



## **An Act Relating to Geological Hazards Assessment Bolstering public safety by enhancing critical hazard identifying technology SB 5088/ HB 1182**

### **Issue**

Geologic hazards inflict physical and economic harm on Washington citizens and communities every year. Recent tragedies have emphasized the importance of providing local jurisdictions and emergency managers with sufficient scientific data to allow them to appropriately prepare for and respond to geological disasters like landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions.

LiDAR is the most accurate method available for obtaining three-dimensional information about the Earth's surface. It can be used for earthquake and landslide hazard analysis, floodplain management, zoning enforcement, land-use change detection, resource evaluation, forest inventory, and surveying. Currently, there is no central entity that collects, analyzes, stores and makes available detailed LiDAR for analyses of geological hazards. This lack of data hampers identification and investigation of geological hazards. Proper collection of LiDAR data with interpretation by trained geologists, alongside educational outreach, can help develop life-saving policies and plans in advance of disasters.



*Figure 1. Stilliguamish River Valley after the SR 530 landslide on March 24, 2014.*

### **Background**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is responsible for surveying and mapping Washington's geology and geologic hazards, maintaining the appropriate databases, and providing technical assistance to state and local governments. This proposal seeks to establish an efficient and cost-effective process for acquiring and analyzing LiDAR data to be made publically available by amending RCW 43.92.025. Having a state agency program for LiDAR will help reduce acquisition costs, improve accessibility to critical information, and make the state eligible for federal grants that will further assist with identifying hazardous areas.

### **Proposal**

- ▶ **Give clear direction that DNR will acquire, process, store LiDAR and make it publicly available;**
- ▶ **Require DNR to create and maintain a publically available database of statewide geological hazard maps and geotechnical reports;**
- ▶ **Provide technical assistance to state and local agencies specifically on geological hazard assessments.**