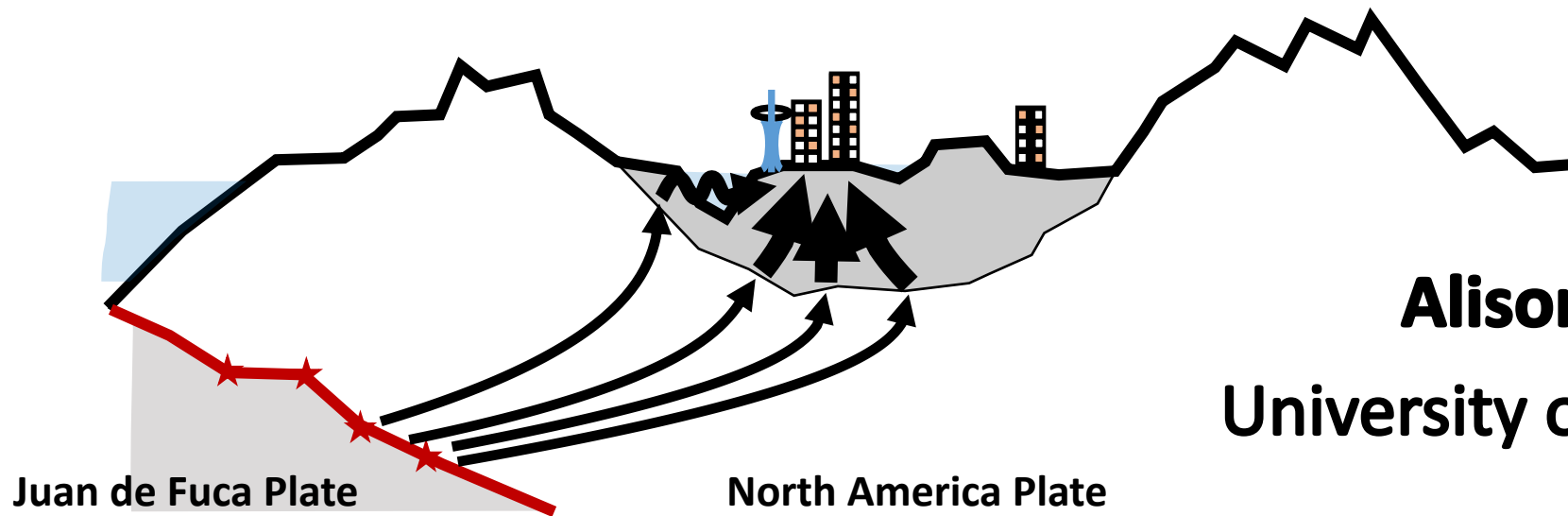


# M9 Cascadia subduction zone earthquakes and landscapes – *how will the hillslopes handle the big one?*



**Alison Duvall**  
University of Washington



# The “M9” Project – 3-D Simulations of M9 Earthquakes on the Cascadia Megathrust



**Alison Duvall**<sup>1</sup>, Arthur Frankel<sup>2</sup>, Erin Wirth<sup>2</sup>, Jeff Berman<sup>1</sup>, Marc Eberhard<sup>1</sup>,  
Nasser Marafi<sup>1</sup>, Joe Wartman<sup>1</sup>, Alex Grant<sup>2</sup>, Sean LaHusen<sup>1</sup>, Randy LeVeque<sup>1</sup>,  
Frank Gonzalez<sup>1</sup>, Ann Bostram<sup>1</sup>, Dan Abramson<sup>1</sup>, John Vidale<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Washington, Seattle, WA

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Geological Survey, Seattle, WA

<sup>3</sup>Southern California Earthquake Center, University of Southern California



NSF Hazards SEES EAR-1331412



# Megathrust Earthquakes in Cascadia



Cascadia Subduction Zone has a history of **M9 Earthquakes**

- Coastal subsidence
- Tsunami records
- Offshore turbidites (geology deposit of turbidity currents)



USGS



Ghost Forest, Greys Harbor, WA  
*Brian Atwater, USGS*



Tsunami Deposits, Lynch Cove, WA  
*Carrie Garrison-Laney, UW*

# Megathrust Earthquakes in Cascadia



Cascadia Subduction Zone has a history of **M9 Earthquakes**

- Coastal subsidence
- Tsunami records
- Offshore turbidites

- Last Cascadia Earthquake in **1700 AD**
- Estimated  $M \sim 8.7 - 9.2$  [Satake et al., 2003]

**10-14% chance of another M9 earthquake  
in the next 50 years [Petersen et al., 2002]**

ANNALS OF SEISMOLOGY

**JULY 20, 2015 ISSUE**

## THE REALLY BIG ONE

*An earthquake will destroy a sizable portion of the coastal Northwest. The question is when.*

**BY KATHRYN SCHULZ**

*The next full-margin rupture of the Cascadia subduction zone will spell the worst natural disaster in the history of the continent.*

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPH NIEMANN; MAP BY ZIGGYMAJ / GETTY

**W**hen the 2011 earthquake and tsunami struck Tohoku, Japan, Chris Goldfinger was two hundred miles away, in the city of Kashiwa, at an international meeting on seismology. As the shaking started, everyone in the room began to laugh. Earthquakes are common in Japan—that one was the third of the week—and the participants were, after all, at a seismology conference. Then everyone in the room checked the time.



# The M9 Project

*An ambitious beginning...*



Reduce the **catastrophic consequences of Cascadia megathrust earthquakes** through **advances in science, engineering, & planning**

# The M9 Project

*An ambitious beginning...*



Reduce the **catastrophic consequences of Cascadia megathrust earthquakes** through **advances in science, engineering, & planning**

The M9 Project was **unique** in terms of...

# The M9 Project

*An ambitious beginning...*



Reduce the **catastrophic consequences of Cascadia megathrust earthquakes** through **advances in science, engineering, & planning**

The M9 Project was **unique** in terms of...

*... presenting **multiple M9 earthquake realizations**,  
framed probabilistically*



# The M9 Project

*An ambitious beginning...*



Reduce the **catastrophic consequences of Cascadia megathrust earthquakes** through **advances in science, engineering, & planning**

The M9 Project was **unique** in terms of...

*... presenting **multiple M9 earthquake realizations**,  
framed probabilistically*

*...bringing together a **diverse team of experts** spanning the  
academic, public, & non-profit sectors*

# The M9 Project

*team members*

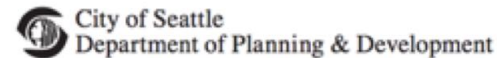


## Project Personnel:



Alison Duvall, PI  
Dan Abramson, co-PI  
Jeff Berman, co-PI  
Ann Bostrom, co-PI  
John Vidale, co-PI  
Art Frankel, USGS  
Erin Wirth, USGS  
Kate Allstadt, Postdoctoral researcher  
Jamie Mooney, WA Sea Grant  
Marc Eberhard  
Frank Gonzalez  
Peter Guttorp  
Steve Kramer  
Randall LeVeque,  
David Montgomery  
Joseph Wartman  
Joan Gomberg, USGS  
Brian Atwater, USGS  
Penelope Dalton, UW and WA Sea Grant

## Collaborating organizations:



# The M9 Project



Graduate Students (Past & Present)

## **EARTH & SPACE SCIENCES**

Elizabeth Davis  
Carrie Garrison-Laney  
Jiangang Han  
Sean LaHusen  
Ian Stone  
Mika Thompson

## **CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING**

Alex Grant  
Mike Greenfield  
Nasser Marafi  
Andrew Winter  
Gloria de Zamacona Cervantes  
Xinsheng Qin

## **URBAN DESIGN & PLANNING**

Lan Nguyen  
Adnya Sarasmita  
Peter Dunn

## **EVANS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY & GOVERNANCE**

Alicia Ahn  
Drew Bouta

## **APPLIED MATH**

Donsub Rim  
Brisa Davis

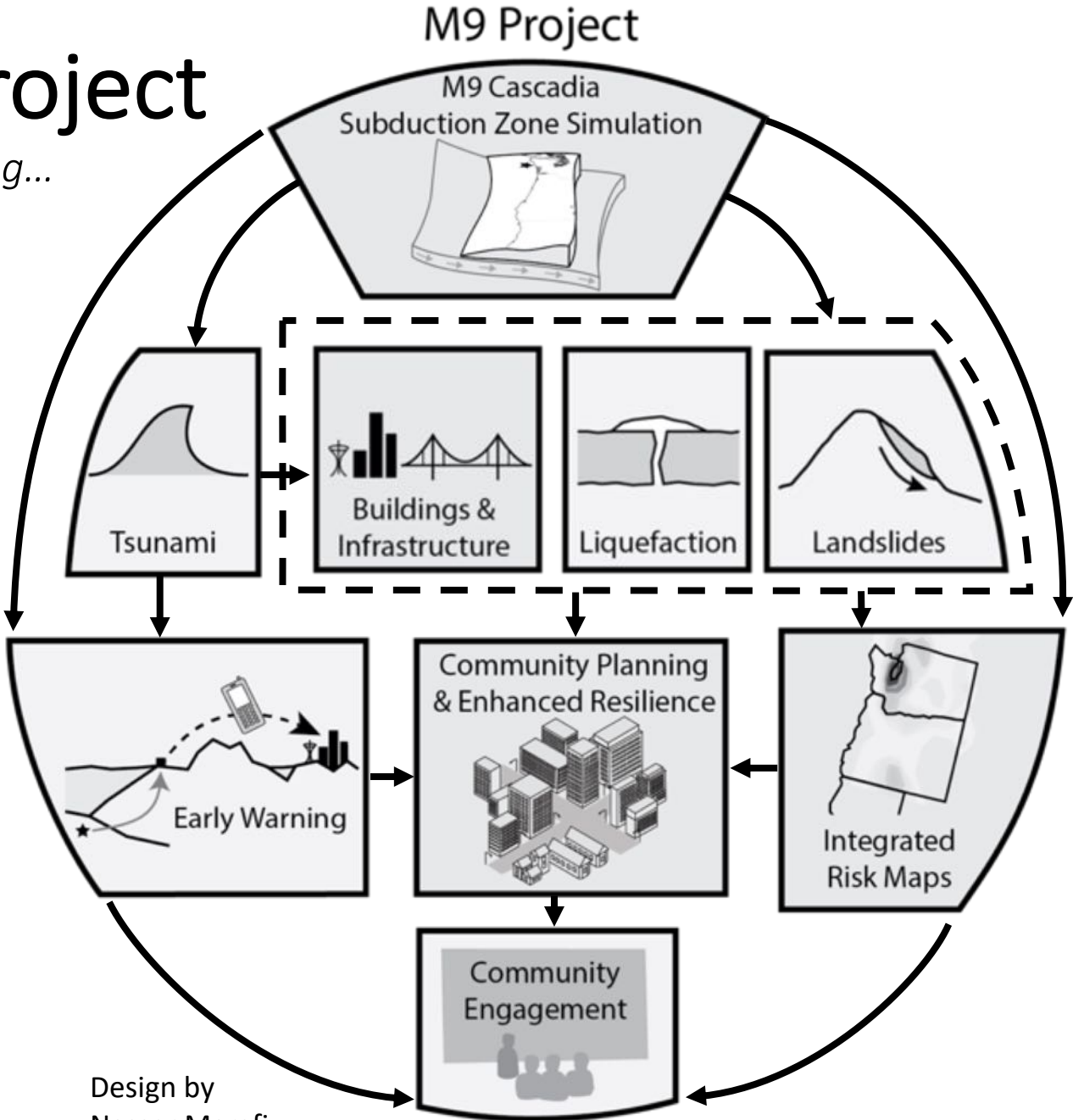
## **STATISTICS**

Johnny Paige  
Max Schneider



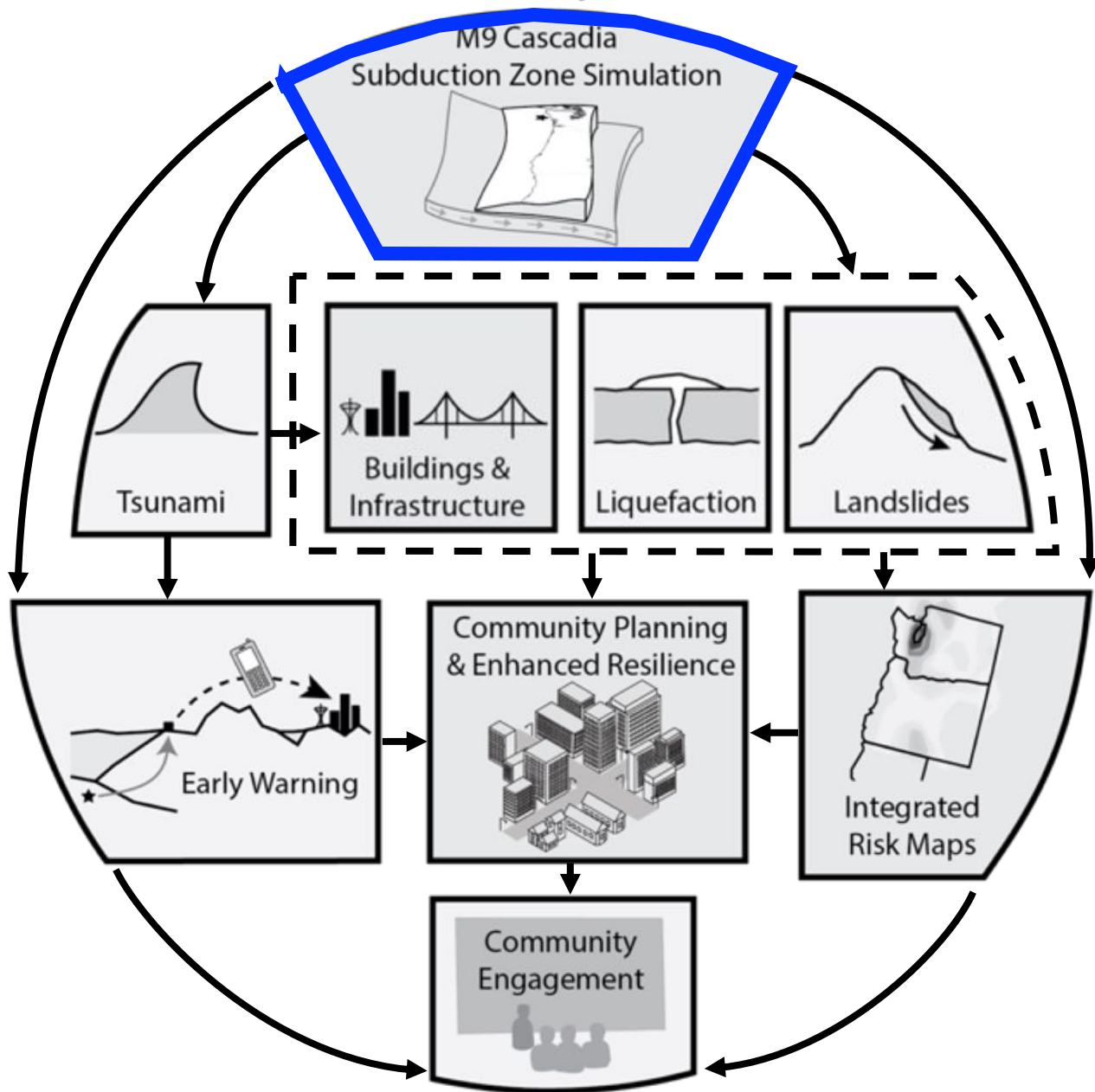
# The M9 Project

*An ambitious beginning...*



Design by  
Nasser Marafi

# M9 Project



## 3-D Simulations

Accurately captures rupture  
directivity, basin amplification,  
edge-converted waves, duration

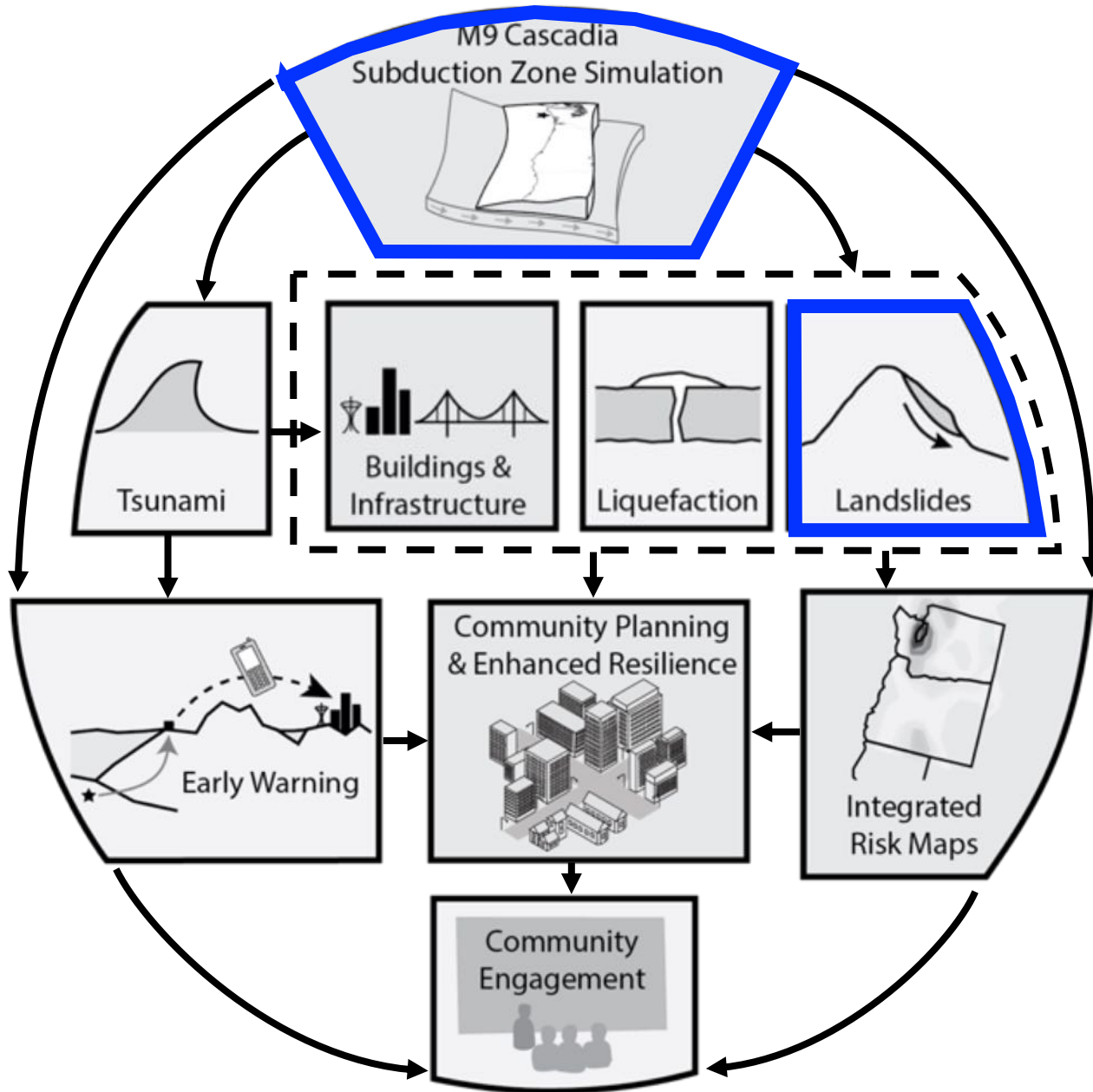


Art Frankel

Erin Wirth

Broadband Synthetic  
Seismograms

# M9 Project



## Landscape response

- Coseismic landslides
- Landscape evolution



# 50+ M9 Earthquake Scenarios

Frankel et al., 2018, BSSA    Wirth et al., 2018, BSSA



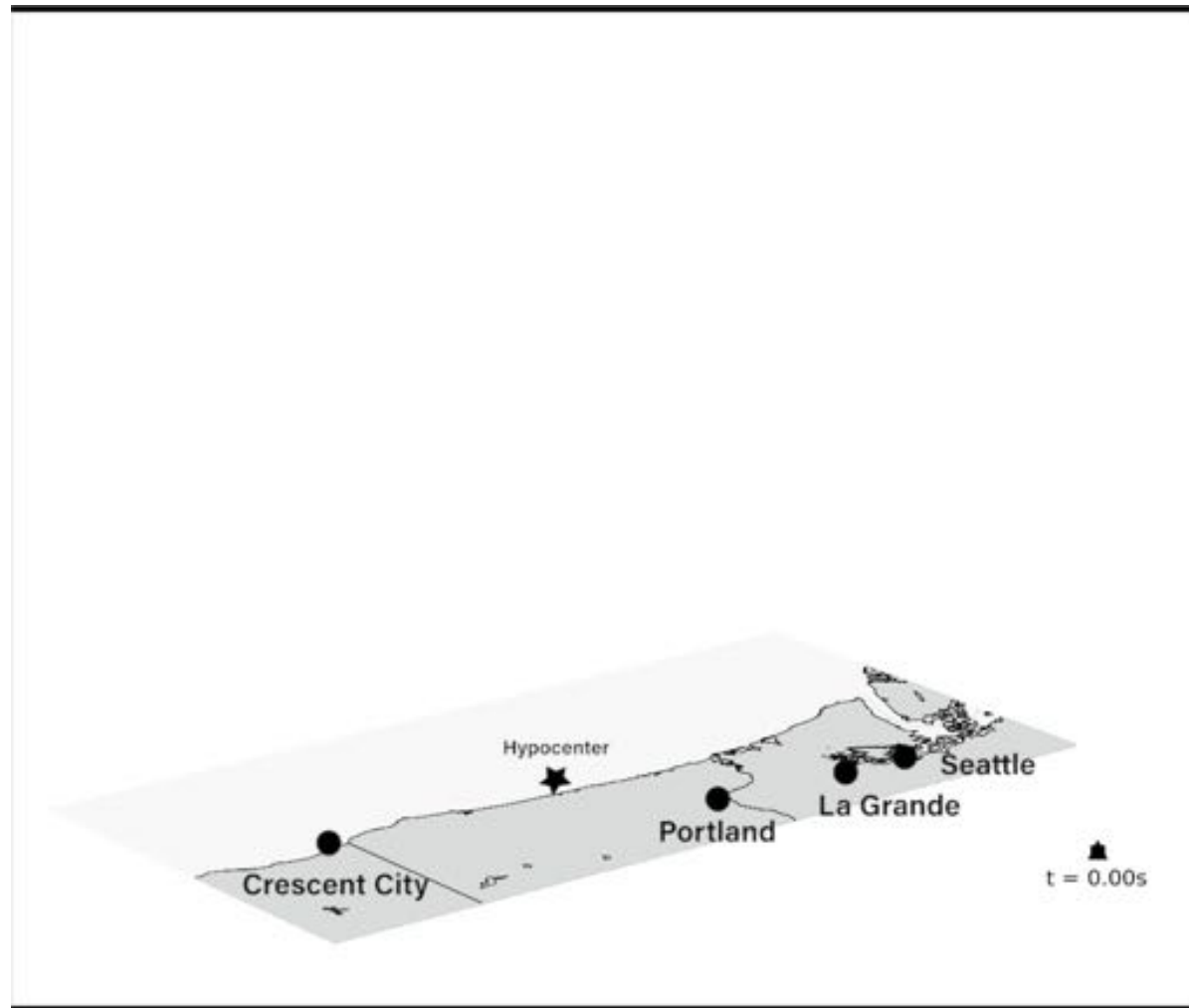
<https://www.designsafe-ci.org>

# 50+ M9 Earthquake Scenarios

Frankel et al., 2018, BSSA    Wirth et al., 2018, BSSA



<https://www.designsafe-ci.org>



Slide c/o Erin Wirth  
& Nasser Marafi



# 50+ M9 Earthquake Scenarios

Frankel et al., 2018, BSSA    Wirth et al., 2018, BSSA



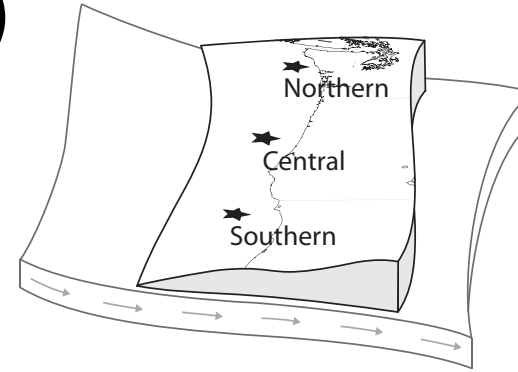
<https://www.designsafe-ci.org>

- ★ What is the **range of possible ground shaking** from an M9?
- ★ What are the **key rupture parameters**?

# Key Rupture Parameters

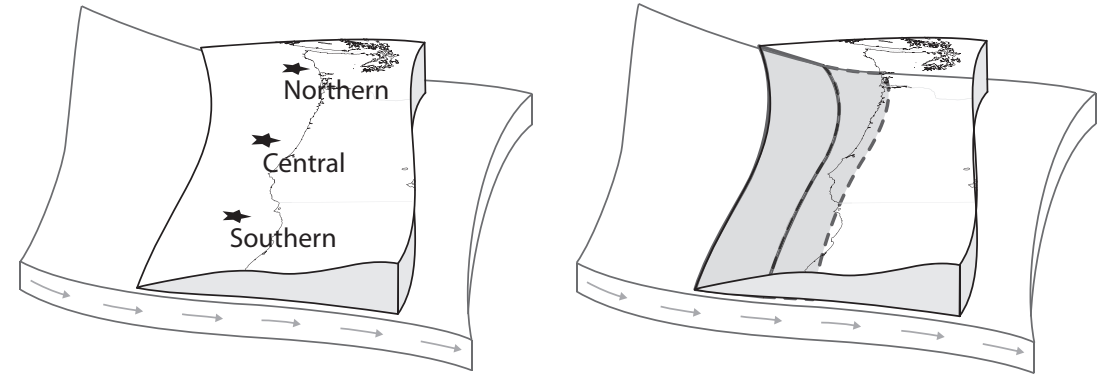
# Key Rupture Parameters

- Hypocenter Location (i.e. starting point)



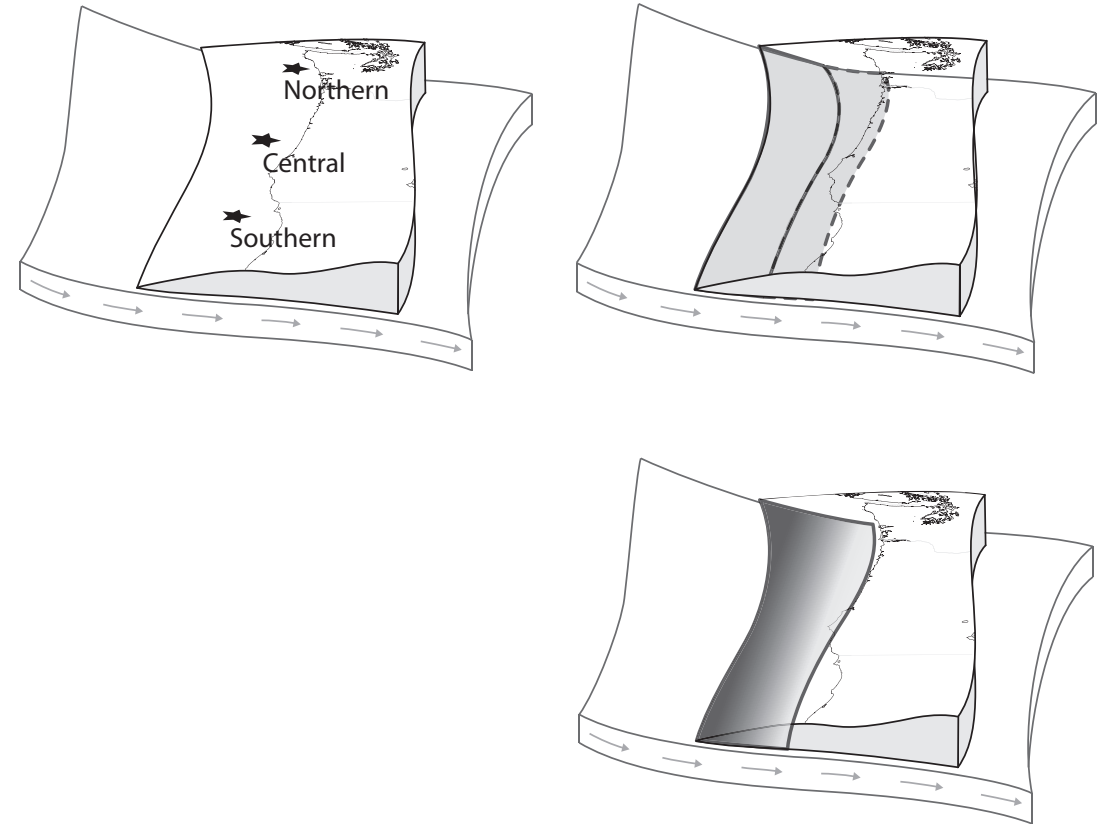
# Key Rupture Parameters

- Hypocenter Location
- Down-dip Rupture Limit  
(i.e. the inland, eastward extent)



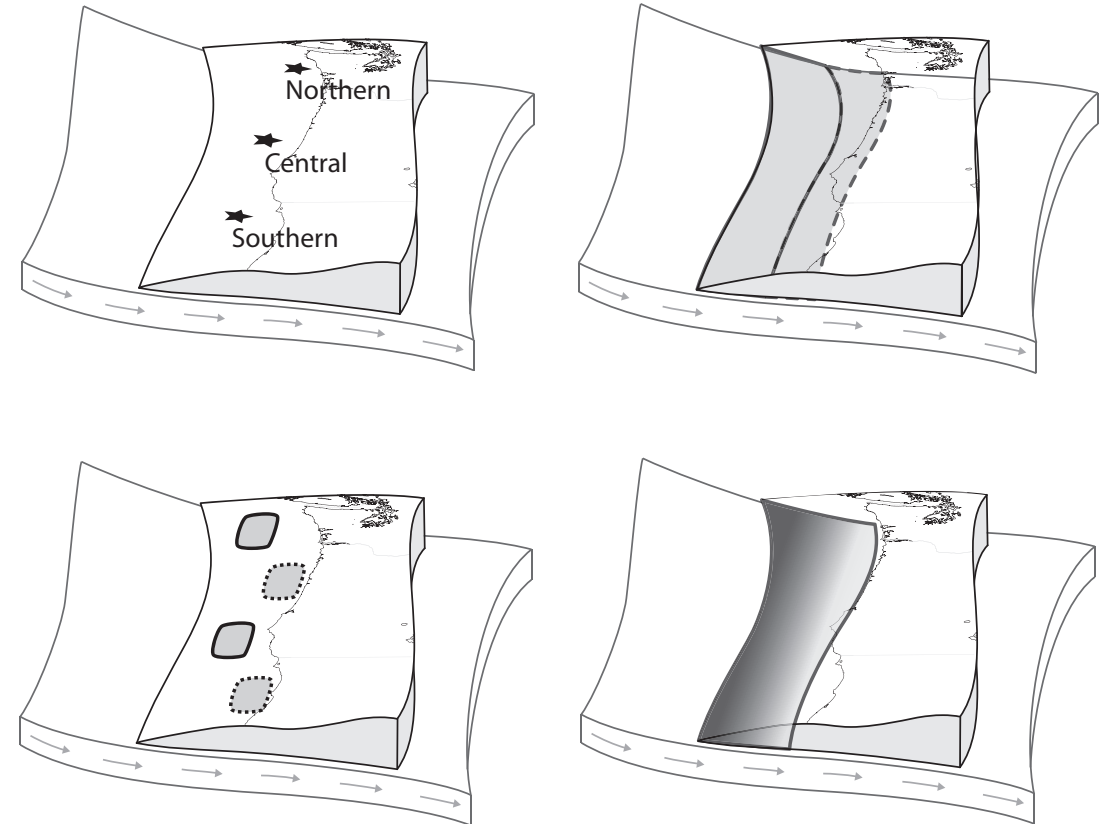
# Key Rupture Parameters

- Hypocenter Location
- Down-dip Rupture Limit
- Slip Distribution



# Key Rupture Parameters

- Hypocenter Location
- Down-dip Rupture Limit
- Slip Distribution
- Subevent Location  
(i.e. the location of strong ground motion generating areas or “sticky patches”)

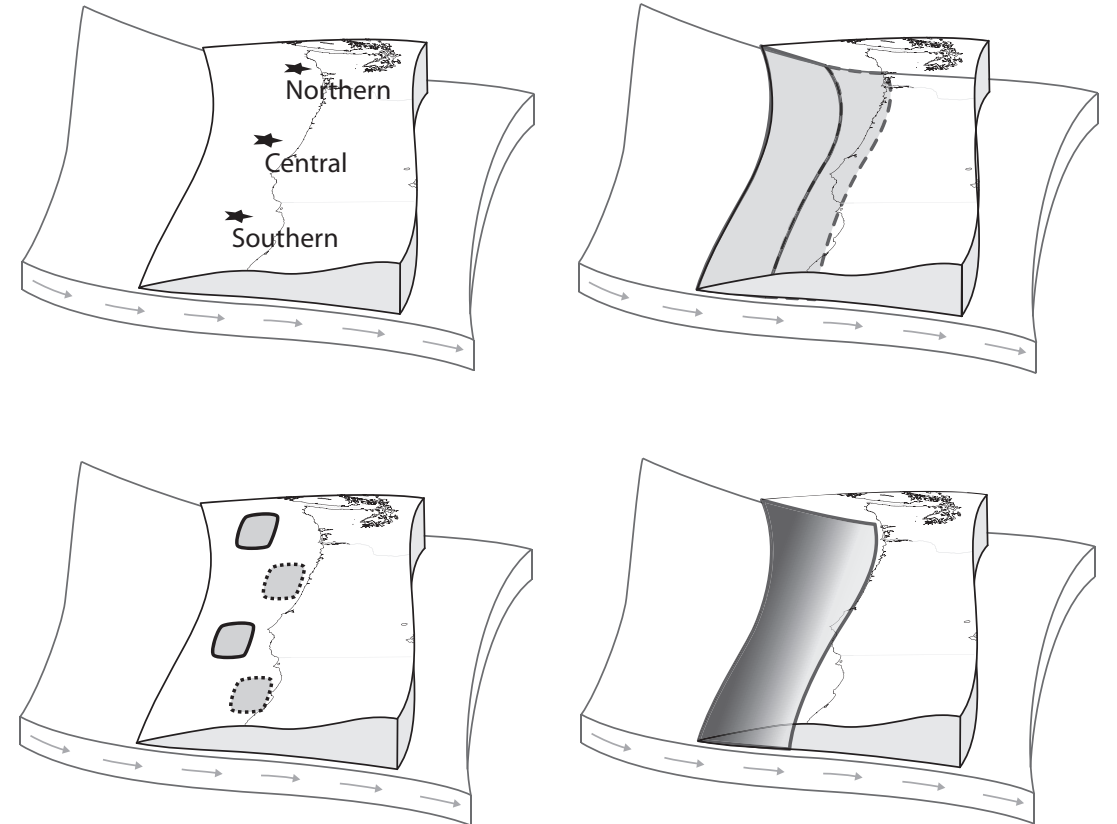


# Key Rupture Parameters

- Hypocenter Location
- Down-dip Rupture Limit
- Slip Distribution\*
- Subevent Location

How is ground shaking impacted by these earthquake parameters?

*\*Background slip and subevents, separately*



# Key Rupture Parameters

How is ground shaking impacted by these earthquake parameters?

## Main Takeaways:

- ❖ M9 earthquake simulations for Cascadia capture *a range of possible ground motions*
  - Up to a **10x variation in  $S_a$**  (at individual sites)

✓ Hypocenter Location	Factor of ~10
✓ Down-dip Rupture Limit	Factor of ~5
✓ Slip Distribution*	Small
✓ Subevent Location	Factor of ~10



# Key Rupture Parameters

How is ground shaking impacted by these earthquake parameters?

## Main Takeaways:

❖ In the Seattle basin, rupture directivity effects (i.e., hypocenter location) appear to couple with basin amplification

- |                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| ✓ Hypocenter Location    | Factor of ~10 |
| ✓ Down-dip Rupture Limit | Factor of ~5  |
| ✓ Slip Distribution*     | Small         |
| ✓ Subevent Location      | Factor of ~10 |

# Key Rupture Parameters

How is ground shaking impacted by these earthquake parameters?

## Main Takeaways:

❖ Constraining **high stress drop subevents** (i.e., location, magnitude, stress drop) is *critical to improving seismic hazard assessment*

- |                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| ✓ Hypocenter Location    | Factor of ~10 |
| ✓ Down-dip Rupture Limit | Factor of ~5  |
| ✓ Slip Distribution*     | Small         |
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# The M9 Project

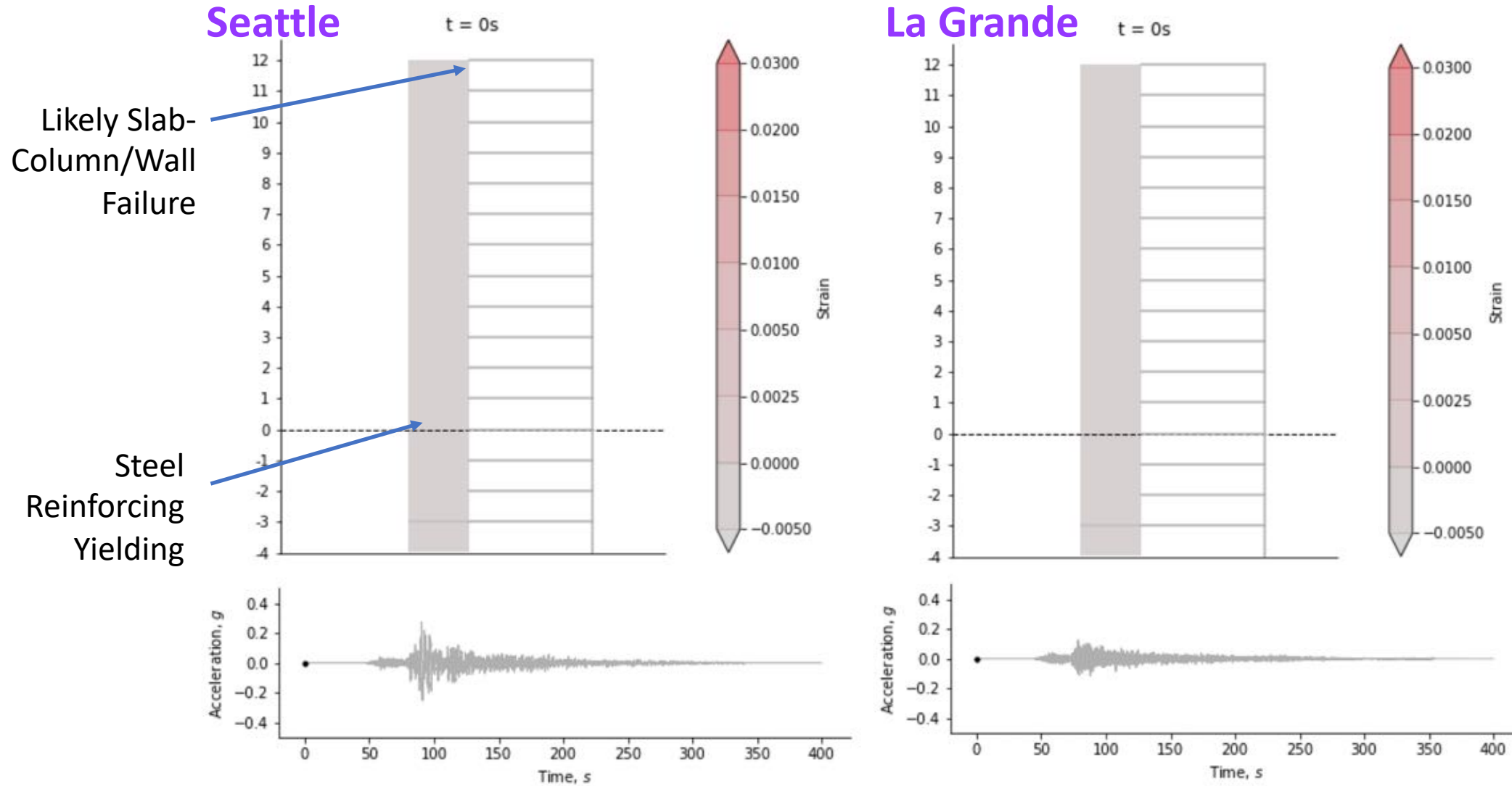
## Impact and Results



### Implications of the 50 Cascadia earthquake simulations

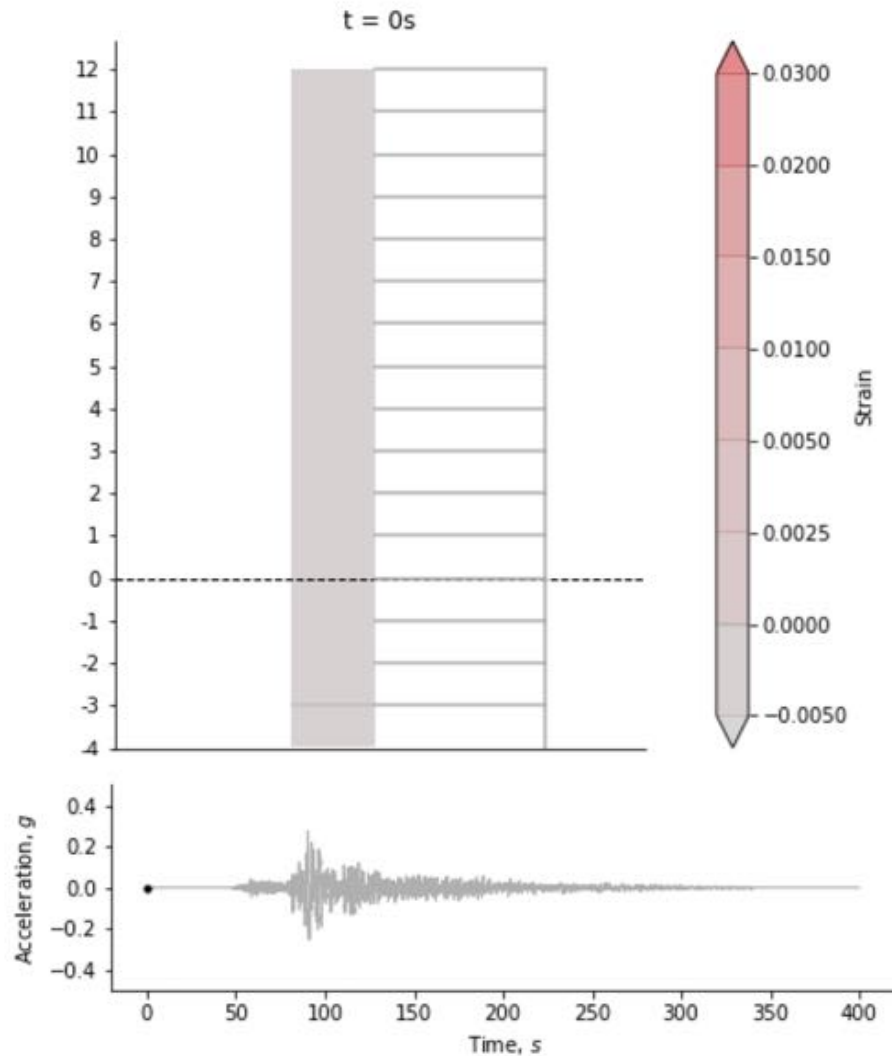
- Found the **collapse risk** of modern reinforced concrete shear wall buildings in the M9 CSZ to be larger than anticipated

# Structural Response Realization Rupturing Towards Seattle

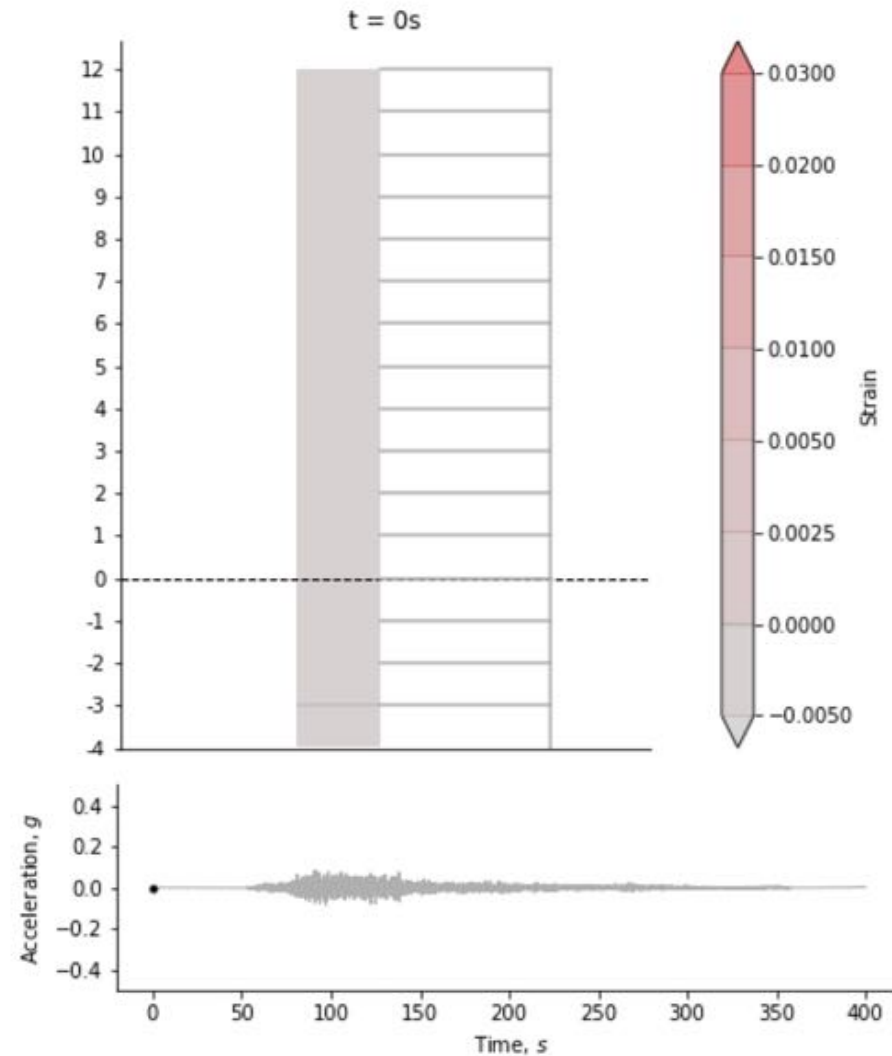


# Structural Response for Seattle

## Rupturing Towards Seattle



## Rupturing Away from Seattle



# The M9 Project

## Impact and Results

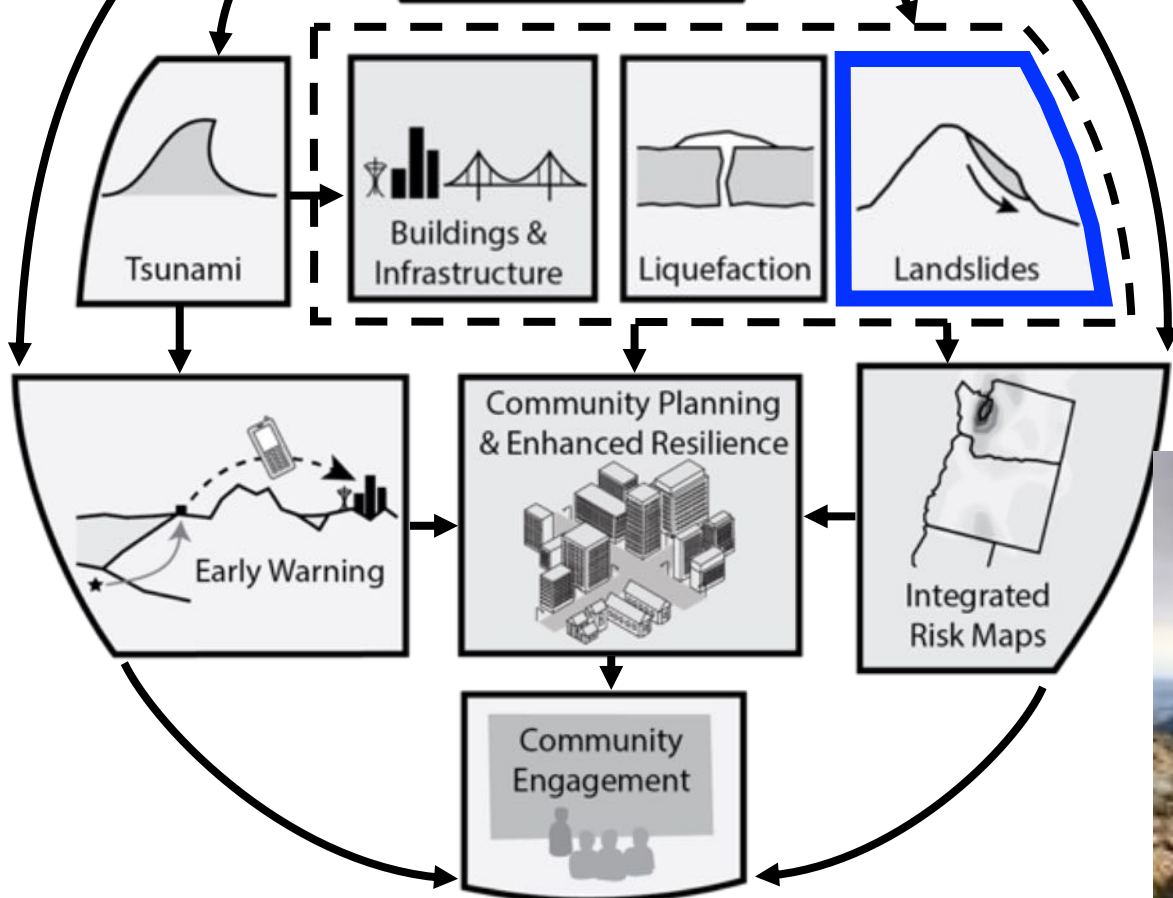


### Implications of the 50 Cascadia earthquake simulations

- Found the **collapse risk** of modern reinforced concrete shear wall buildings in the M9 CSZ to be larger than anticipated
- M9 results informed recommendations for the **design of tall buildings** in Seattle
- Created **landslide inventory** for Oregon Coast Range & advanced **modeling of coseismic landslides**

# M9 Project

M9 Cascadia  
Subduction Zone Simulation



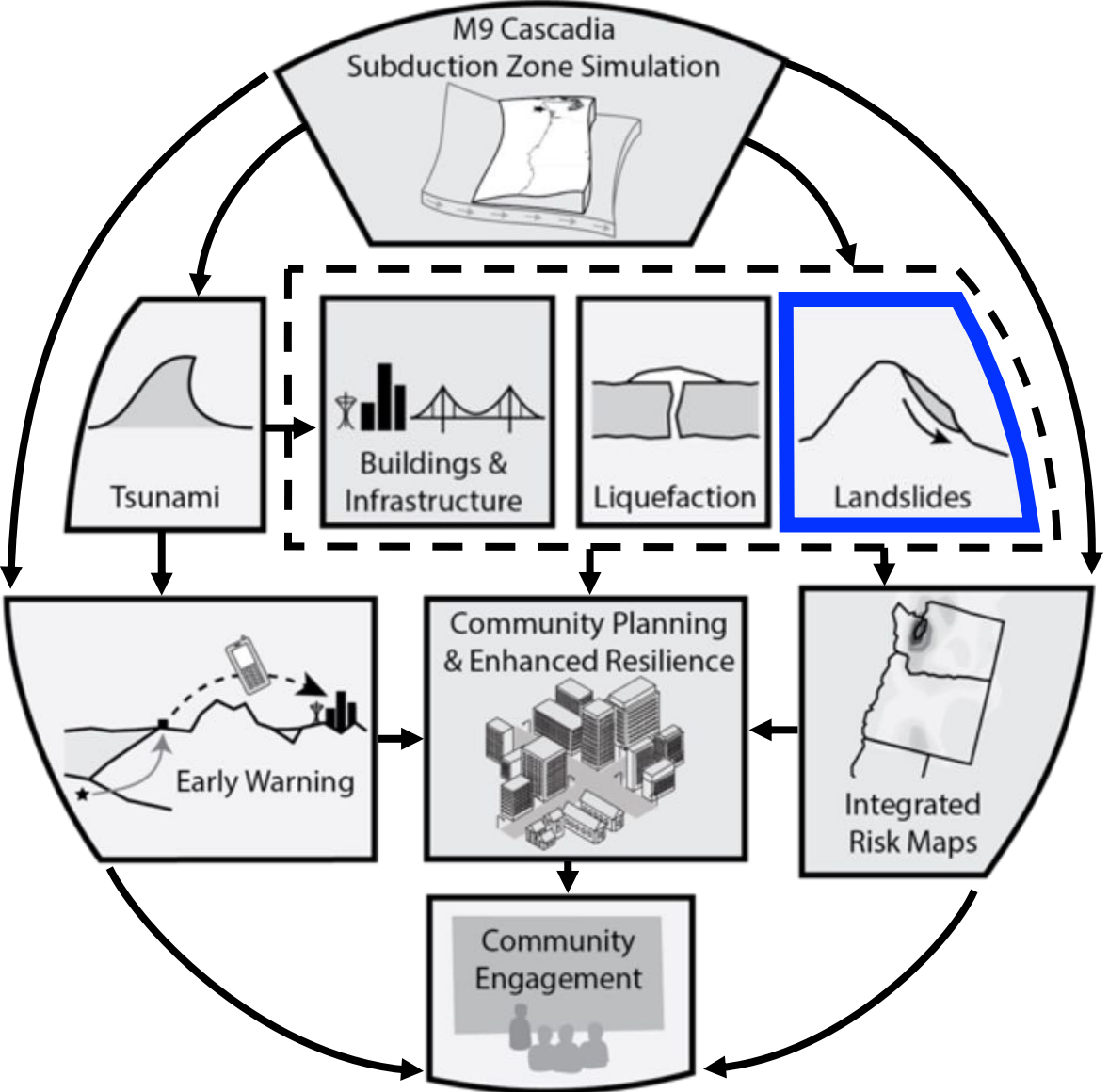
## Landscape response

*Coseismic Landslides*

*Landscape Evolution*



# M9 Project



## Landscape response

*Coseismic Landslides*

*Landscape Evolution*

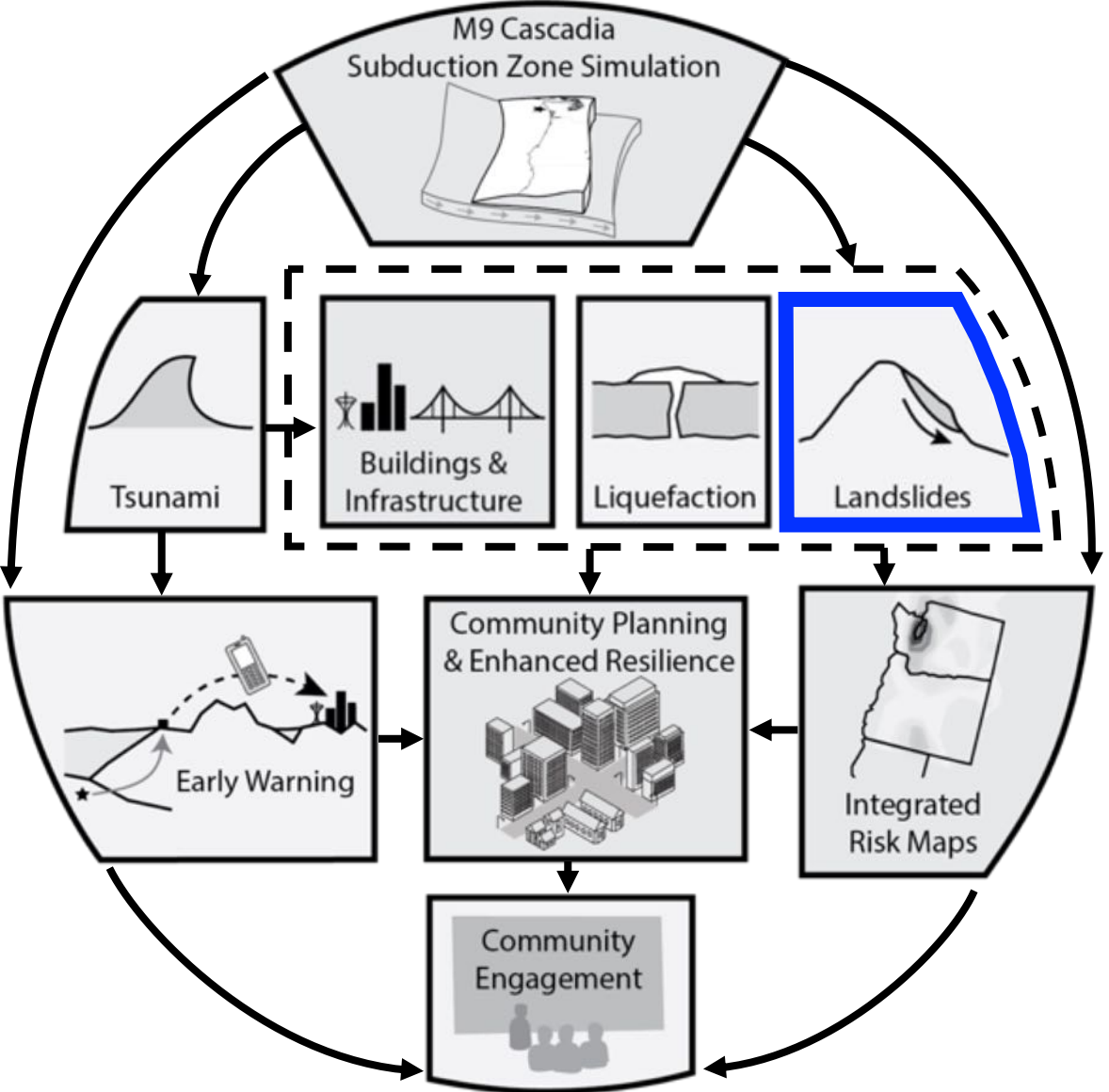


Alex Grant: USGS

- Predict coseismic displacement from modeled strong ground motion



# M9 Project



## Landscape response

*Coseismic Landslides*

*Landscape Evolution*



- Map and date Cascadia coseismic slides (1700 and earlier)

Sean LaHusen: UW

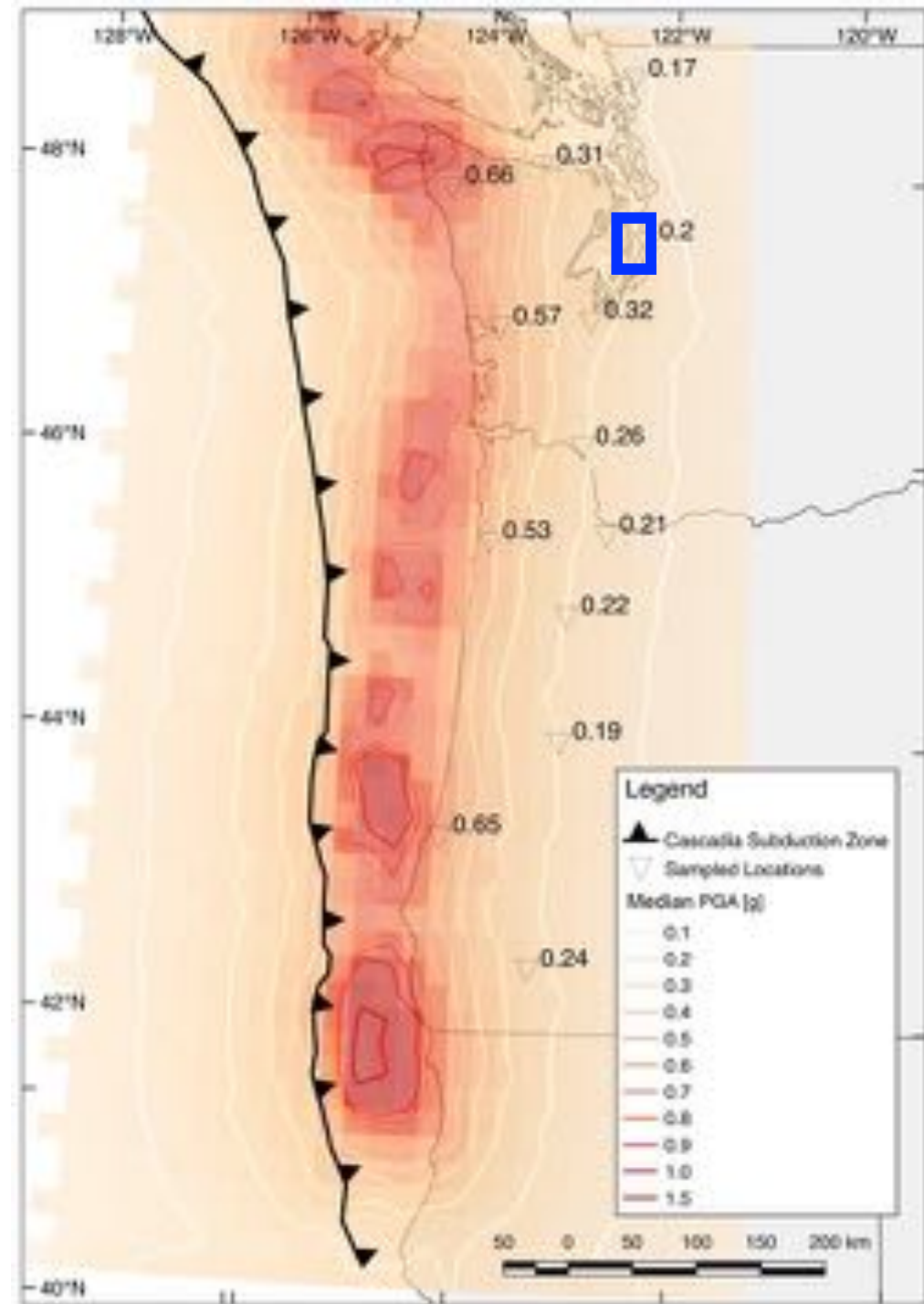
# M9 Coseismic Landslides



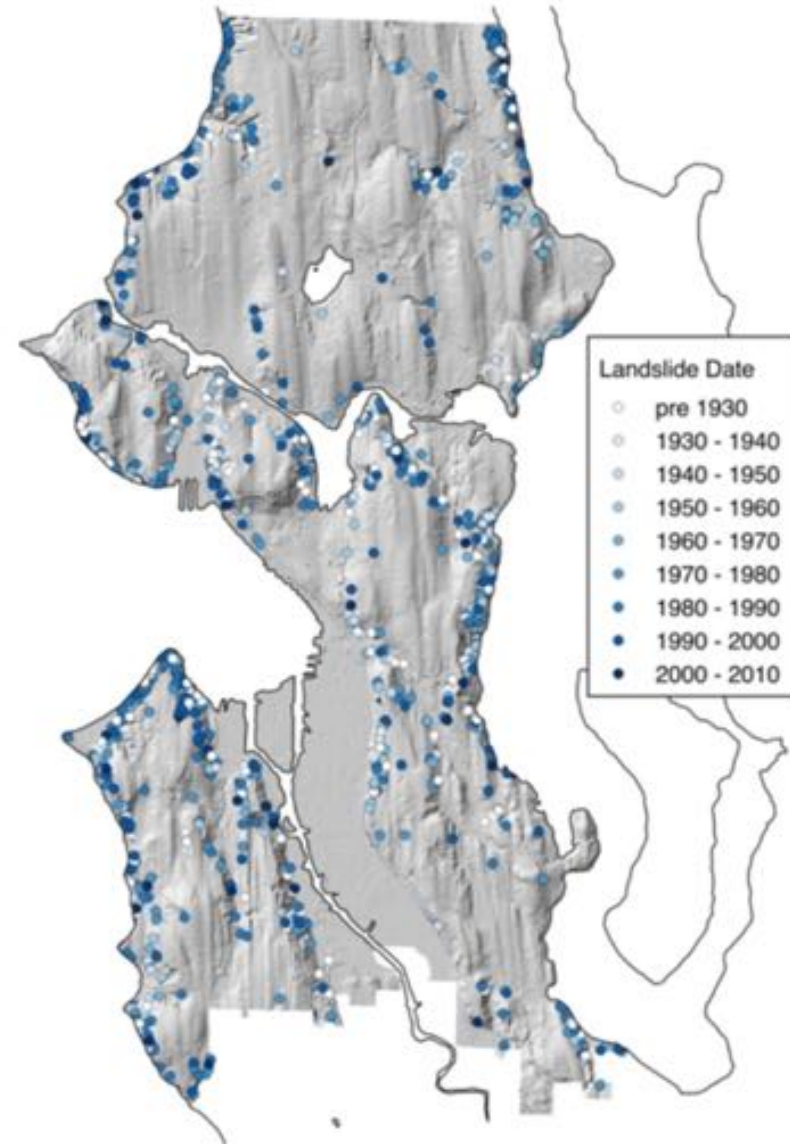
Photo: Sarah Harbert

Location	Lat.	Lon.	PGA Range	$\overline{PGA}$
Forks, WA	47.95	-124.38	0.26 – 1.26	0.66
Coos Bay, OR	43.36	-124.22	0.25 – 1.34	0.65
Aberdeen, WA	46.97	-123.82	0.20 – 1.10	0.57
Tillamook, OR	45.45	-123.84	0.26 – 1.06	0.53
Olympia, WA	47.03	-122.88	0.12 – 0.71	0.32
Port Angeles, WA	48.12	-123.43	0.12 – 0.63	0.31
Longview, WA	46.14	-122.94	0.12 – 0.44	0.26
Grants Pass, OR	42.94	-123.33	0.14 – 0.43	0.24
Salem, OR	44.94	-123.04	0.10 – 0.65	0.22
Portland, OR	45.52	-122.67	0.12 – 0.47	0.21
<b>Seattle, WA</b>	<b>47.60</b>	<b>-122.33</b>	<b>0.10 - 0.34</b>	<b>0.20</b>
Eugene, OR	44.05	-123.08	0.11 – 0.32	0.19
Bellingham, WA	48.75	-122.48	0.07 – 0.36	0.17

*Seattle's unstable slopes*



# Seattle's Unstable Hillslopes



# THE REALLY BIG ONE

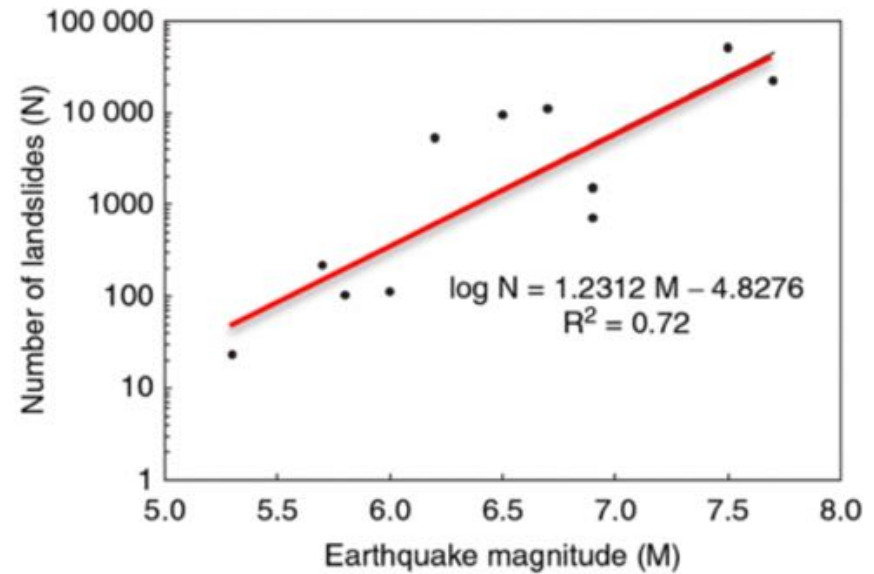
*An earthquake will destroy a sizable portion of the coastal Northwest. The question is when.*



By Kathryn Schulz

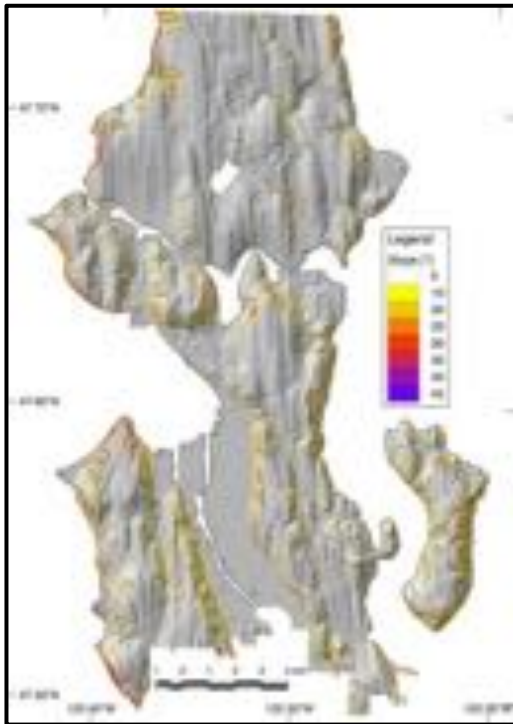


"The shaking from the Cascadia quake will set off landslides throughout the region—*up to thirty thousand of them in Seattle alone, the city's emergency-management office estimates.*"



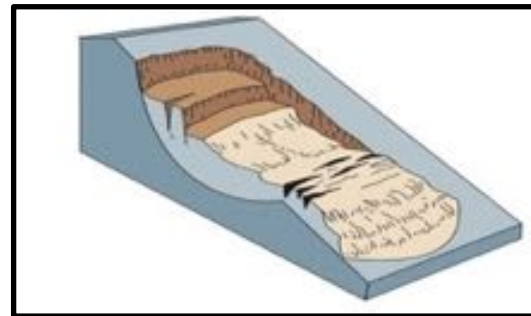
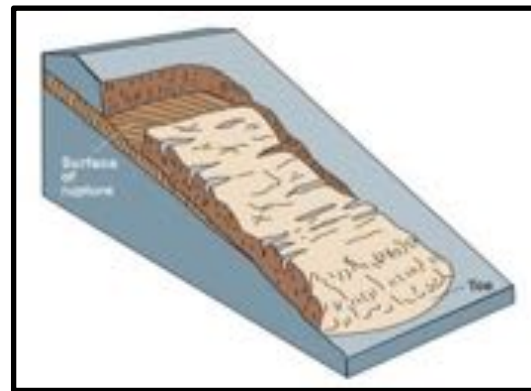
???

# M9 Coseismic Landslides



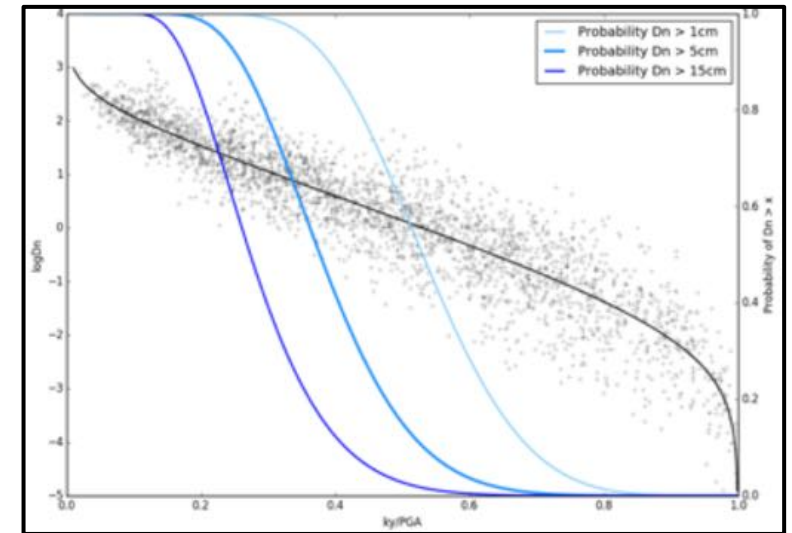
Place

*Material Strength*  
*Ground Saturation*



Landslide Models

## Newmark Analysis



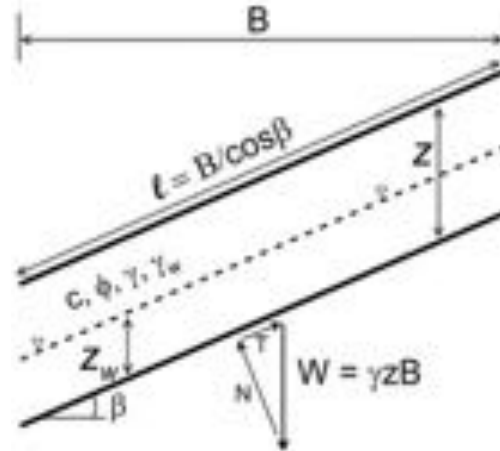
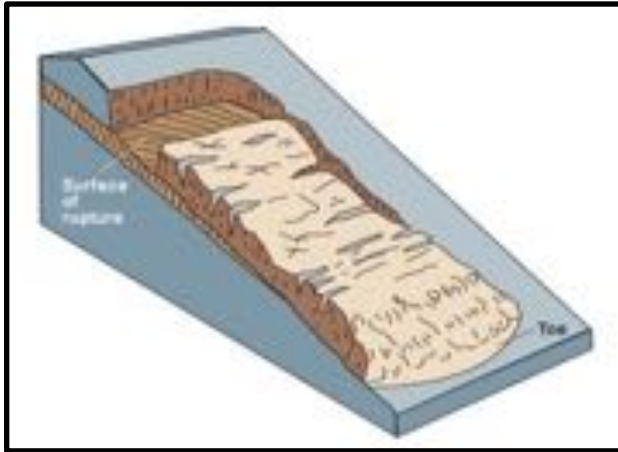
Hazard Model

*Coseismic Block Displacement*  
*Shaking Intensities*

# M9 Coseismic Landslides



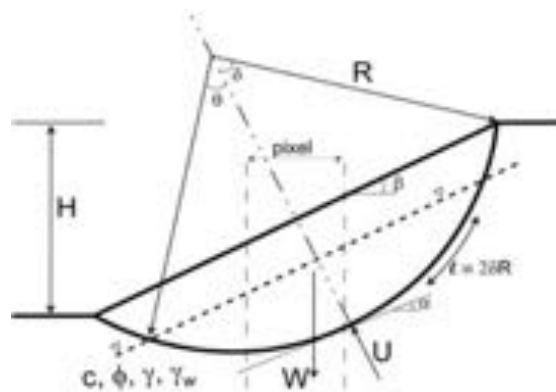
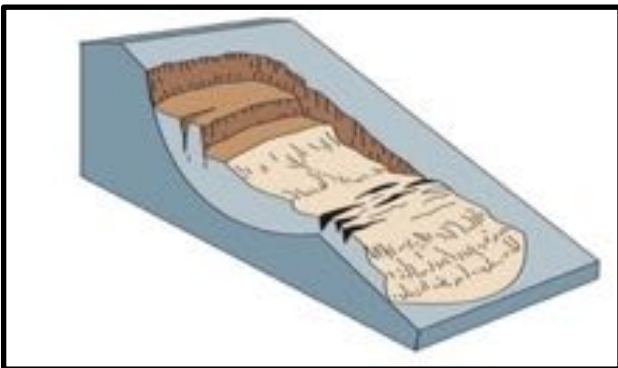
## Shallow (translational) slides



$$FS = \frac{c}{z \sin \beta \cos \beta} + \left(1 - m \frac{\gamma_w}{\gamma}\right) \frac{\tan \phi}{\tan \beta}$$

**Factor of Safety Calculation**  
**(Resisting Forces vs. Driving Forces)**  
 $k_y$

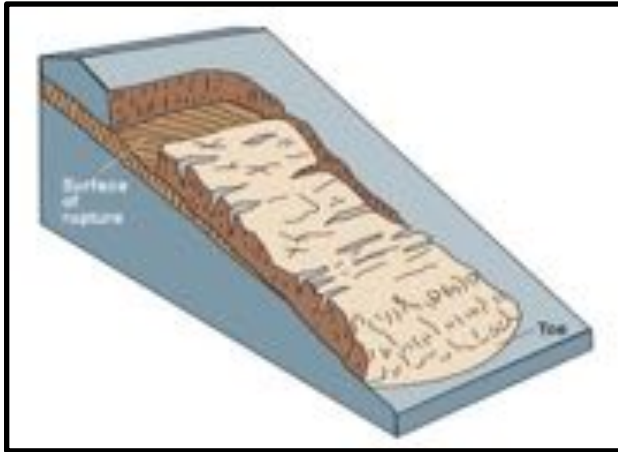
## Deep-seated (rotational) slides



$$FS = \frac{cl + (W \cos \alpha - U) \tan \phi}{W \sin \alpha}$$

# M9 Coseismic Landslides

## Shallow (translational) slides

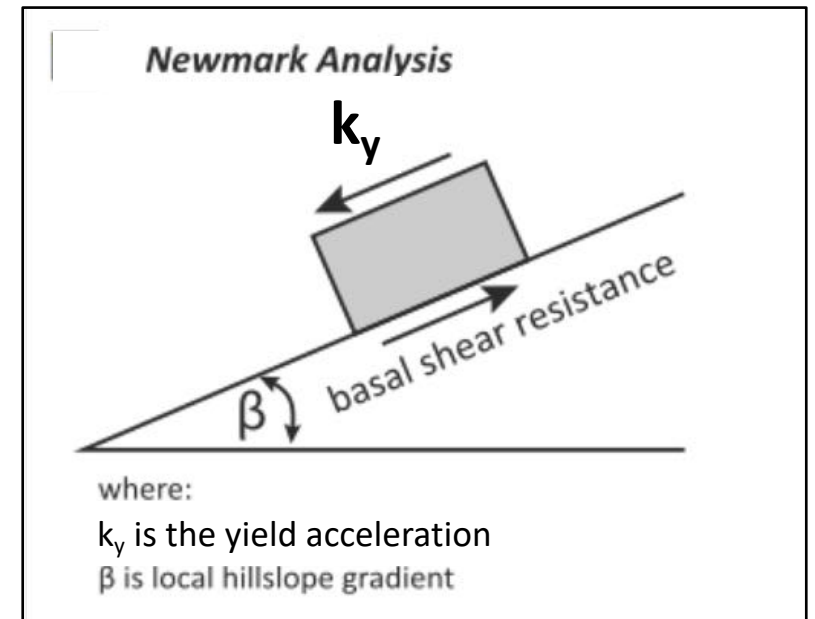
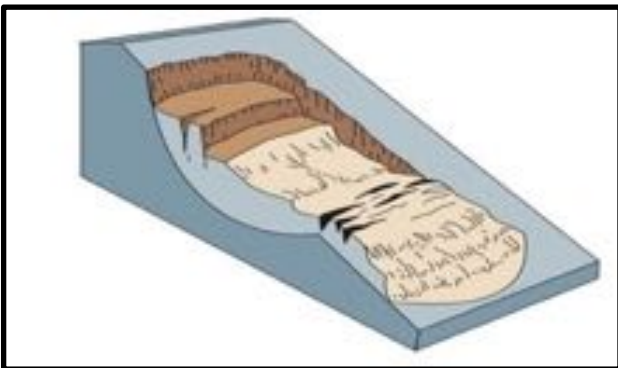


*yield*  $\rightarrow$   
*acceleration*

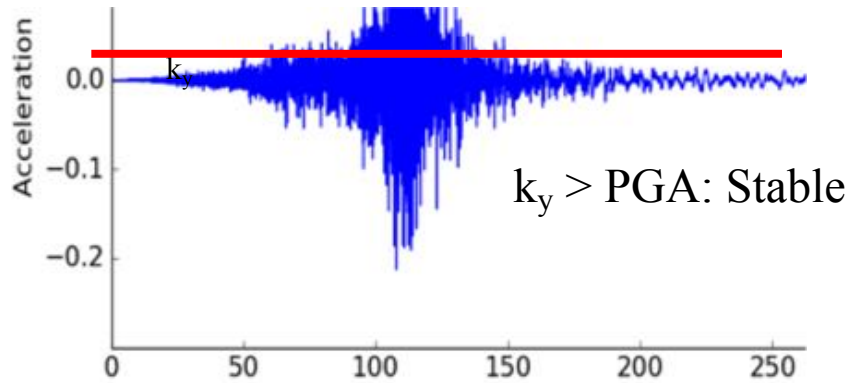
$$k_y = (FS - 1) \sin \beta$$

[the acceleration above which downslope motion will occur]

## Deep-seated (rotational) slides



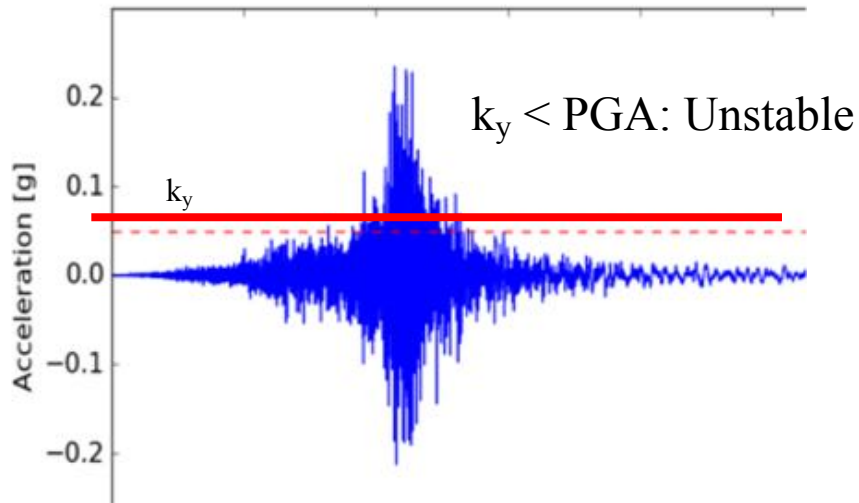
# M9 Coseismic Landslides



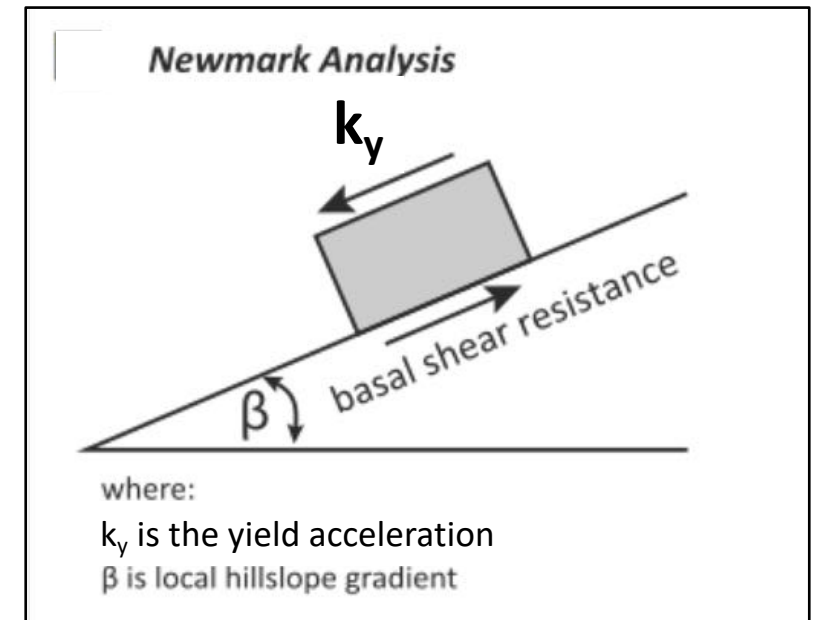
Slope is strong relative to ground shaking

$$k_y = (FS - 1) \sin \beta$$

[the acceleration above which downslope motion will occur]



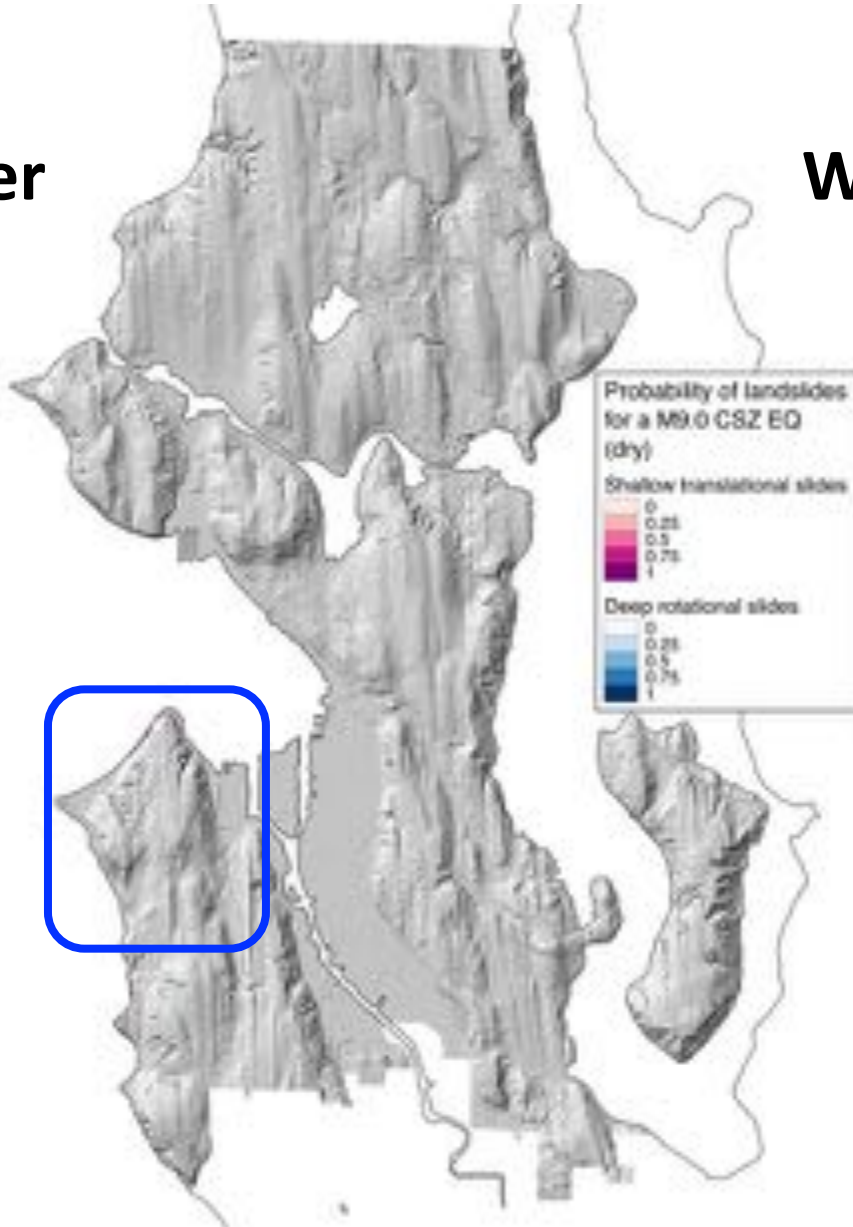
Slope is weak relative to ground shaking, fails coseismically



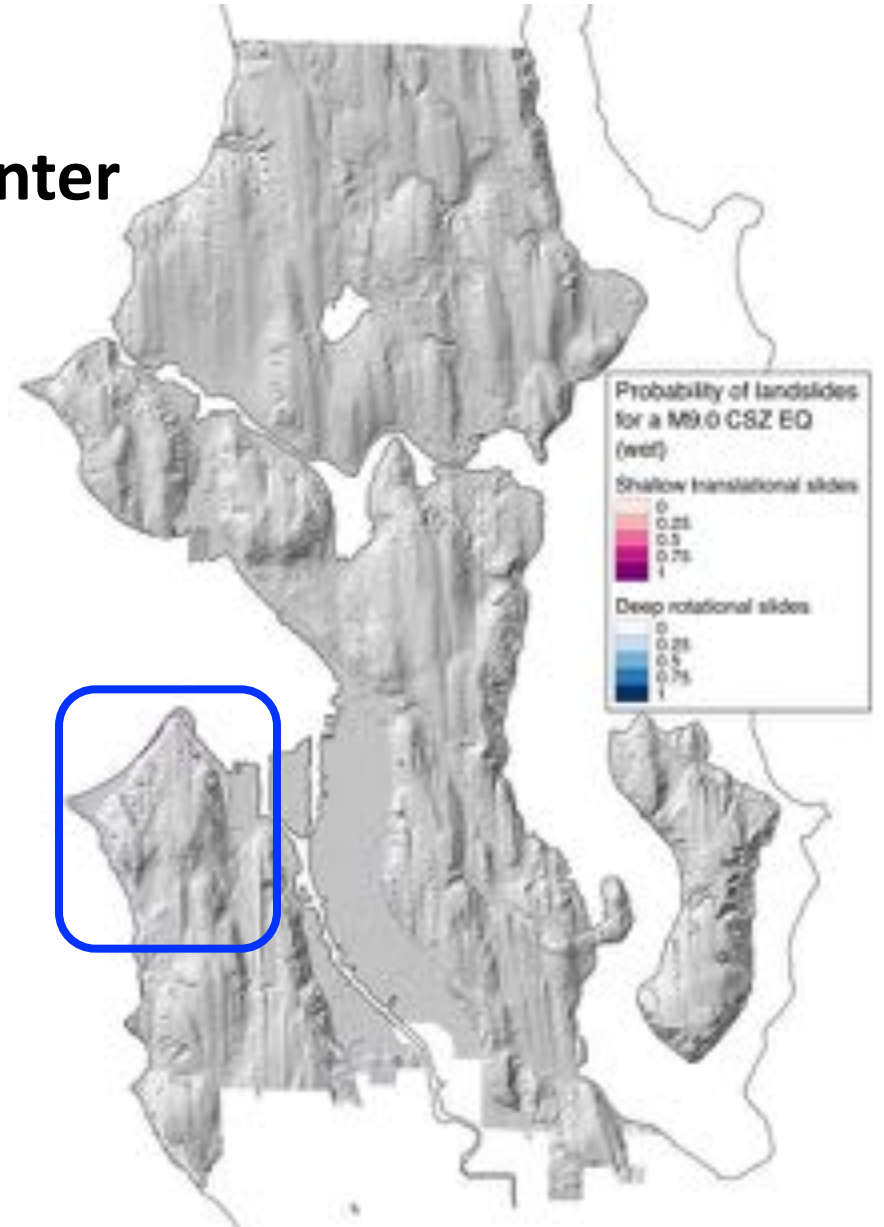


# M9 Coseismic Landslides

**Dry / Summer**



**Wet / Winter**

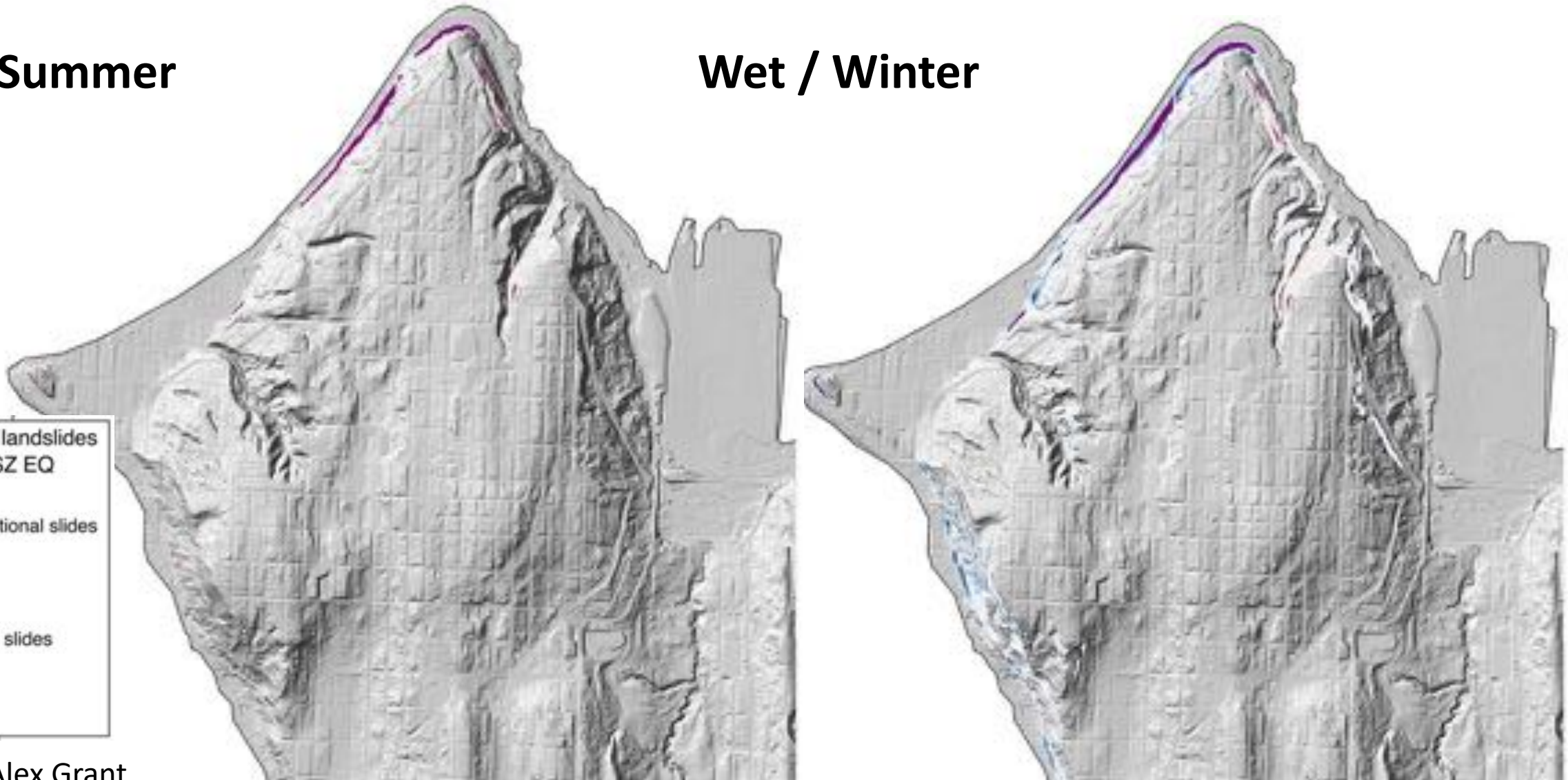


# M9 Coseismic Landslides

515% *increase* in areas of >5% predicted probability of *deep* rotational landslides dry to *wet*

**Dry / Summer**

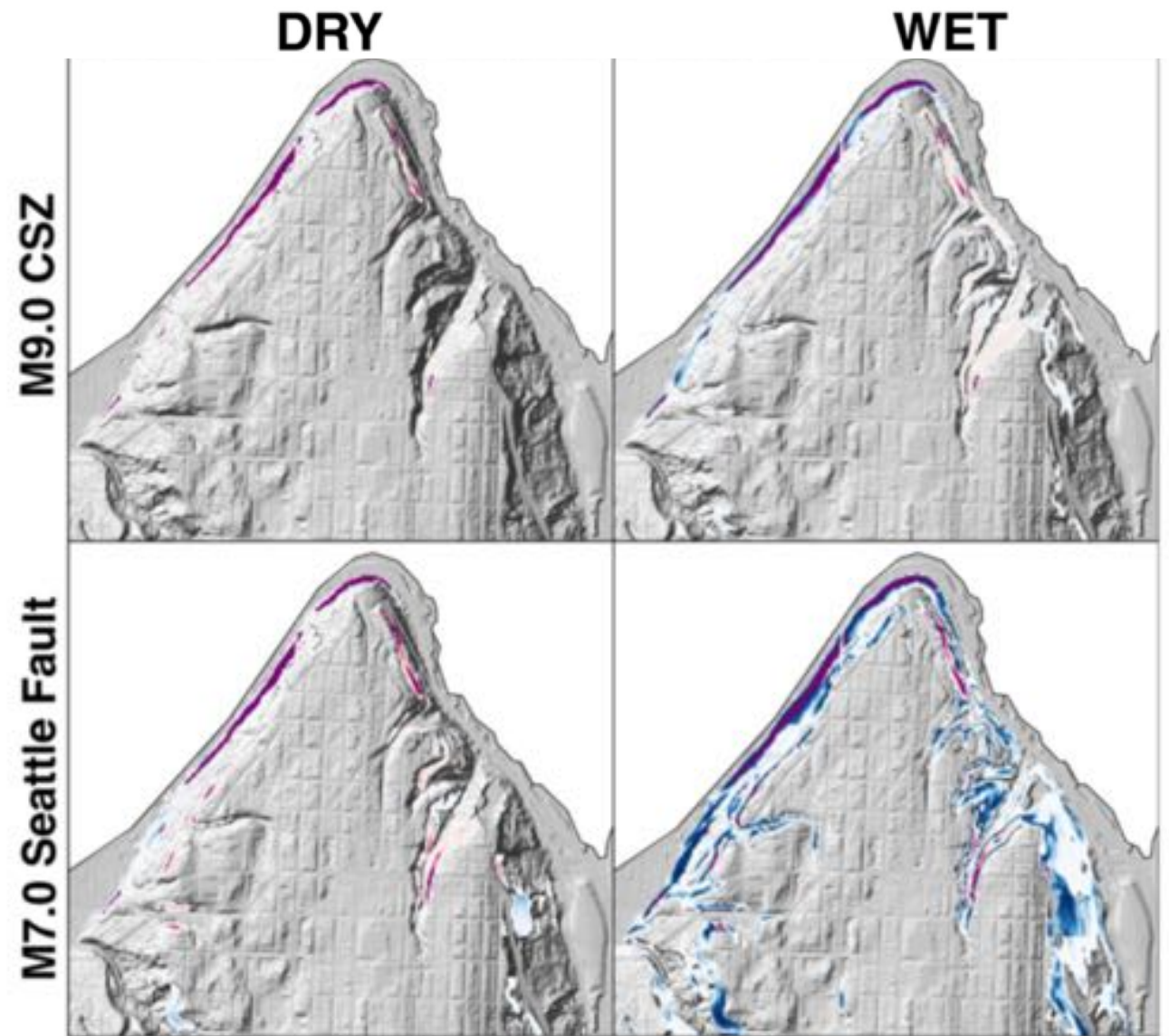
**Wet / Winter**



# M9 vs. Seattle Fault



USGS



**Probability of Landslide Triggering**

Shallow Translational Landslides

Deep Rotational Landslides



## Good news

We have a method that appears to provide accurate spatial (i.e., location) predictions of landslides.

M9 landslides will be numerous, but perhaps somewhat less severe than initially expected in Seattle.

## Concerns

We can not predict the seasonal timing of coseismic landslides, and we know that consequences are worse under wet conditions.

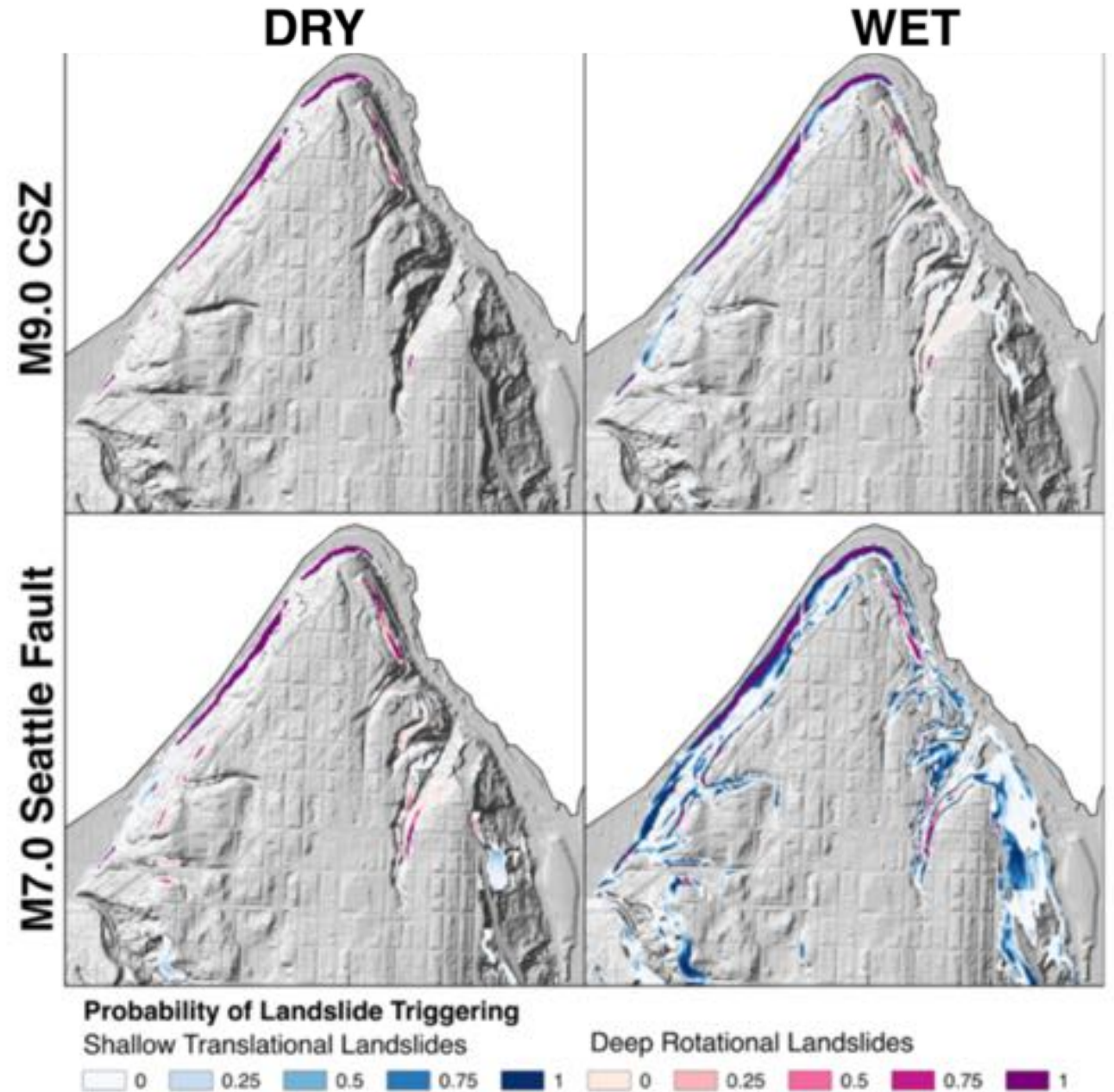
A Seattle fault earthquake is the dominant coseismic landslide event.

## What remains

Mapping of other areas that will be shaken more strongly by M9 (e.g., the coast)

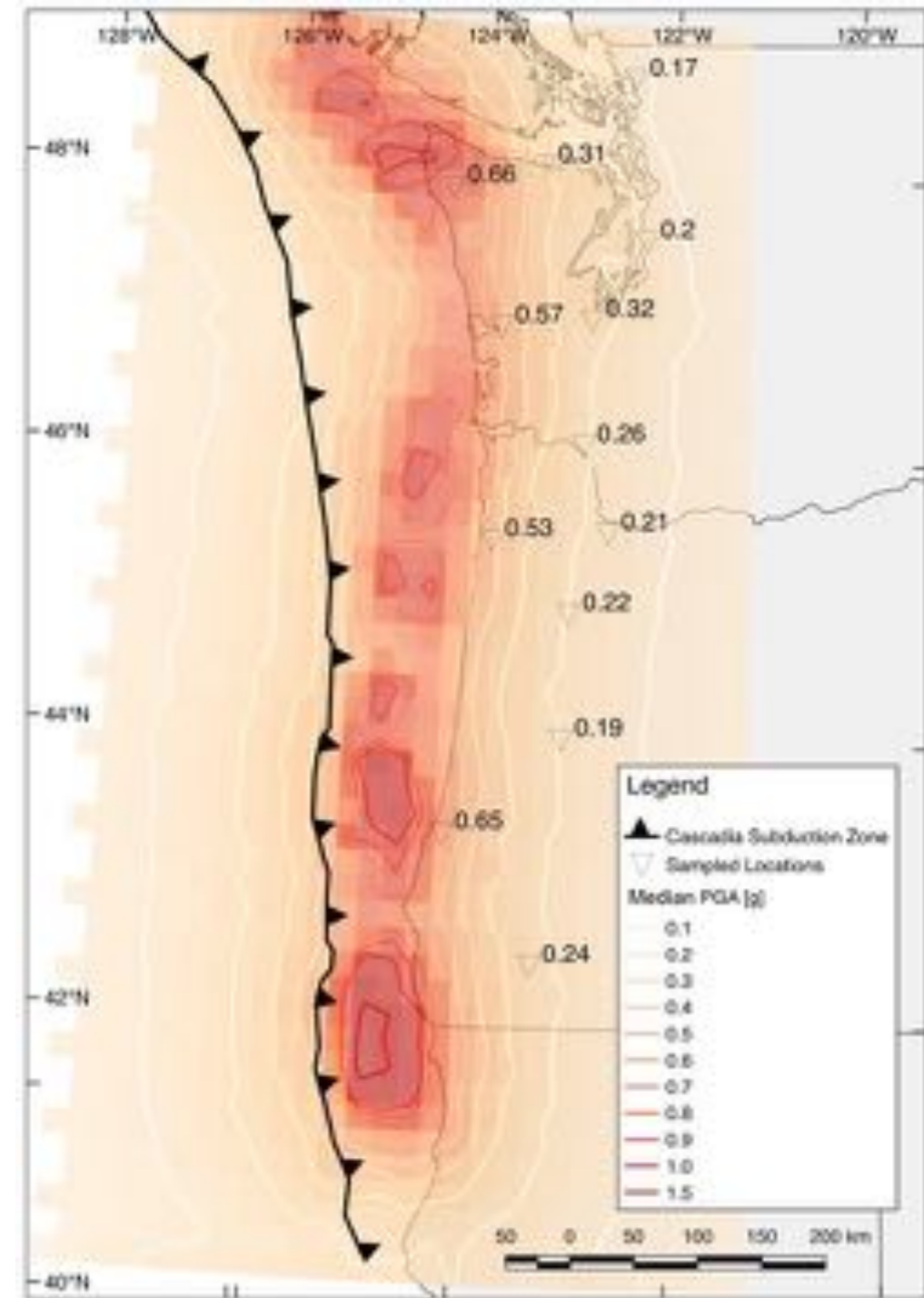
Assessment of the consequences of coseismic landslides (especially on roads and infrastructure)

Enact policy and communication with stakeholders



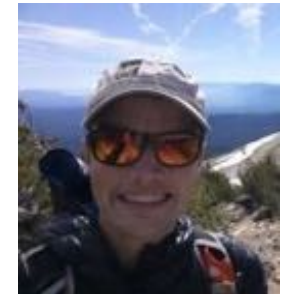
# M9 Coseismic Landslides

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Eugene, OR	44.05	-123.08	0.11 – 0.32	0.19
Bellingham, WA	48.75	-122.48	0.07 – 0.36	0.17



# Where are the M9 Coseismic Landslides ? And how do we date them?

***Sean LaHusen*** – PhD student UW



*Josh Roering & Will Struble*



*Adam Booth*

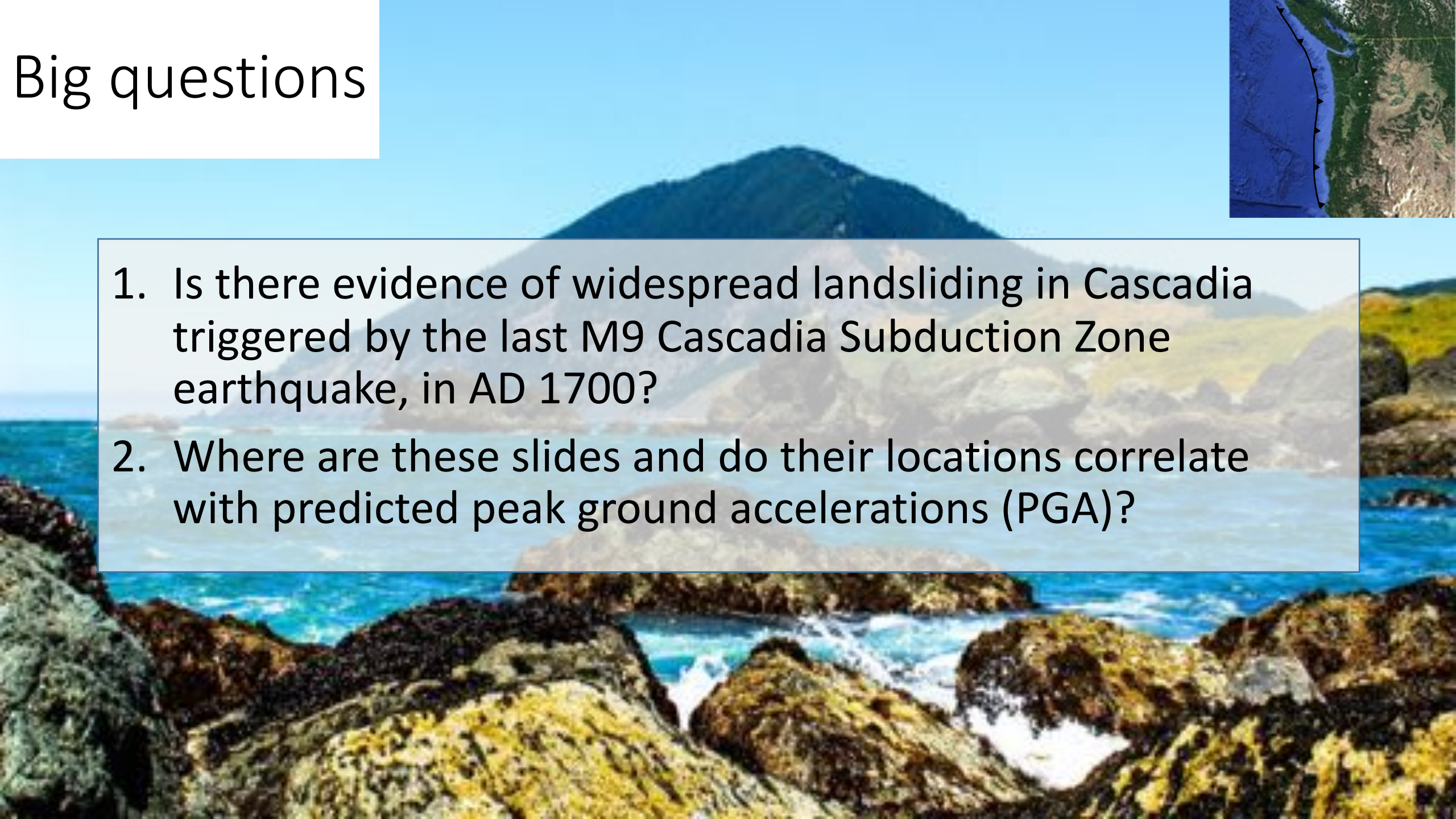


*Alison Duvall, Alex Grant, Joseph Wartman, David Montgomery*

# Big questions



1. Is there evidence of widespread landsliding in Cascadia triggered by the last M9 Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, in AD 1700?
2. Where are these slides and do their locations correlate with predicted peak ground accelerations (PGA)?



# Landslide deposits smooth over time

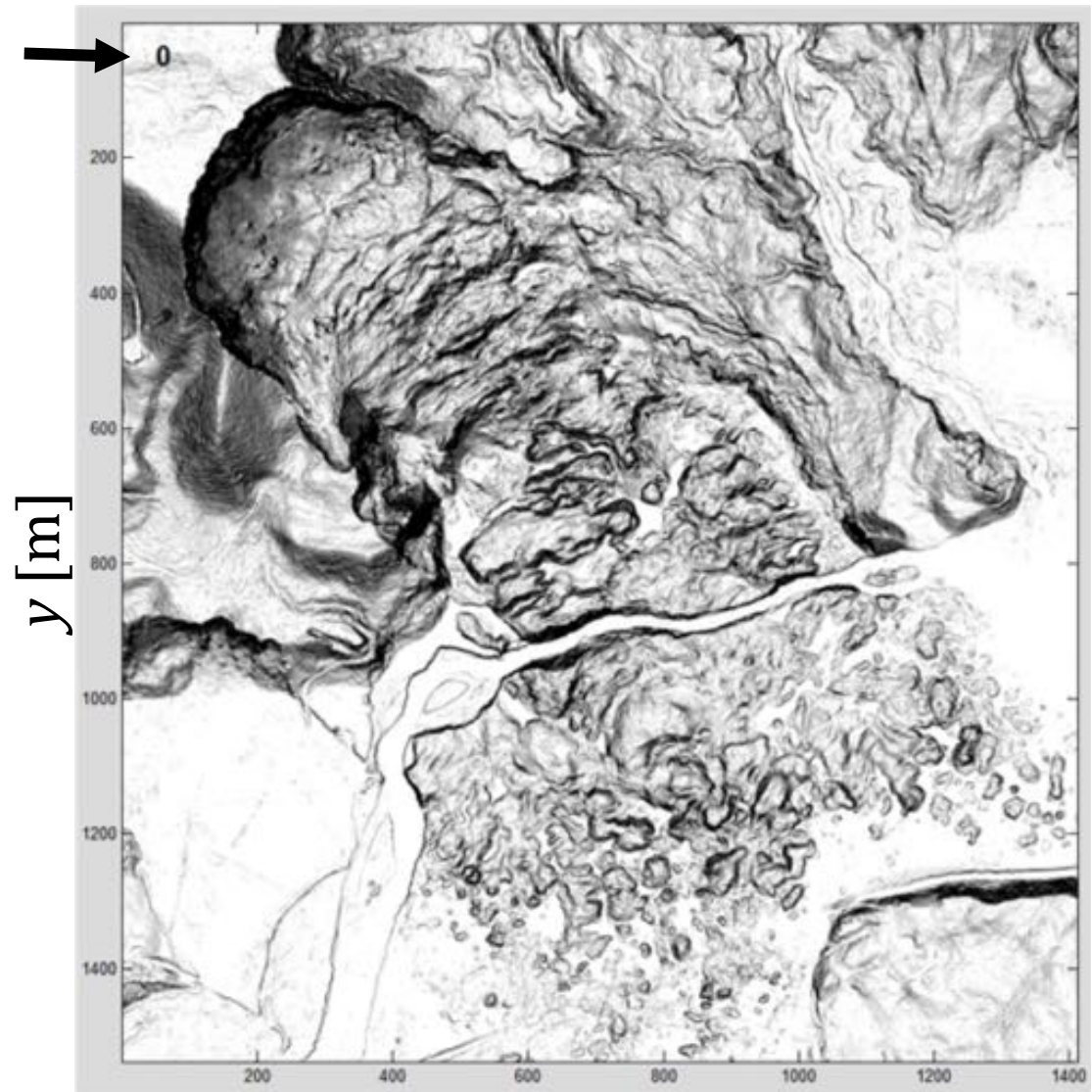
$$q_s = \frac{K \nabla z}{1 - (|\nabla z|/s_c)^2}$$

Hillslope transport coefficient  $\downarrow$   $K \nabla z$   $\leftarrow$  Slope

$q_s$   $\leftarrow$  Soil flux

$s_c$   $\leftarrow$  Critical slope

Time (yrs)  $\rightarrow$

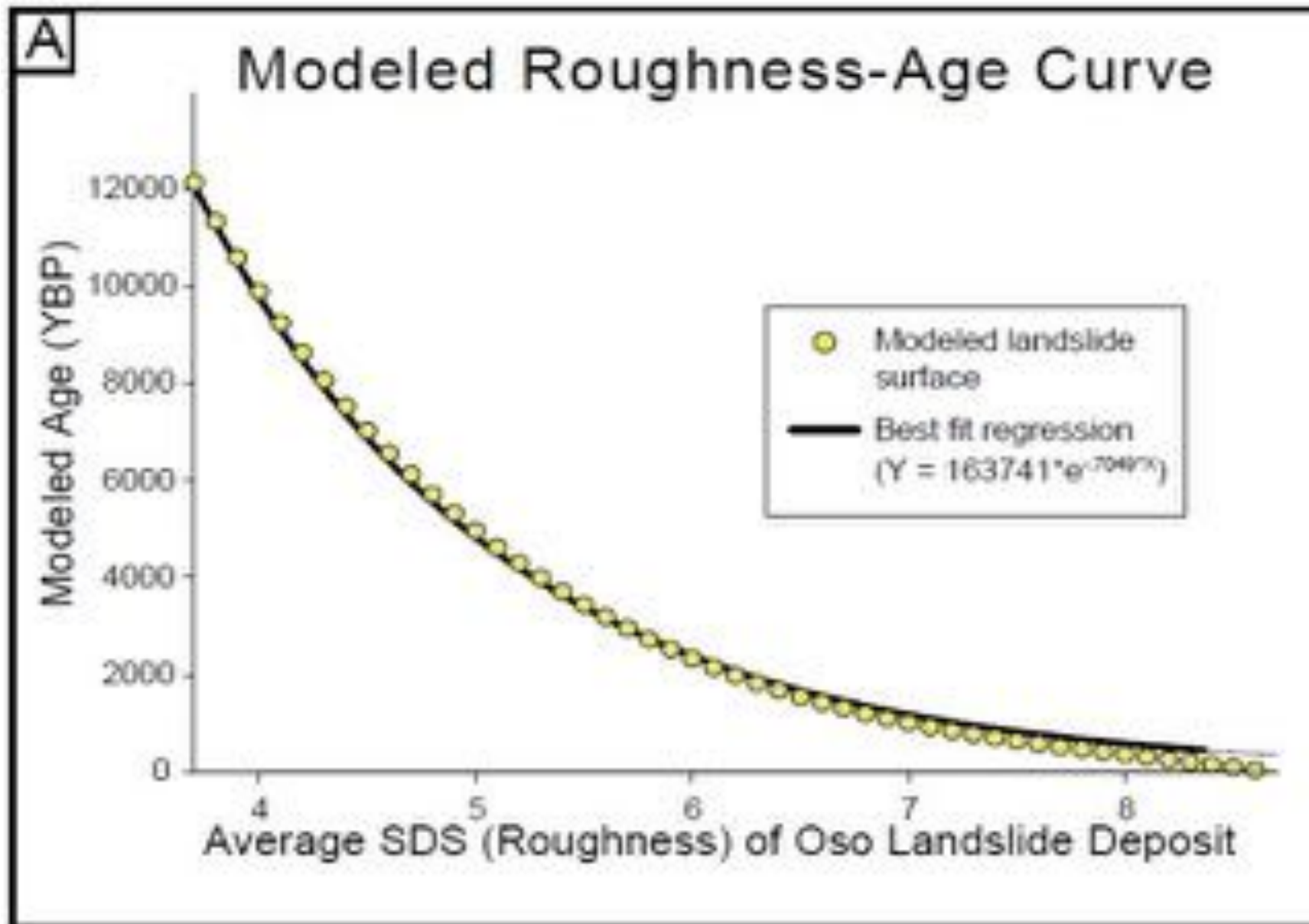


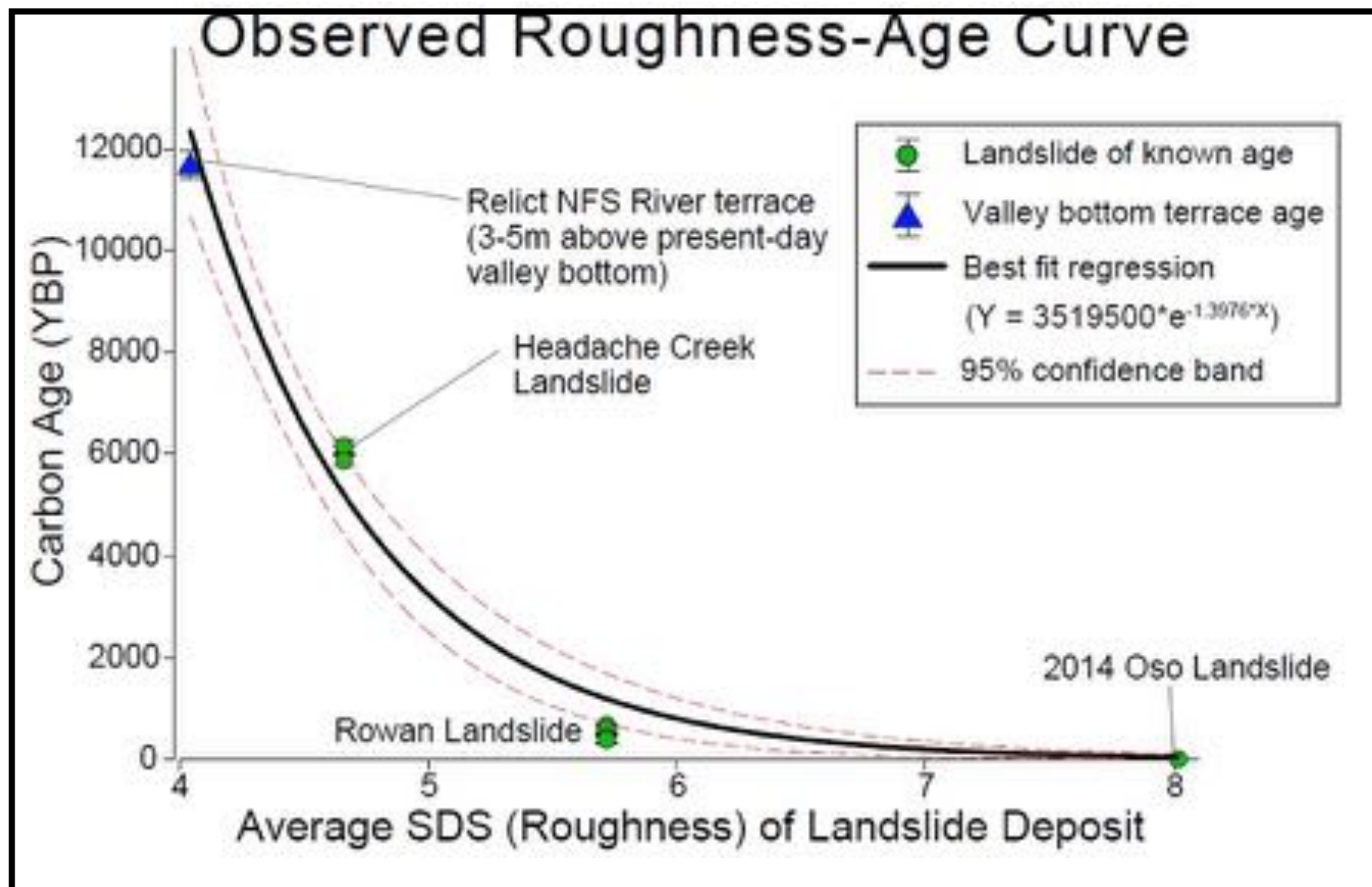
$K = 0.003 \text{ m}^2/\text{yr}$

$x \text{ [m]}$

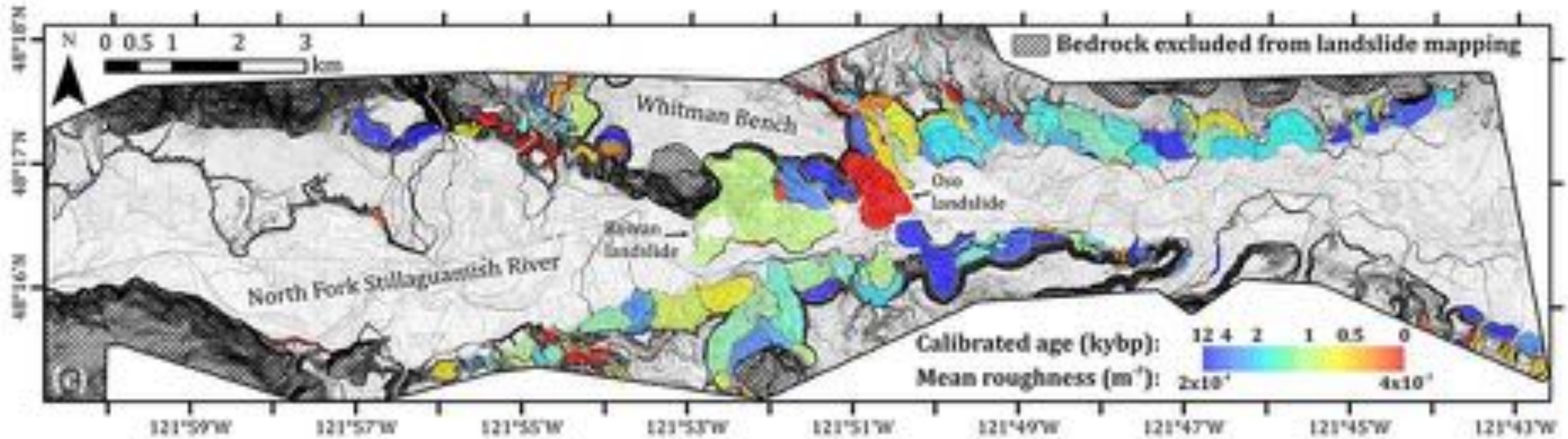
Booth et al. (2017)



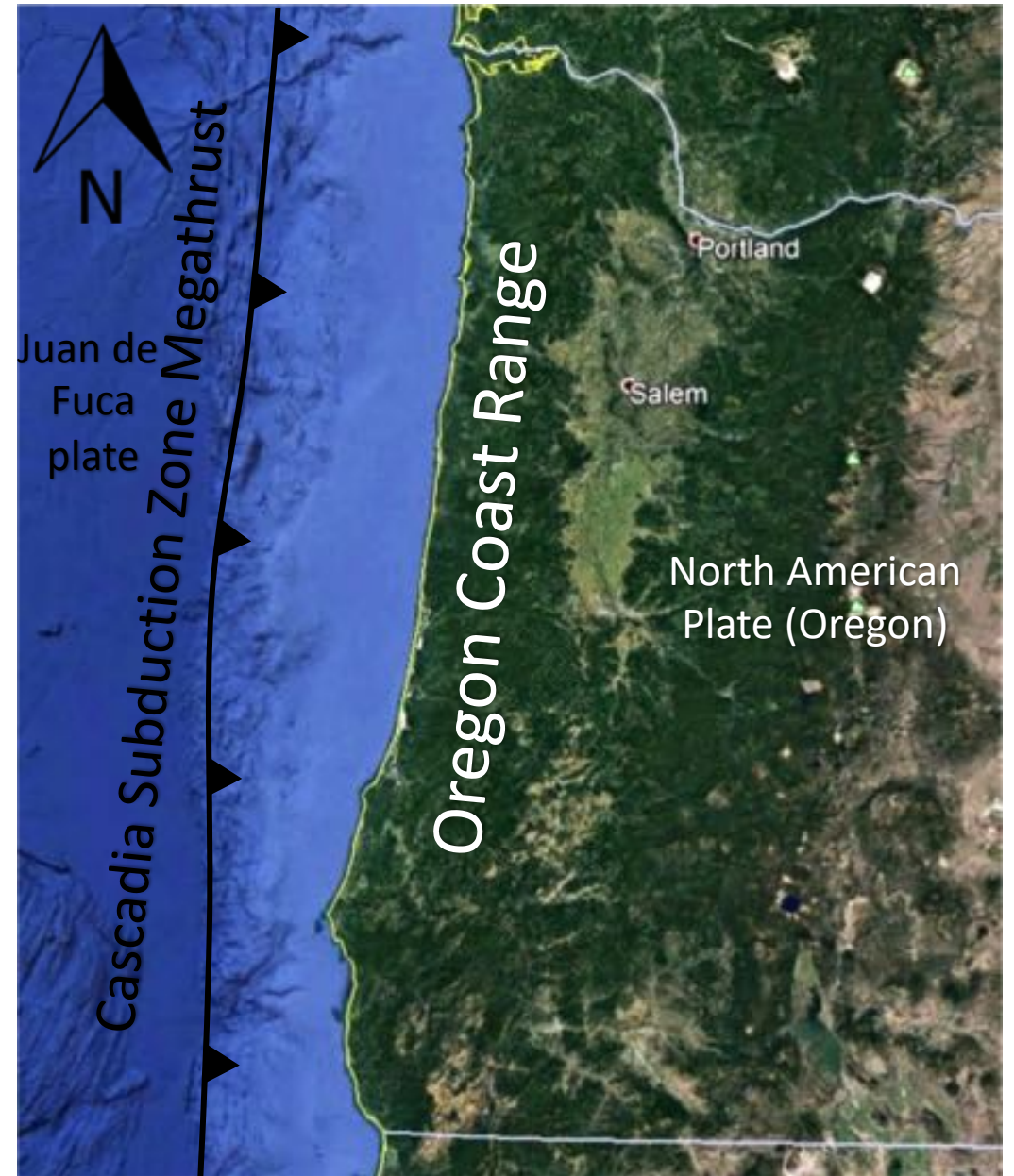




# Construct landslide chronology



# Oregon Coast Range



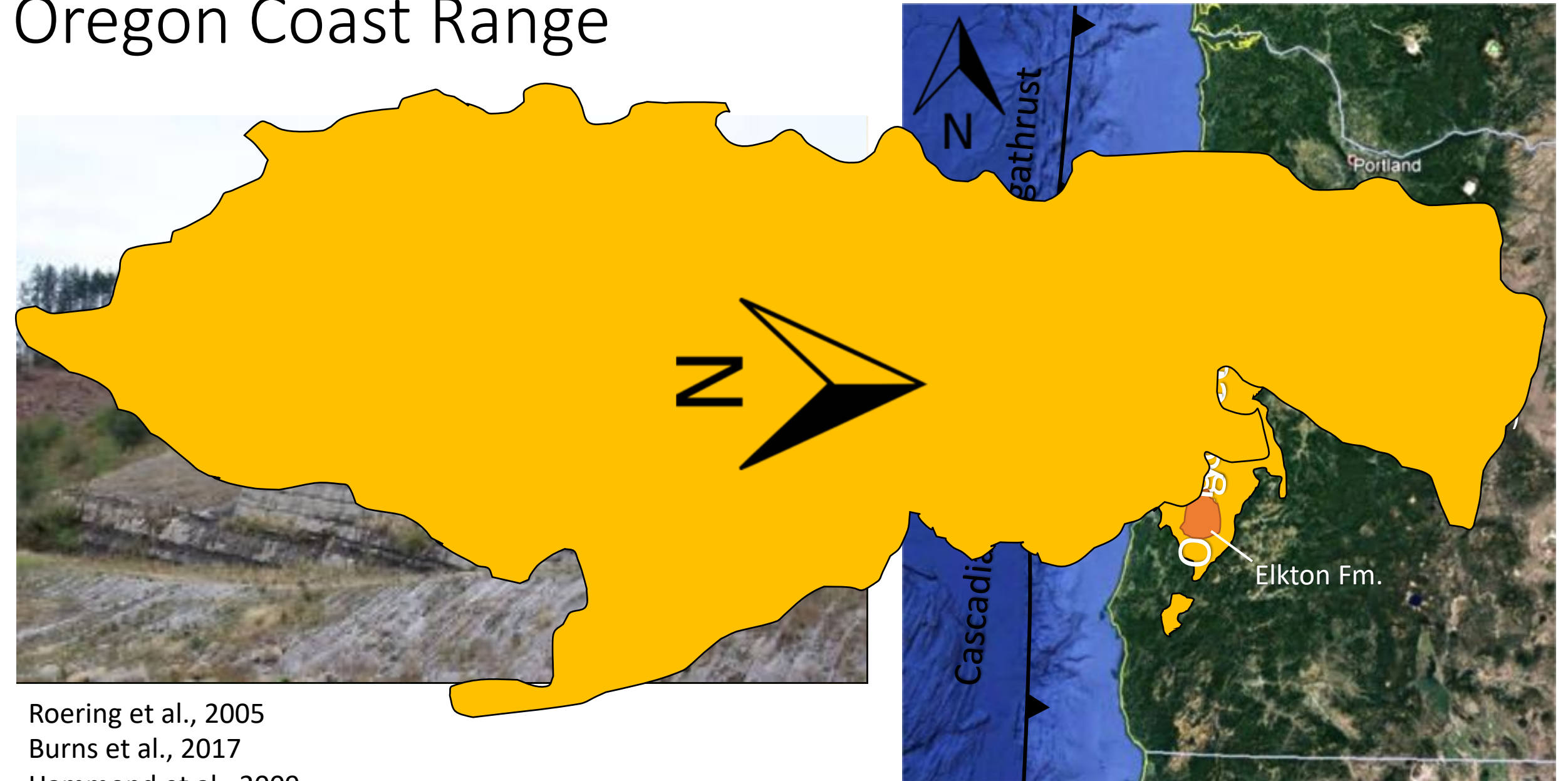
# Oregon Coast Range

- **Close to Cascadia Subduction Zone, relief**
- **Expansive (~60km x 200km)**
- **Similar lithology**
  - Eocene sandstone and siltstone
- **LiDAR available (DOGAMI)**
- **Extensive deep seated landslides**
- **Minimally deformed**
  - Long wavelength, open folds
  - Most bedding subhorizontal to gently dipping

Roering et al., 2005  
Burns et al., 2017  
Hammond et al., 2009

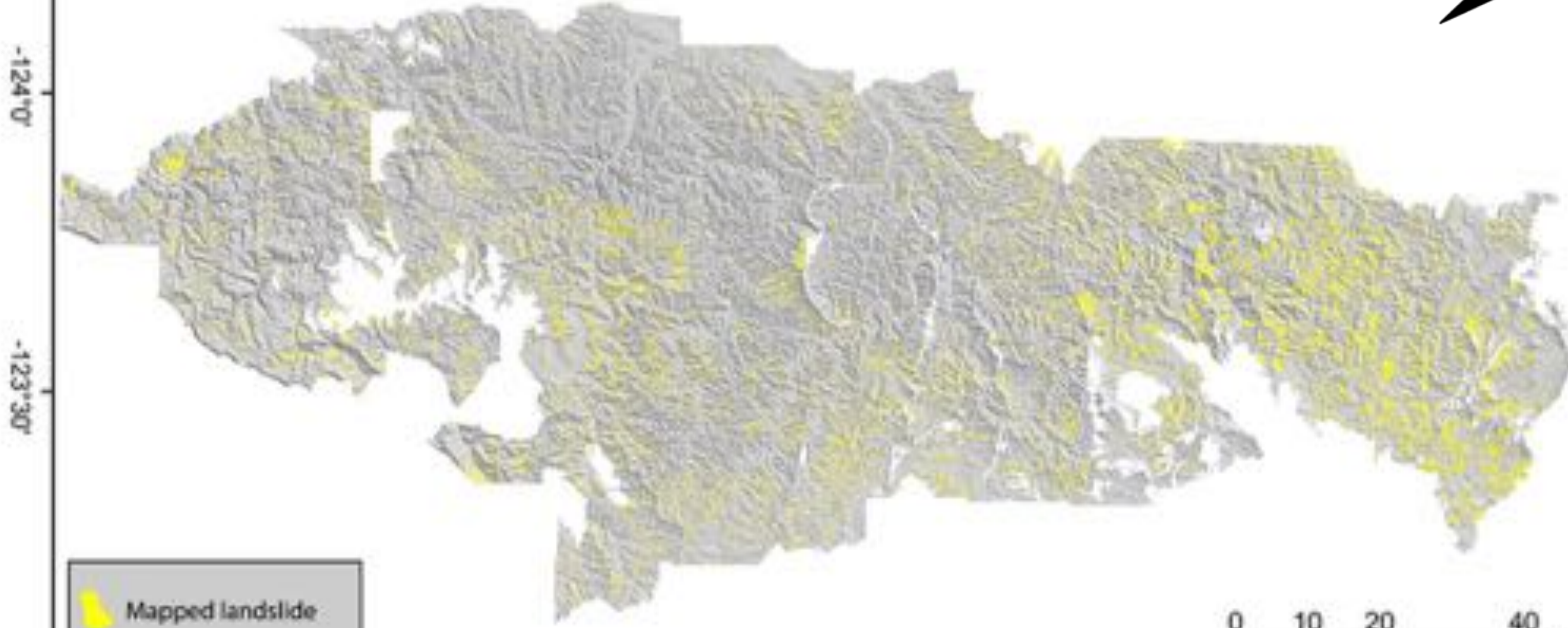


# Oregon Coast Range

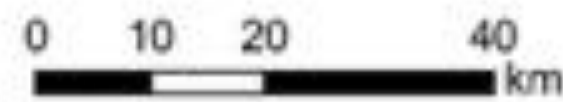


Roering et al., 2005  
Burns et al., 2017  
Hammond et al., 2009

n = 9,700



 Mapped landslide



43°30'

44°0'

44°30'

-124°0'

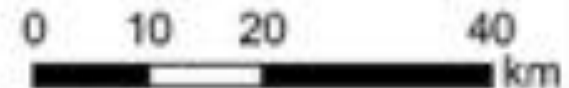
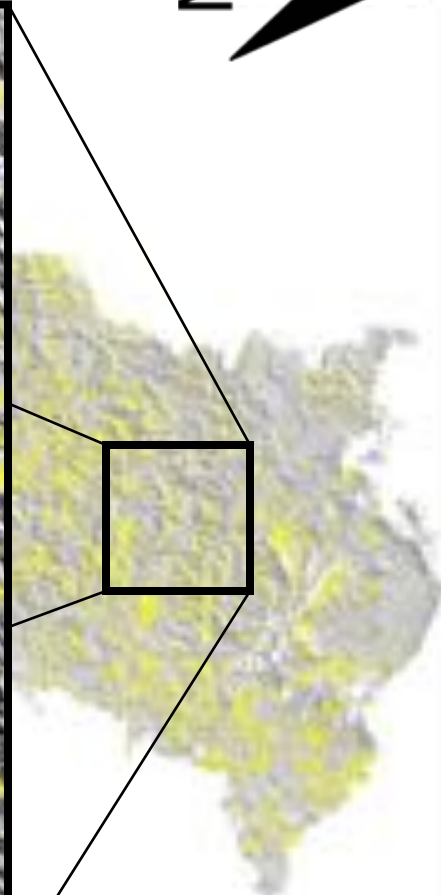
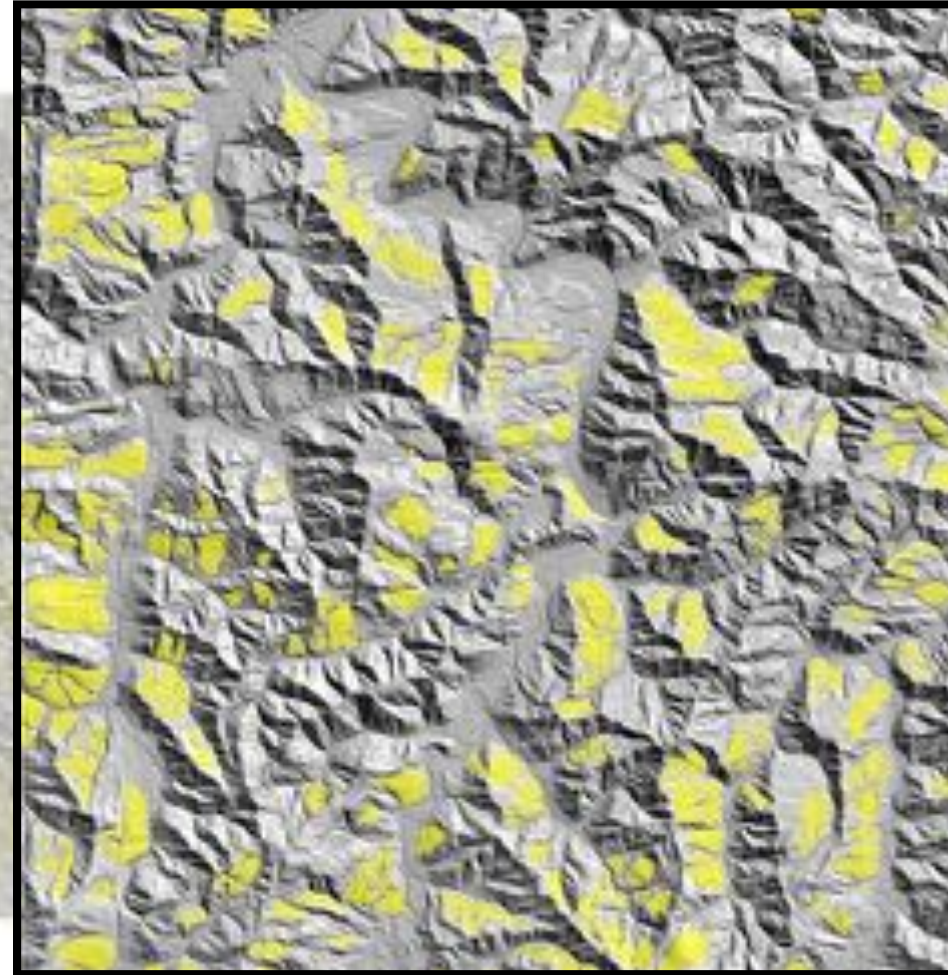
-123°30'

n = 9,700

- Deep-seated translational and rotational slides
- Clearly defined headscarp and body
- All complexes mapped as separate slides
- Avoid channelized earthflows or rock avalanche deposits
- >10,000m<sup>2</sup> area

-124°0'

-123°30'



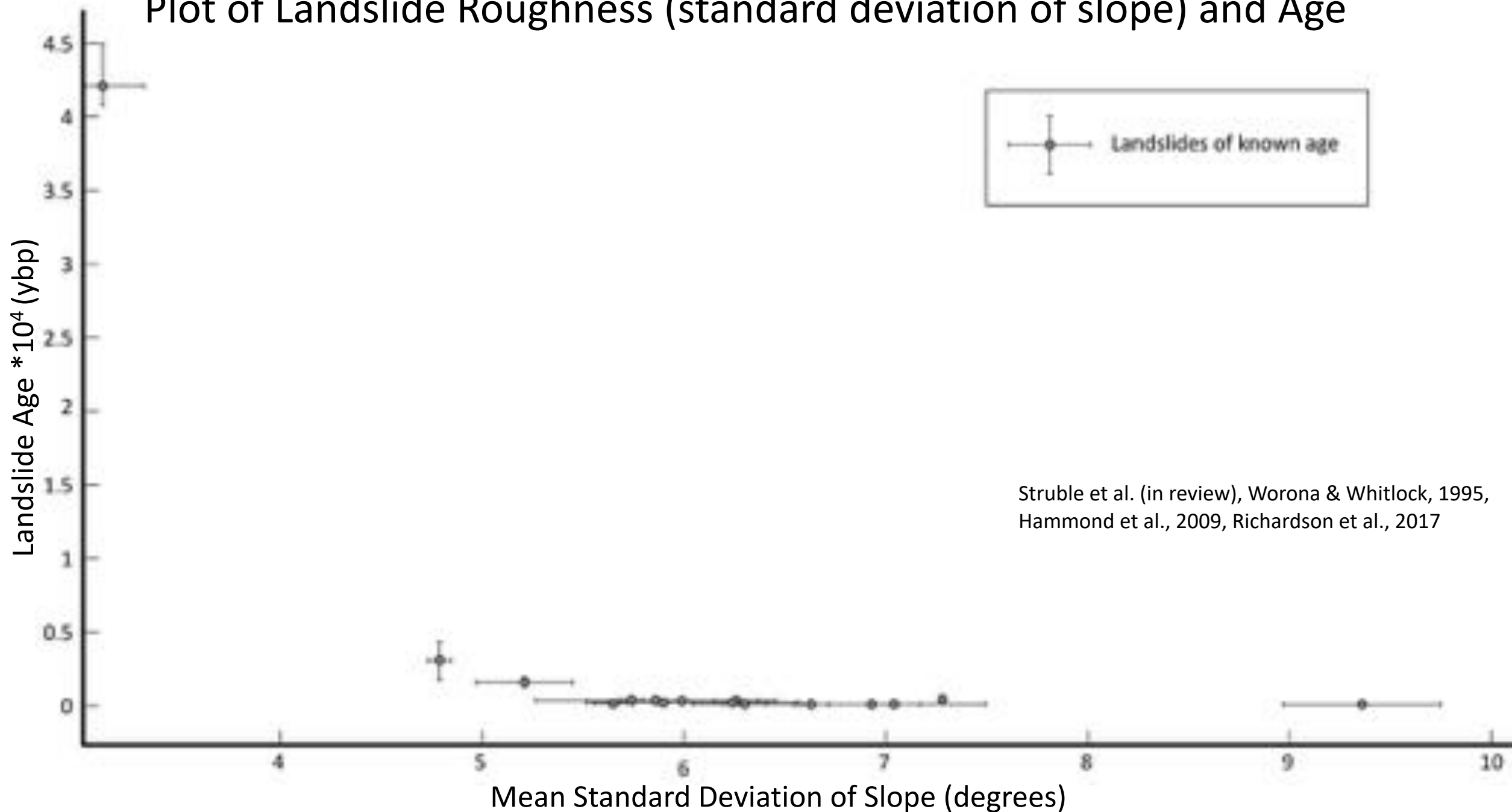
43°30'

44°0'

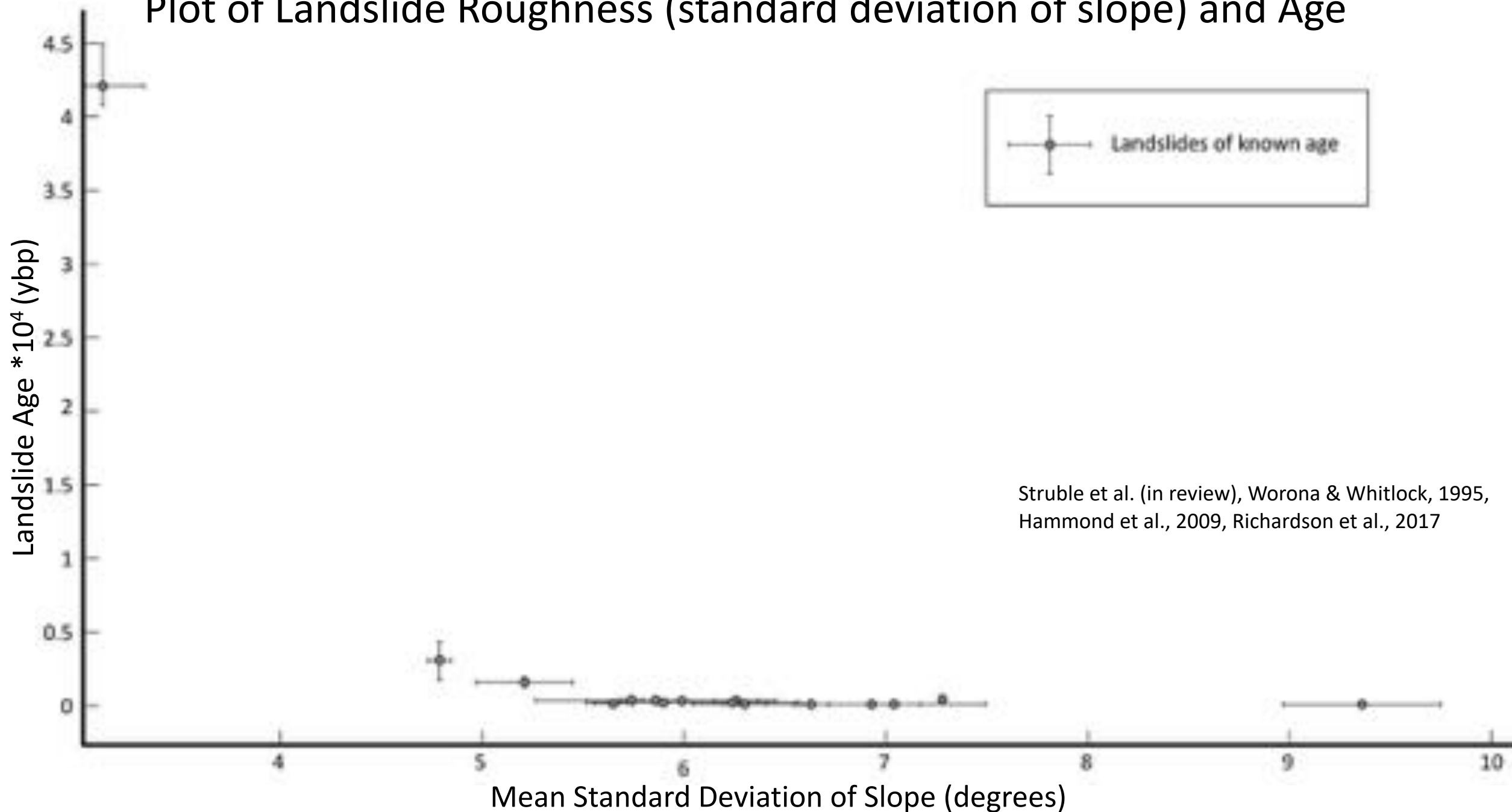
44°30'



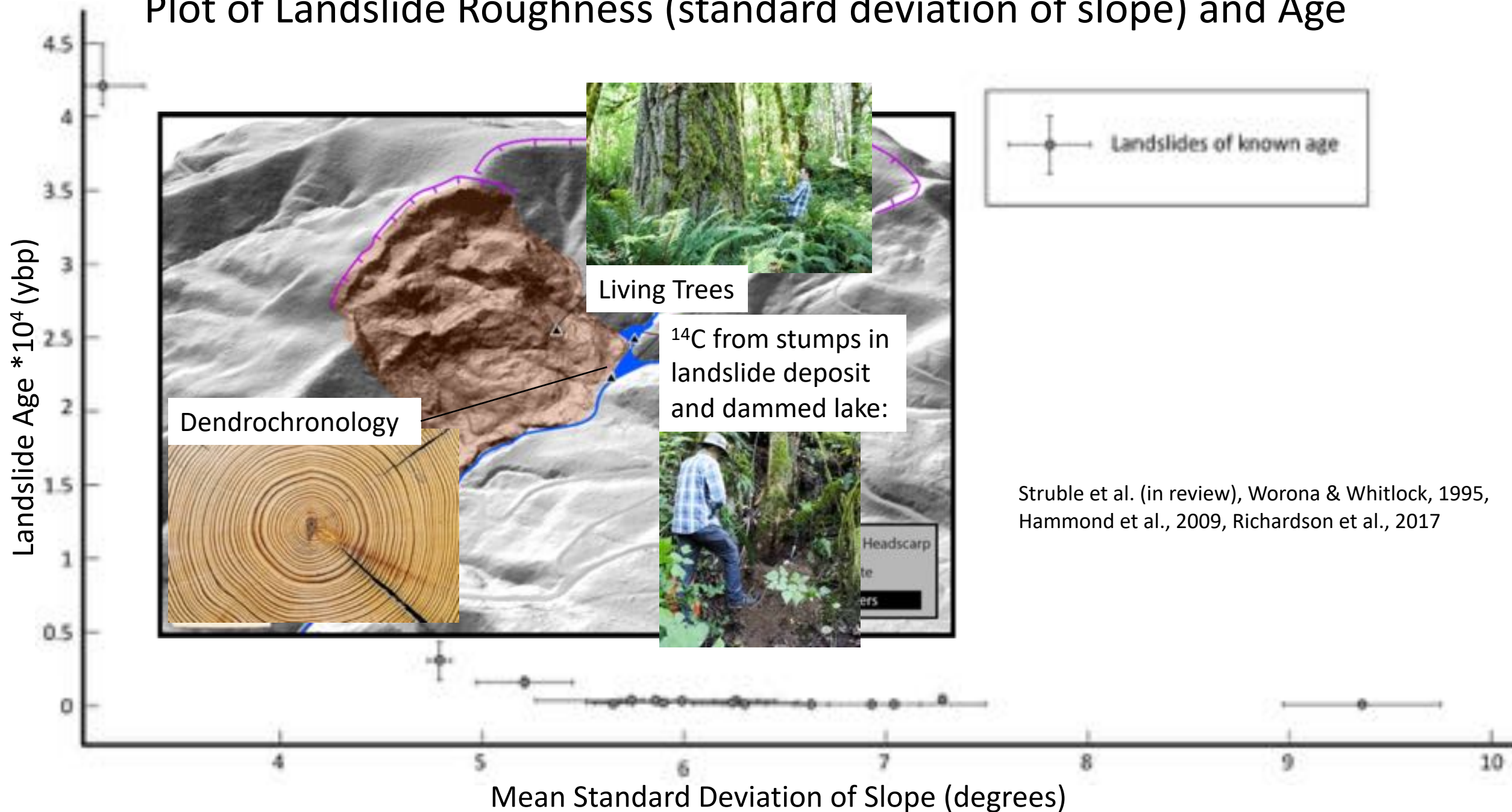
# Plot of Landslide Roughness (standard deviation of slope) and Age



# Plot of Landslide Roughness (standard deviation of slope) and Age

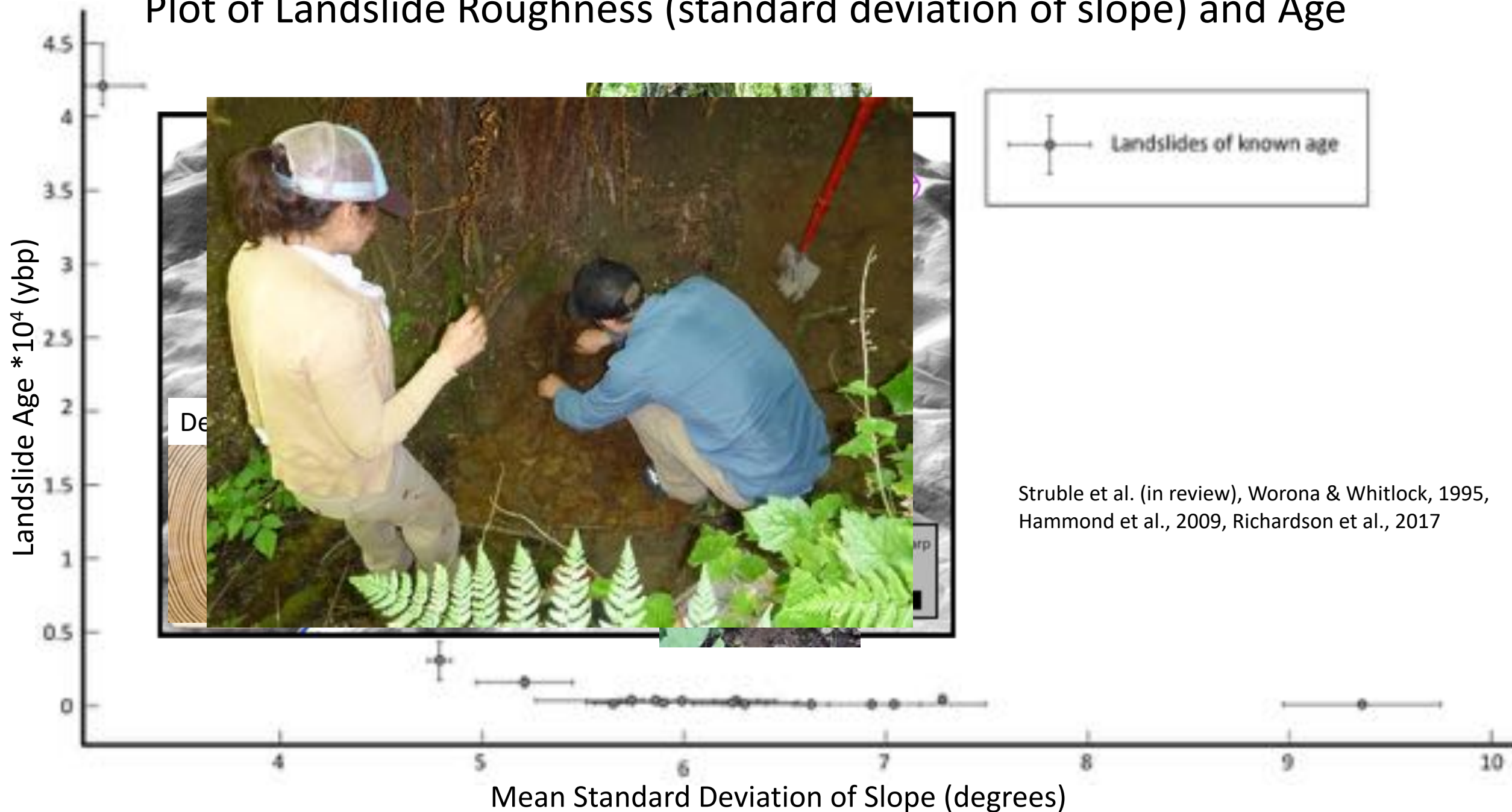


# Plot of Landslide Roughness (standard deviation of slope) and Age

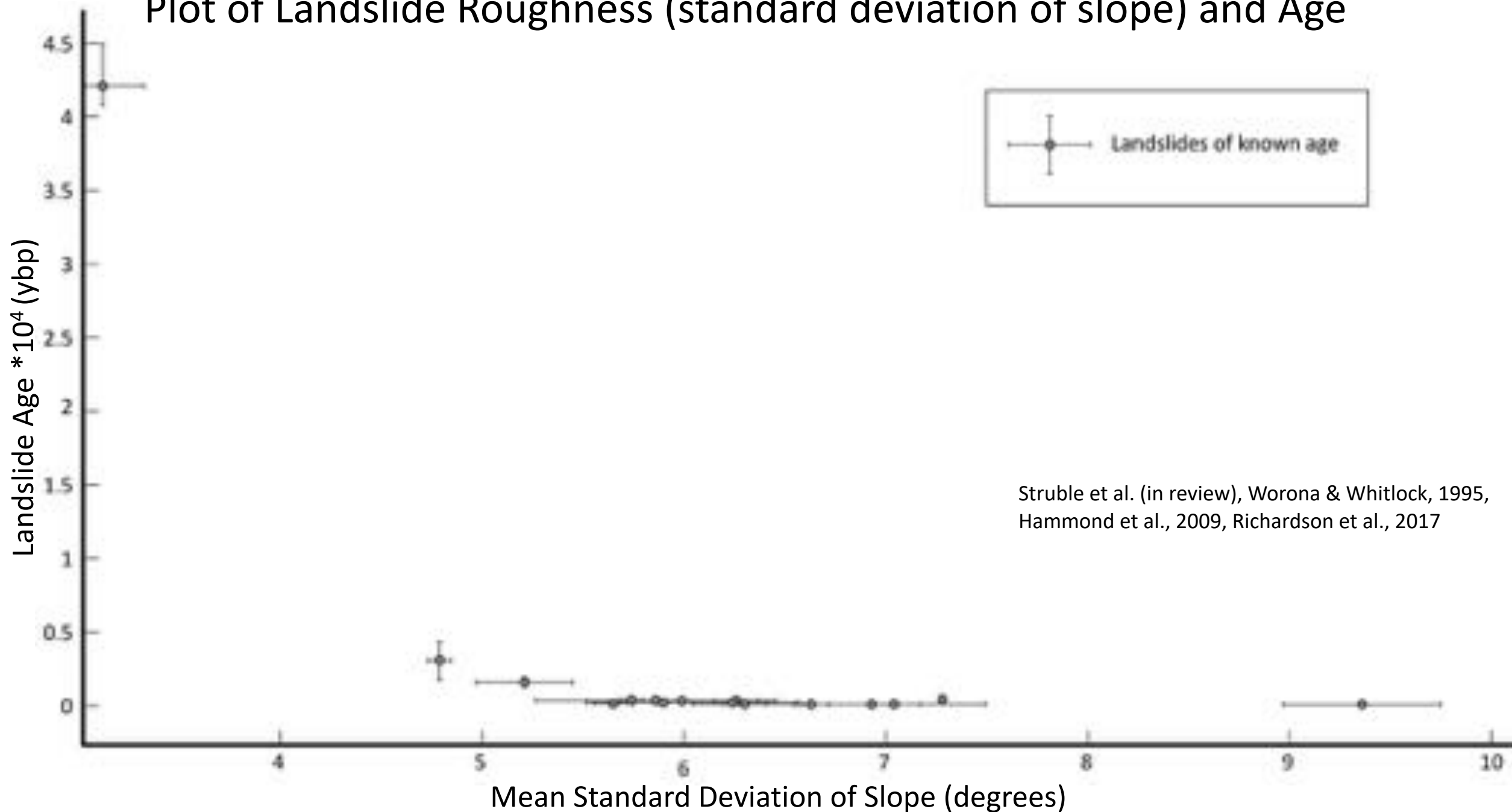


Struble et al. (in review), Worona & Whitlock, 1995, Hammond et al., 2009, Richardson et al., 2017

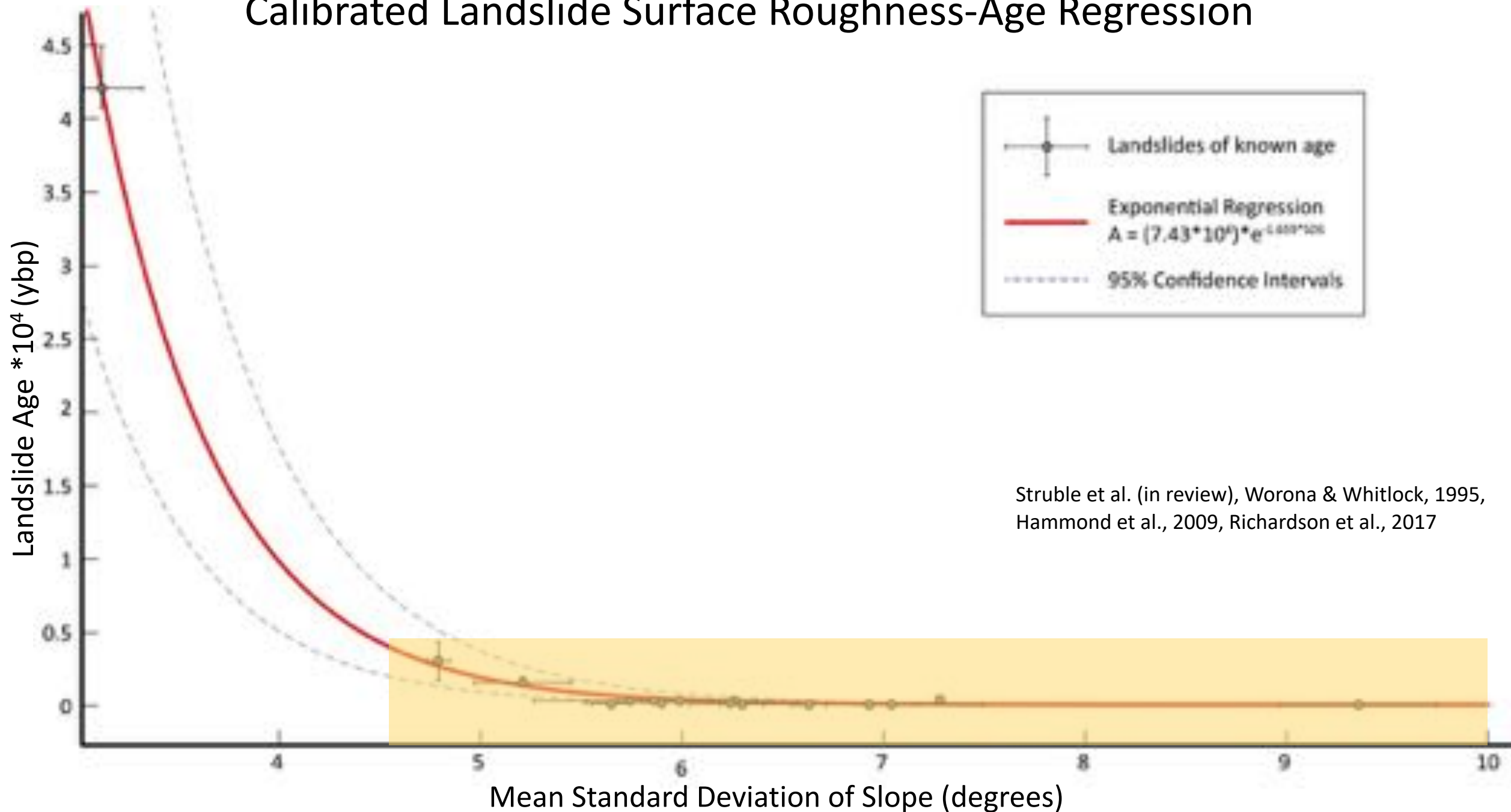
# Plot of Landslide Roughness (standard deviation of slope) and Age



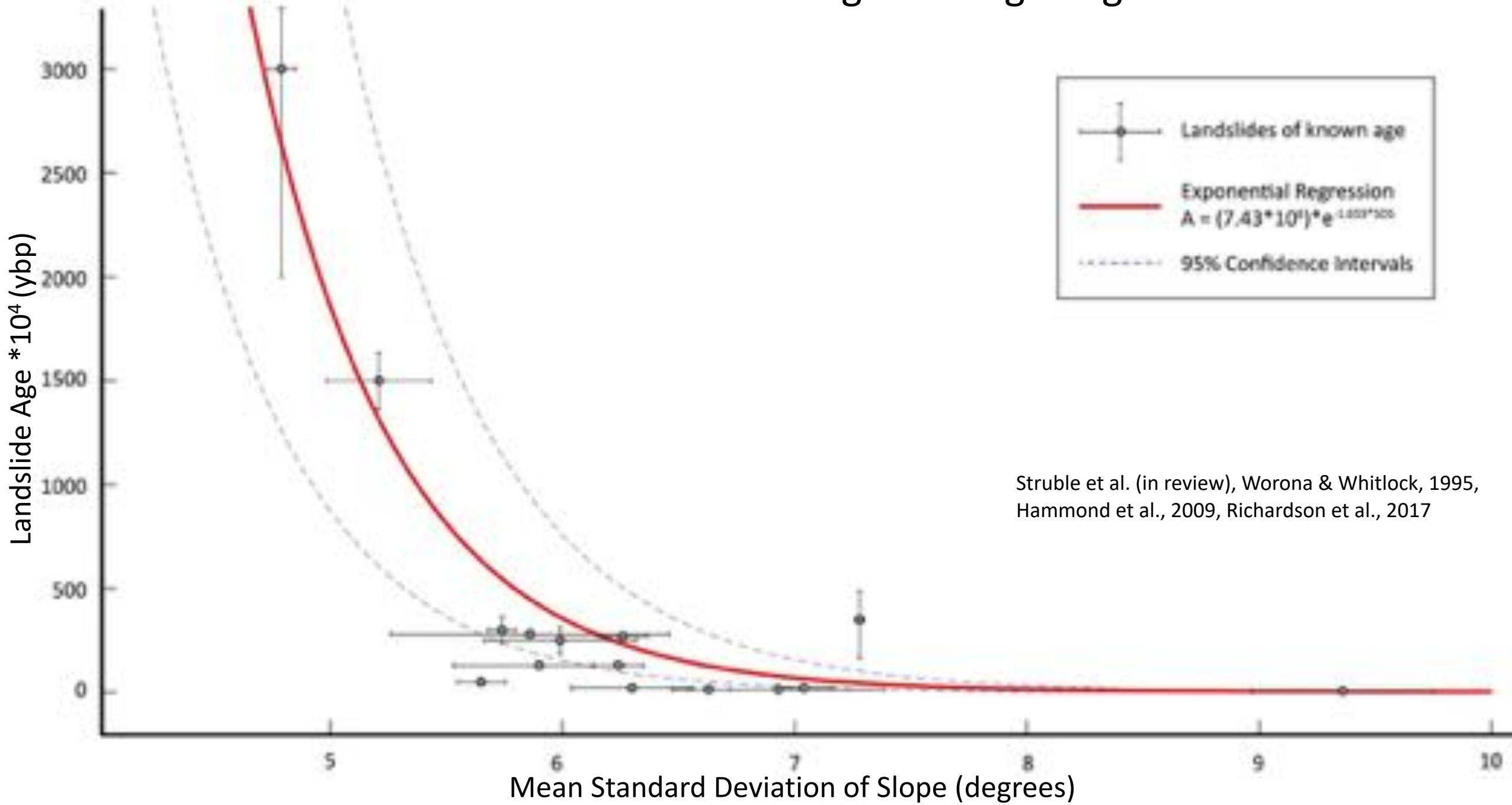
# Plot of Landslide Roughness (standard deviation of slope) and Age



# Calibrated Landslide Surface Roughness-Age Regression



# Calibrated Landslide Surface Roughness-Age Regression



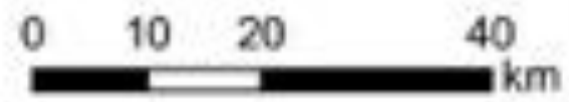
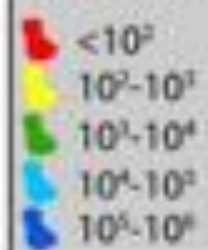
n = 9,734



-124°0'

-123°30'

Estimated Age (ybp)



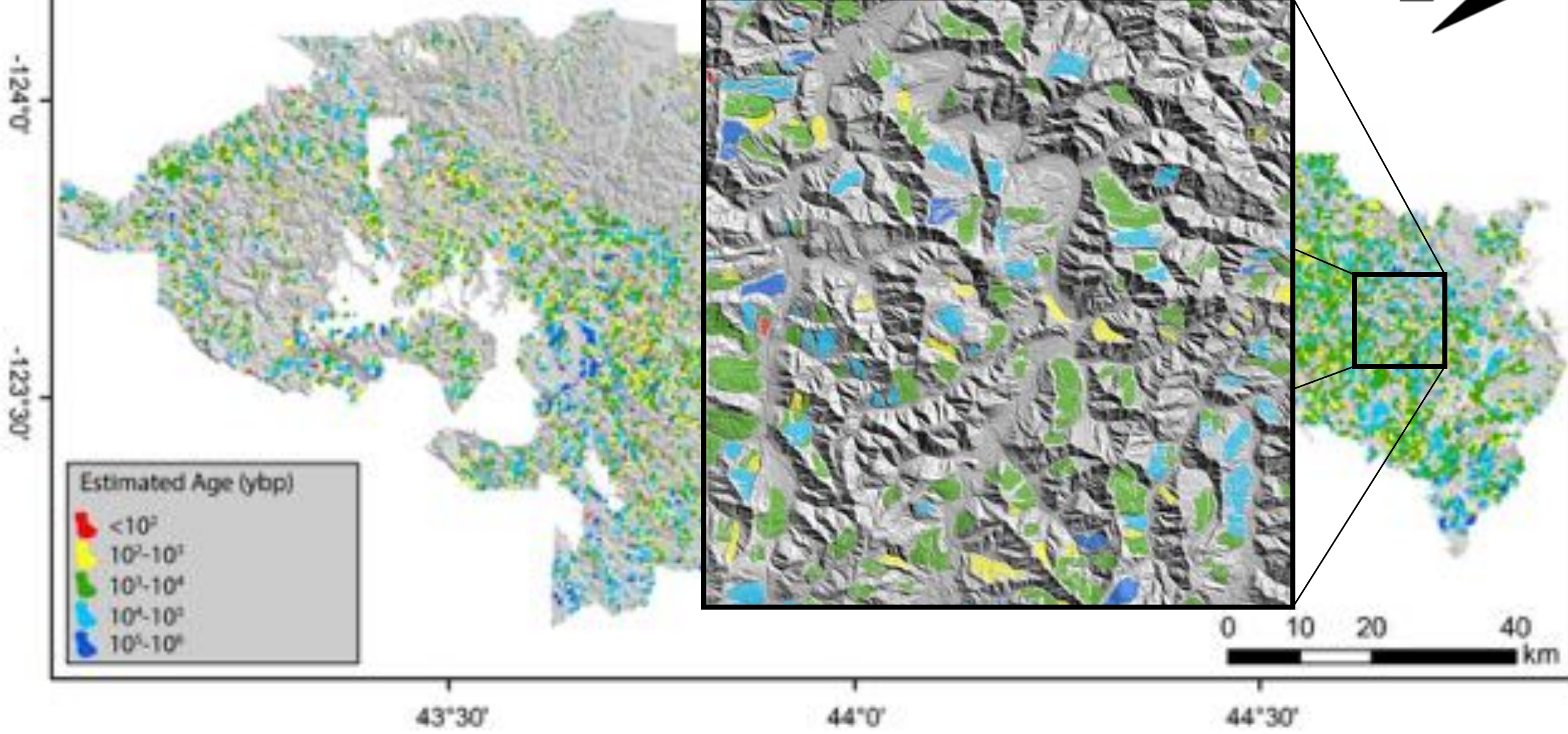
43°30'

44°0'

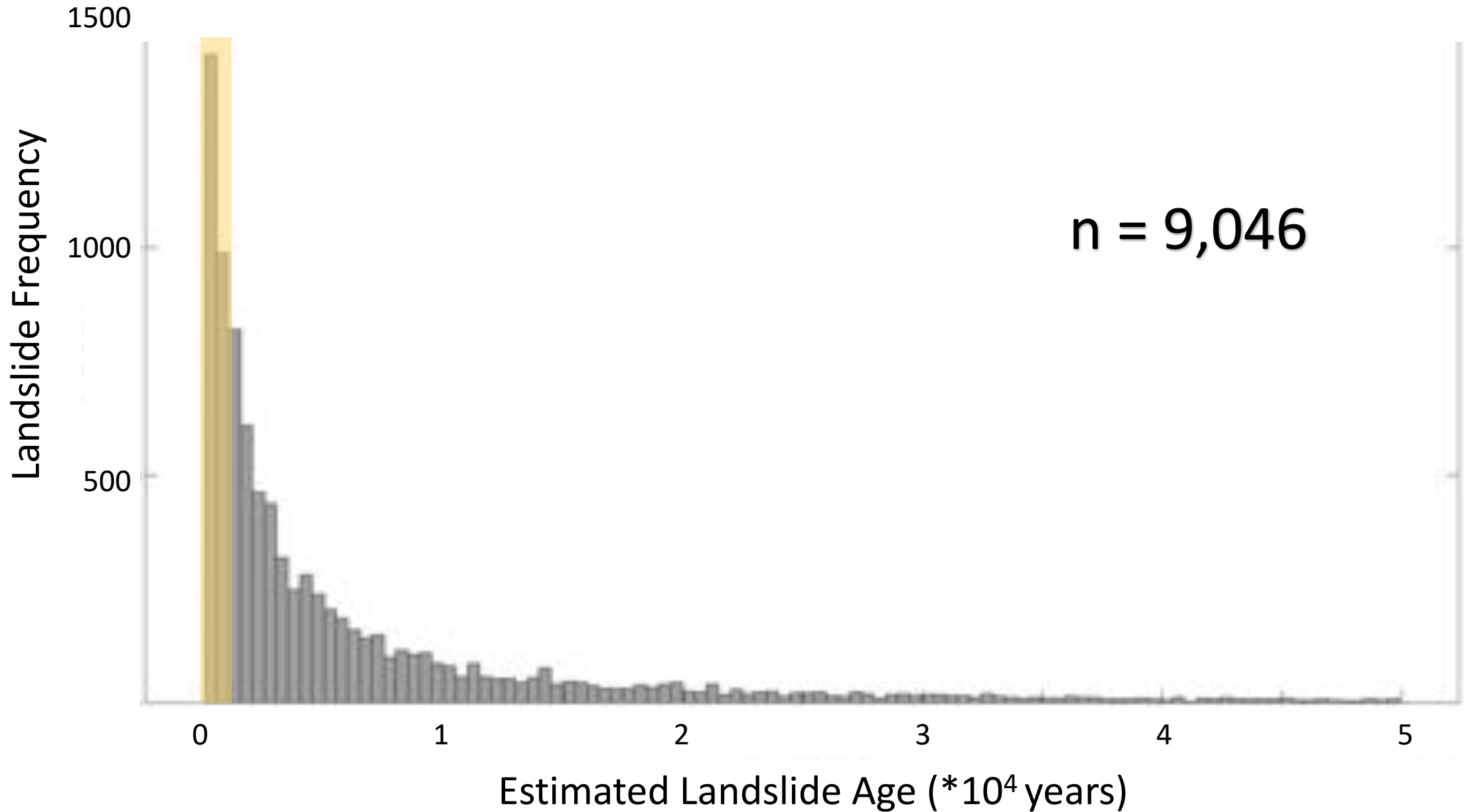
44°30'



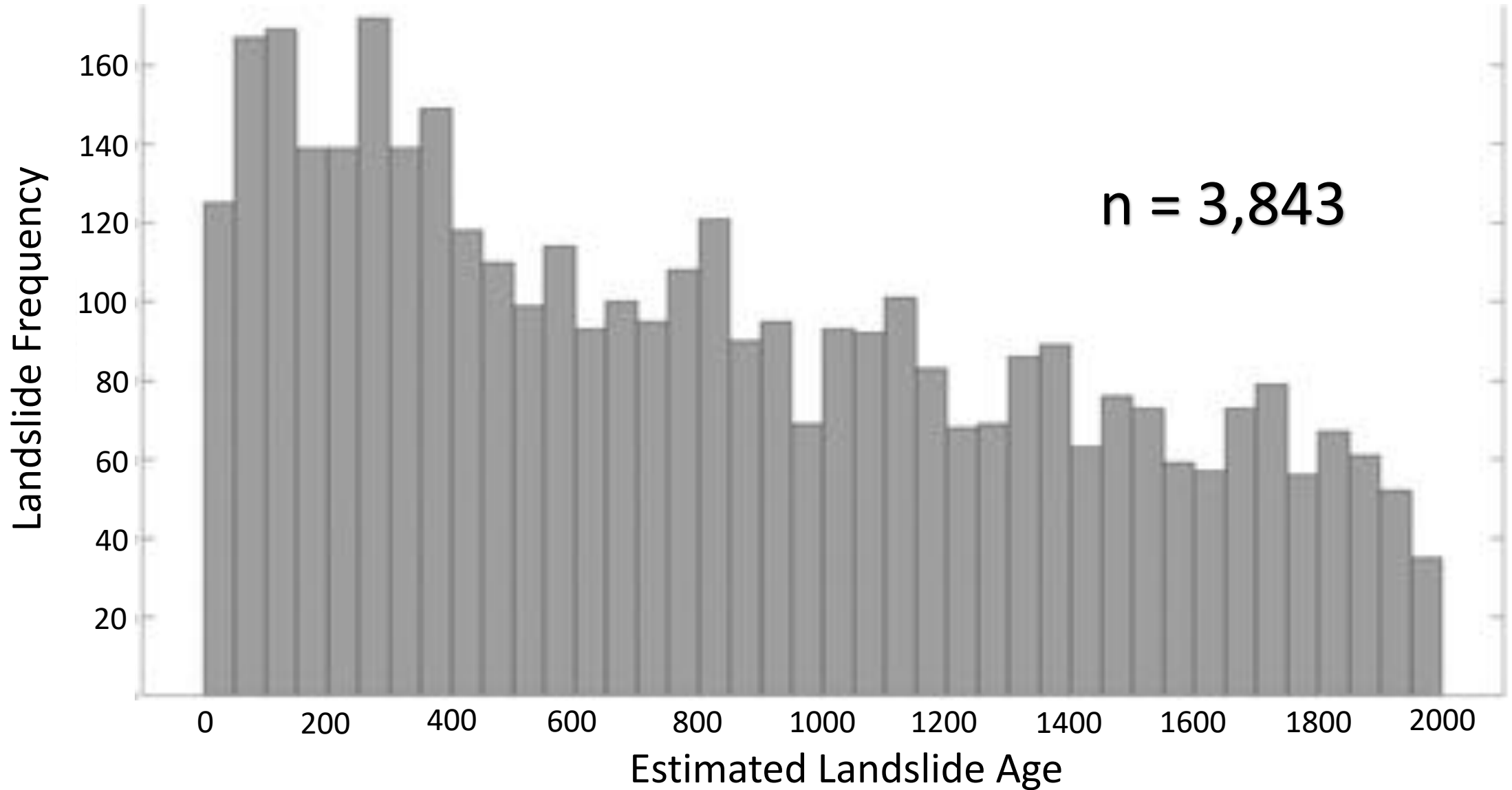
n = 9,734



# Landslide Age Histogram: 50kya to present



# Landslide Age Histogram: 2kya to present

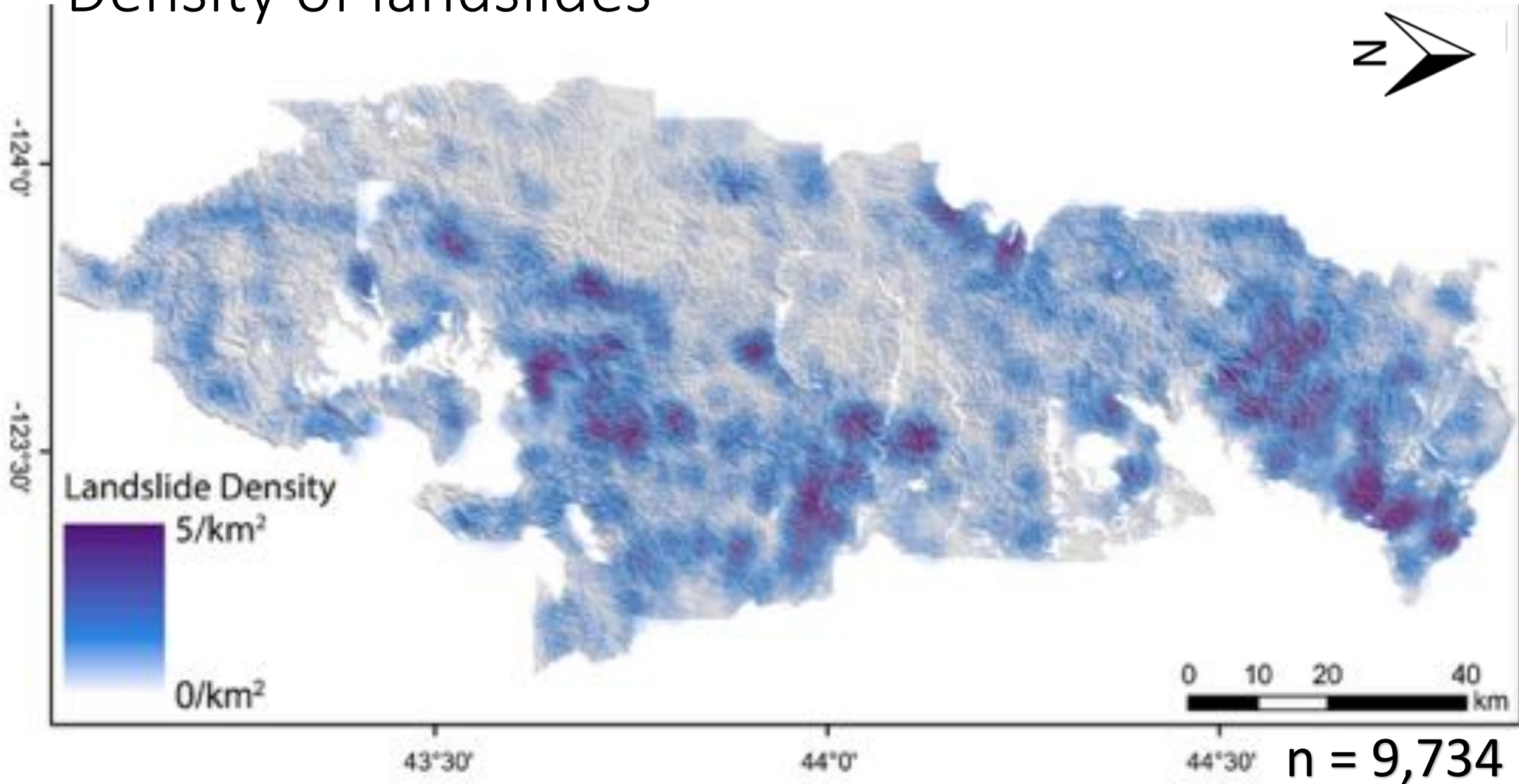


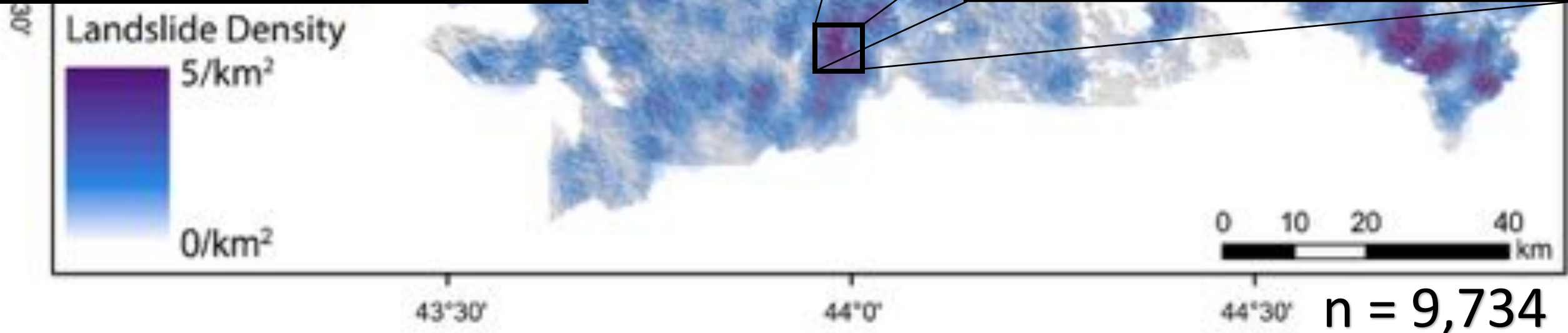
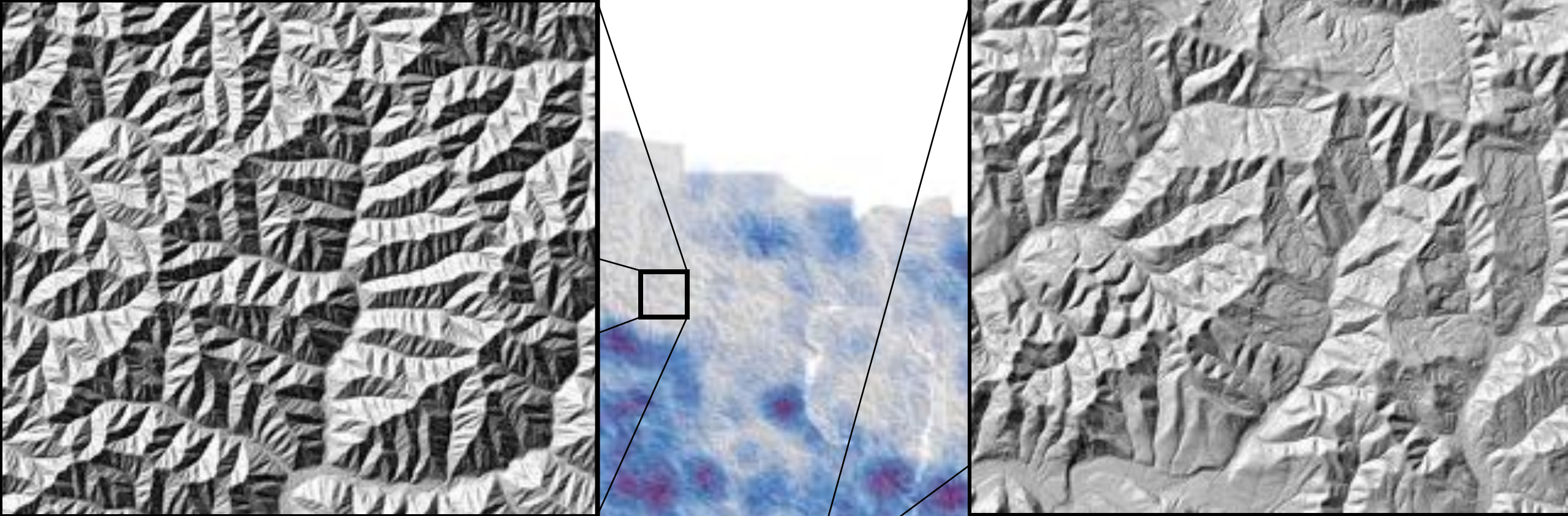
# Big questions



2. Where are these slides and do their locations correlate with predicted peak ground accelerations (PGA)?

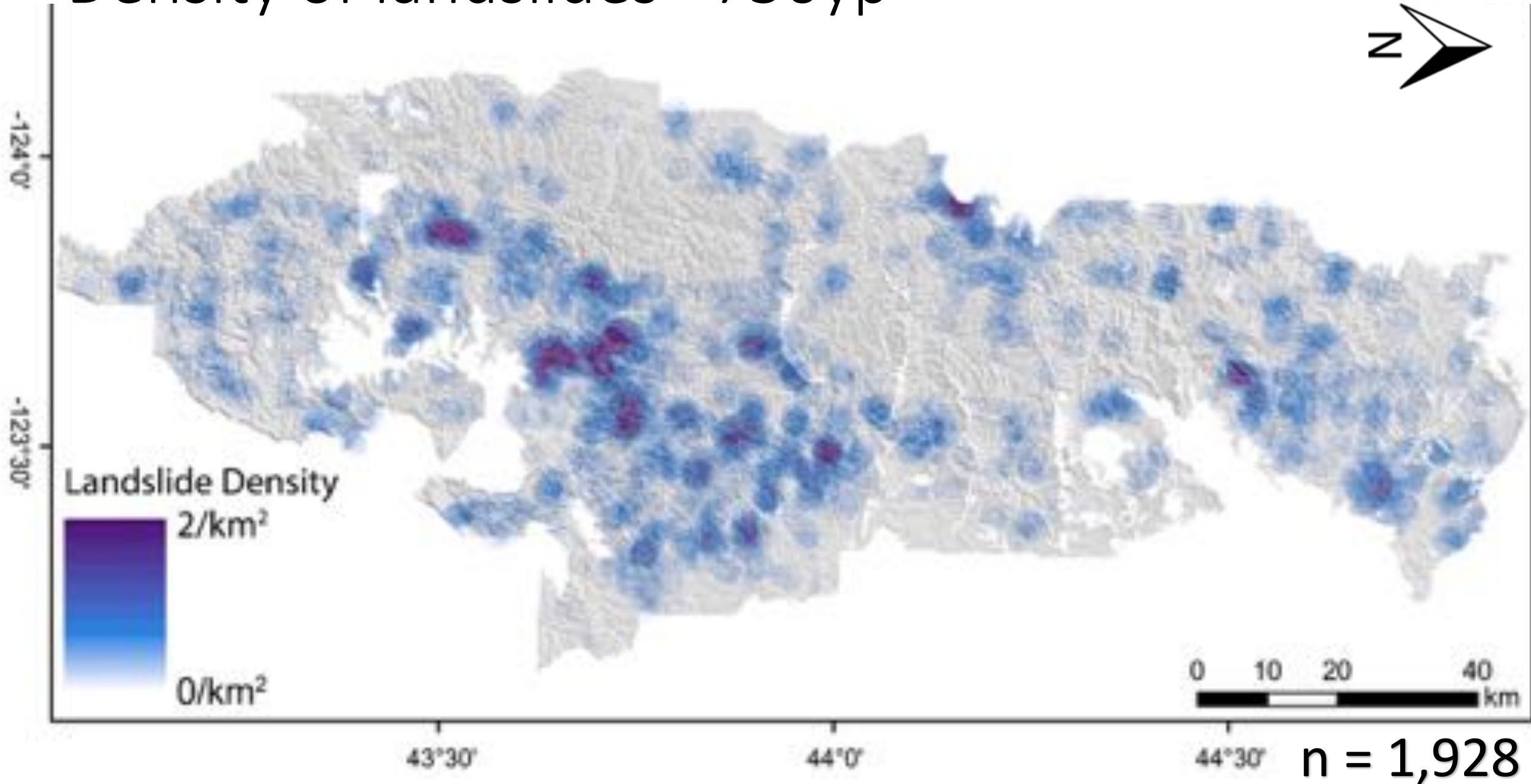
# Density of landslides

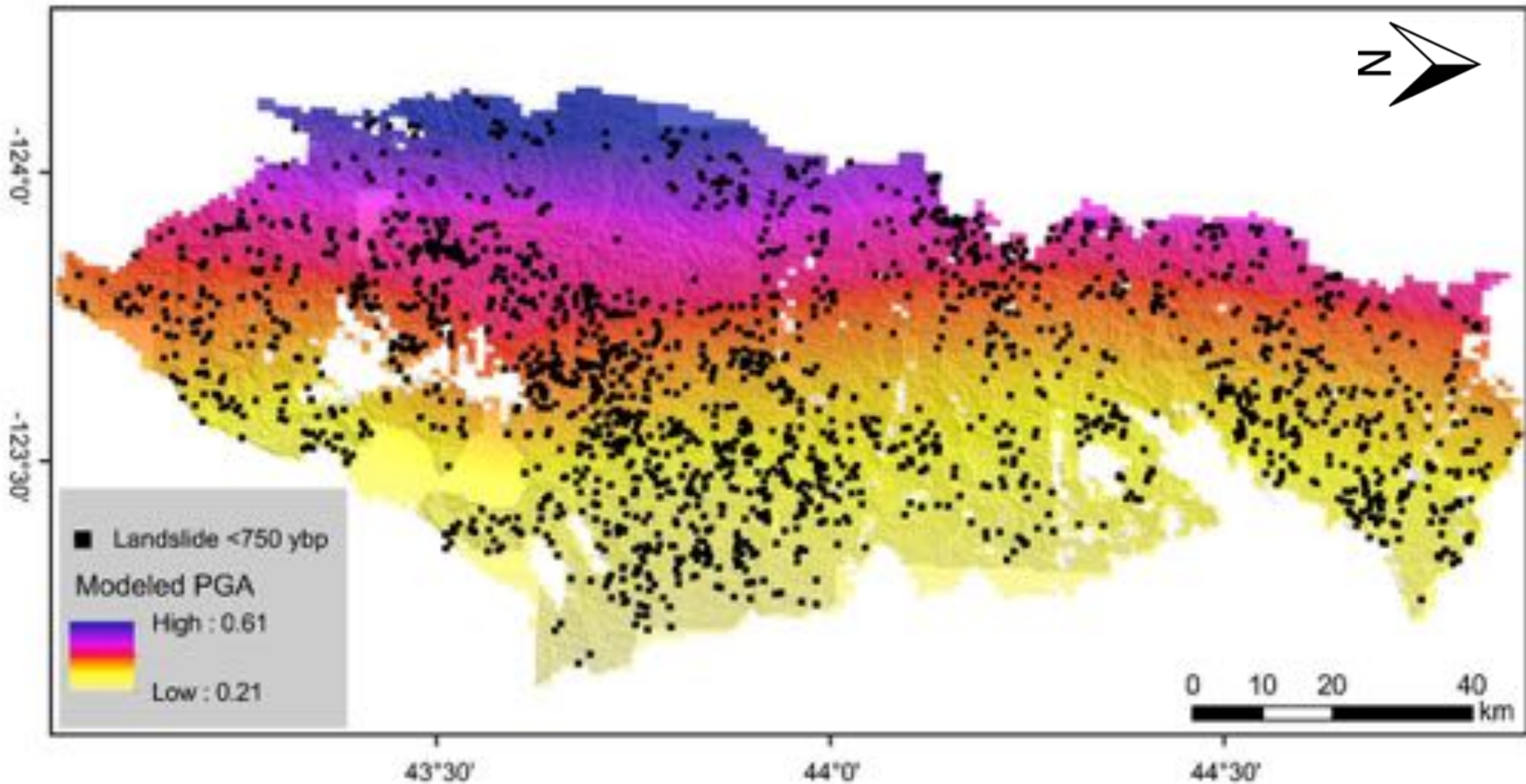




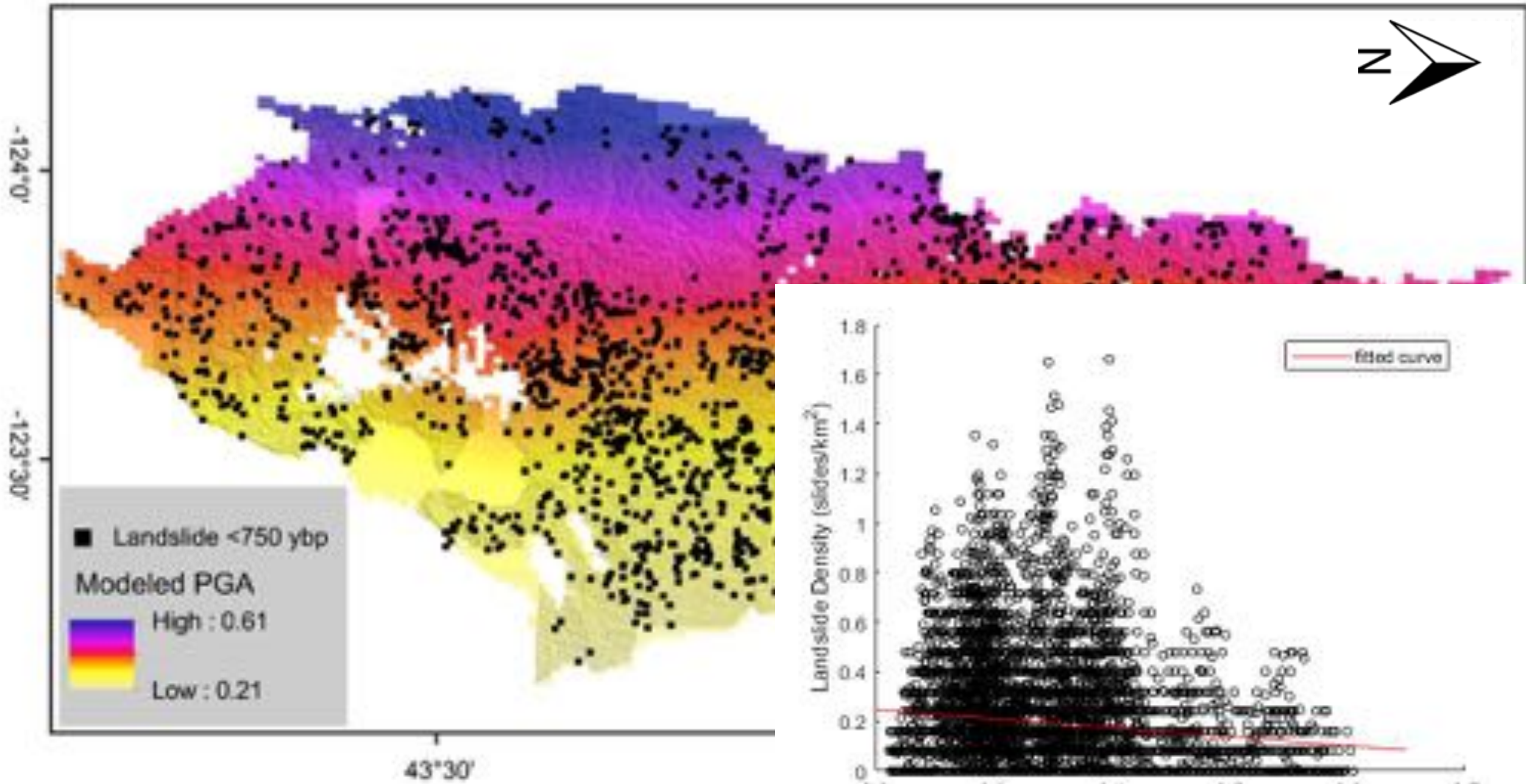
n = 9,734

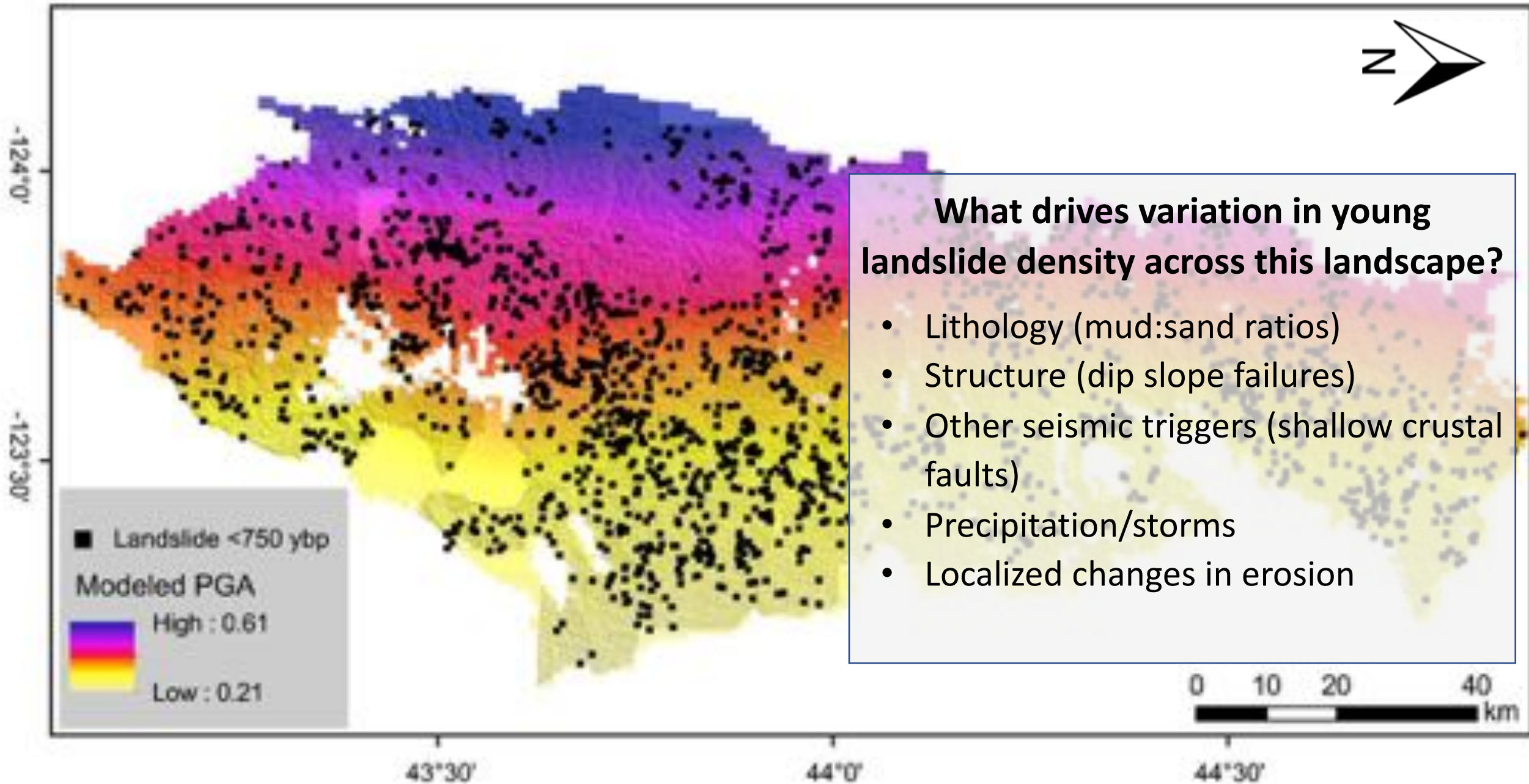
# Density of landslides <750yp





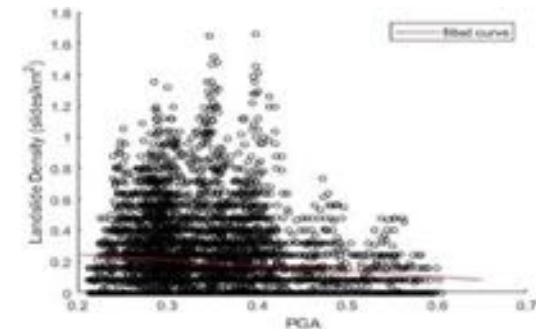
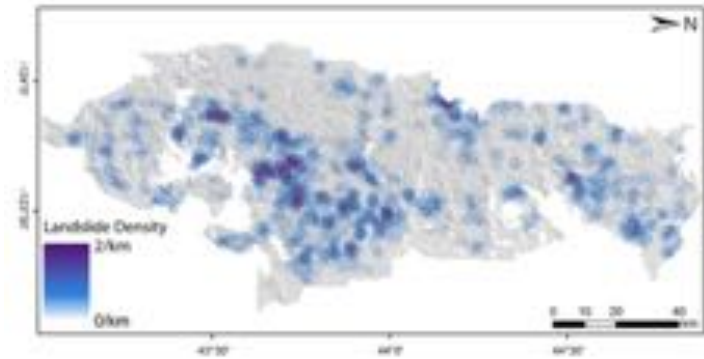
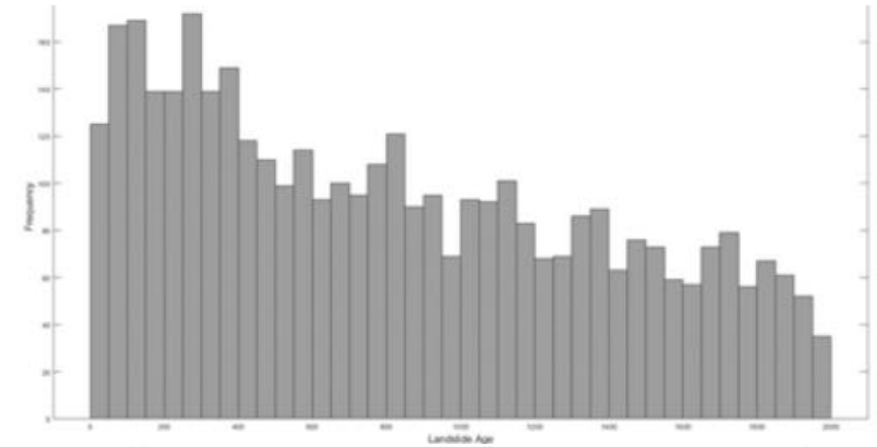






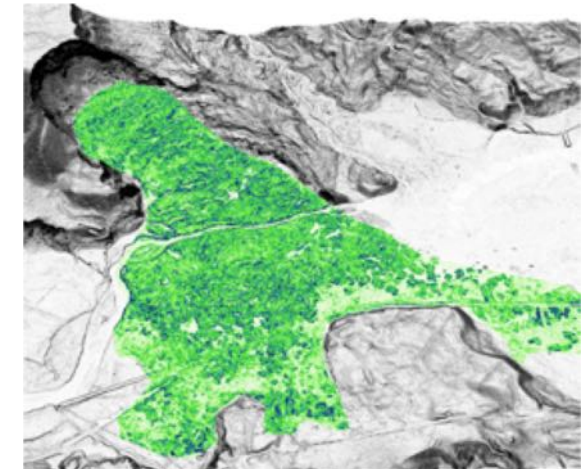
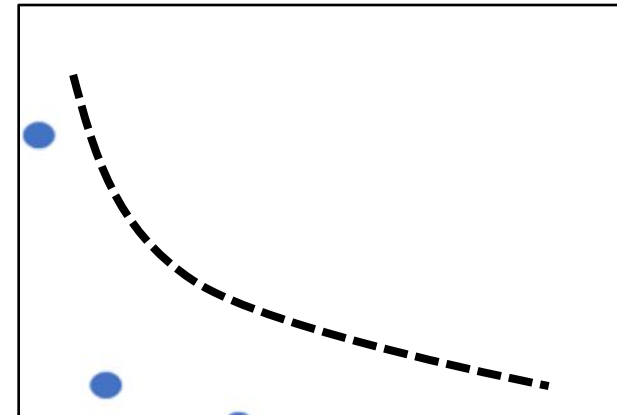
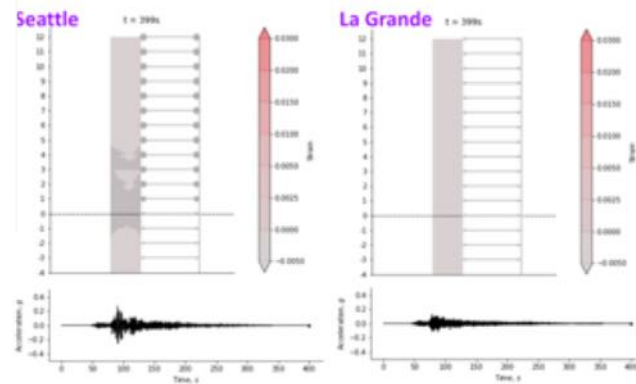
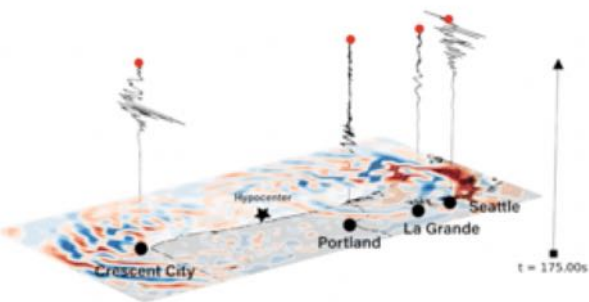
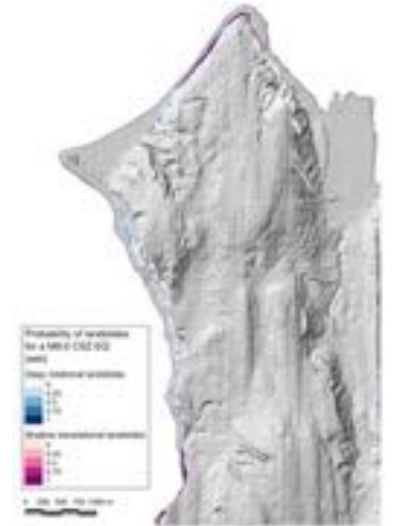
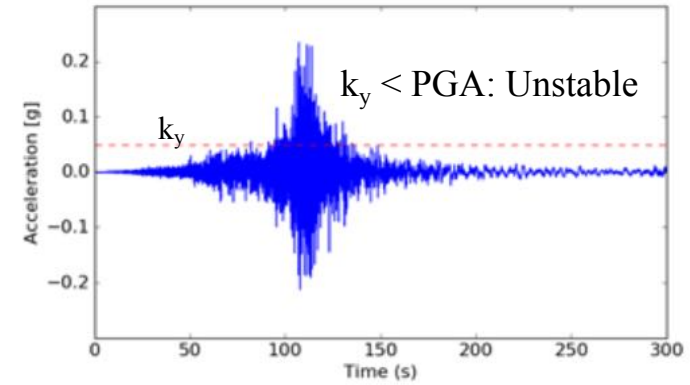
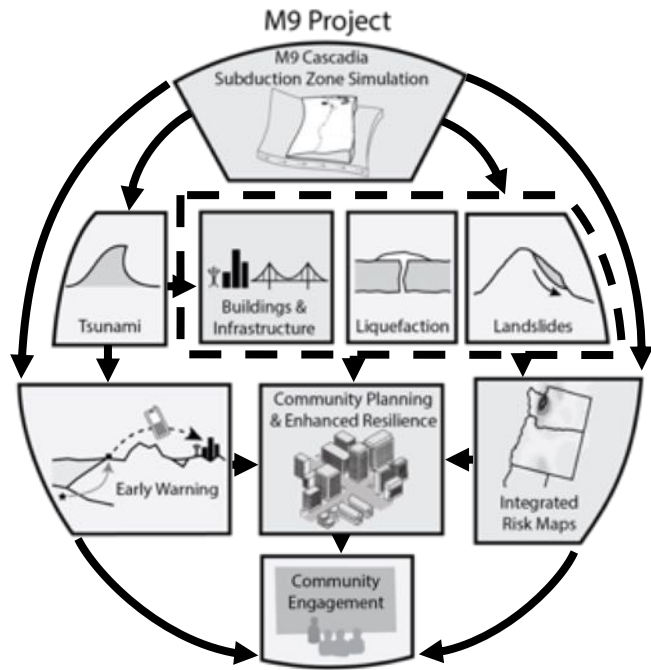
# Conclusions and Next Steps

- Peaks in landslide age may correlate with AD 1700, requires more testing
- How many slides were triggered during the AD 1700 M9 earthquake?
- Landslide density varies substantially across the study area
- PGA does not correlate with locations of young landslides, what does it correlate with?
- How can these results inform landslide susceptibility models in Cascadia?



# Summary

M9: <http://m9.uw.edu>



# Mountain Building, Strike-Slip Faulting, and Landscape Evolution in New Zealand's Marlborough Fault System

*Kaikoura Mountains, NZ  
Photo: Sarah Harbert*

# Thank you & Acknowledgments



- Supercomputer Resources: Stampede (U. Texas), Constance (PNNL), Hyak (U. Washington)
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- UW Quaternary Research Center
- UW Department of Earth and Space Sciences
- Beta Analytic

