

# Community Resilience in the Face of Coastal Hazards: WA State Hershman Fellowship 2011

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WA Sea Grant Hershman Fellow

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# Hershman Fellowship

- Started in 2008 through WA Sea Grant
- In honor/memory of Marc Hershman from University of Washington's School of Marine Affairs
- Working at Washington Emergency Management Division with a Coastal Hazards focus
  - Funding from NOAA with the aim to increase community resilience
  - Two years of fellows

# Project Goals

- Improve coordination and communication at State and Federal levels
- Identify needs and provide recommendations to improve ability for coastal communities to respond to coastal hazards
- Examine vertical evacuation strategies

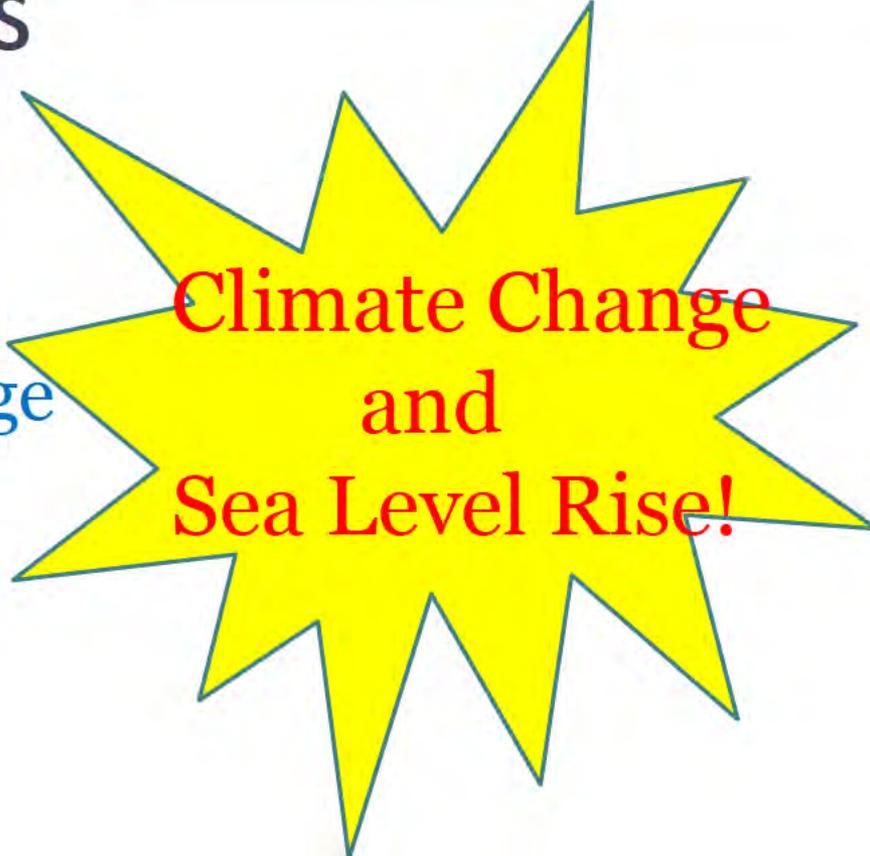
# Resilience



- Ability to “bounce back”
- Community resilience: the capacity of a community to adapt to and influence the course of **environmental**, **social**, and **economic** change
- Common characteristics:
  - Redundancy, diversity, efficiency, autonomy, strength, interdependence, adaptability, and collaboration

# Coastal Hazards

- Coastal Flooding
- Tsunami
- Storms/Storm surge
- Landslides
- Shoreline Erosion
- Earthquake
- Marine Debris
- Oil Spill



Climate Change  
and  
Sea Level Rise!

# Fellowship Plan

- 14 Counties with Marine Coastline
  - Working with Ecology, send survey to all 14 coastal counties
  - Use results from survey for a more focused effort for Puget Sound
- Focus on 4 Outer Coast Counties
  - Work aligns with EMD
  - Plan 2 workshops



# Workshop Framework

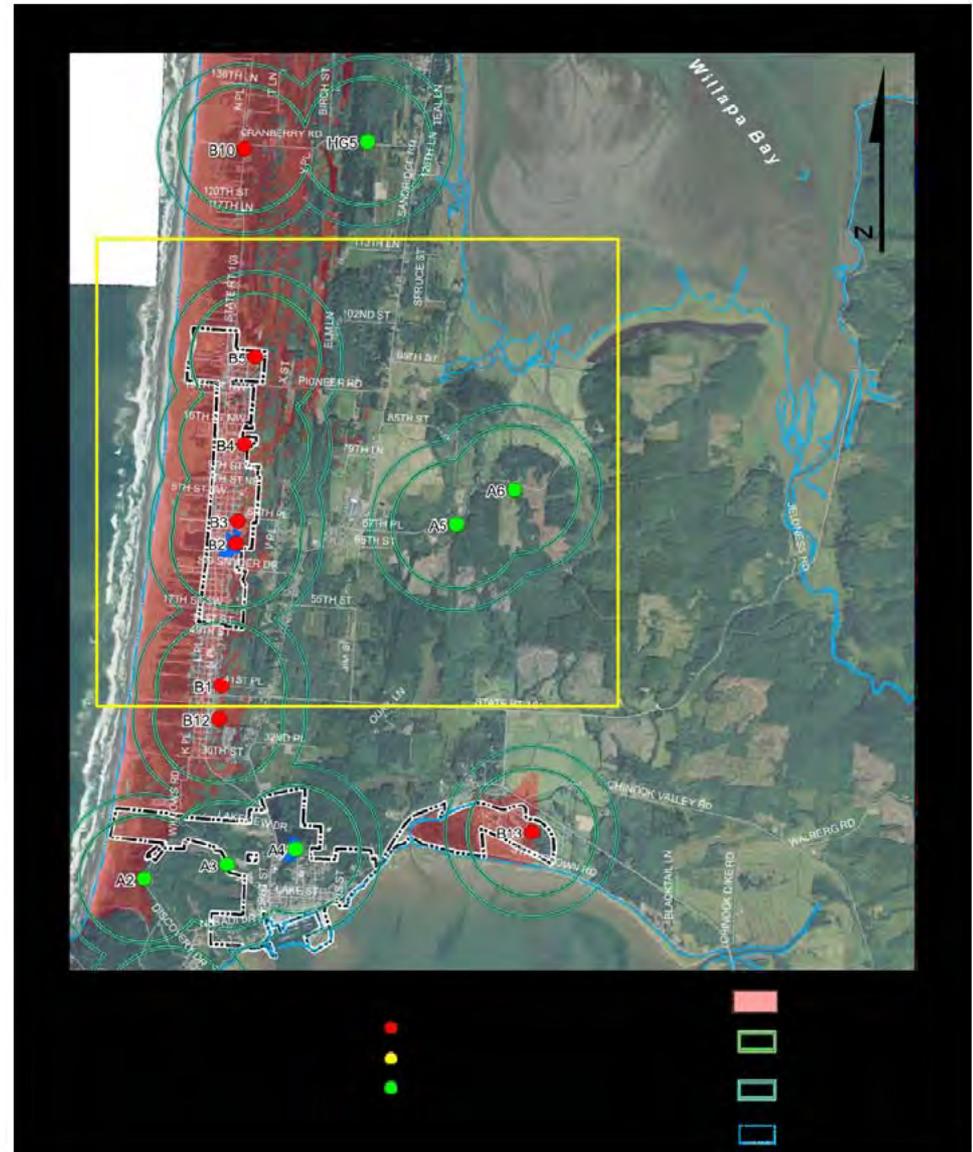
- Built from pieces of three documents:
  - Climate Impact Group's Guidebook for Local, Regional, and State Governments for Climate Change (UW, King County)
  - Proceedings from the Sea Level Rise and Inundation Community Workshop (NOAA, USGS)
  - Resilient WA State (FEMA, WA EMD, WA DNR)
  - Vertical Evacuation Workshops (UW, WA DNR, WA EMD)

# Workshop Objectives

- Introduce idea of a “new normal”
- Develop a shared vision of what is at risk and what stakeholders want to protect
- Identify geographic scope and time scales of concern
- Establish connections with neighboring communities; link together and learn from one another

# Vertical Evacuation Example

- Community driven process for ideas and strategies
- First of its kind



# Next Steps

- Design workshop
  - Need information on successful community driven processes – any lessons learned?
  - Work with Ian Miller of WSG
- Please feel free to contact me with any information!
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