A group supporting the president lined up on a different corner at the same intersection. Police were on hand and the groups remained peaceful.

The Rapid City Journal reported the anti-Trump protesters held up posters including some reading, “Make America Think Again” and “Build bridges, not walls.” Supporters of the president waved American flags and held signs saying “God Bless our Presidents; Go Trump” and “Veterans for Trump.”

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