

MEMORIES OF DISASTER

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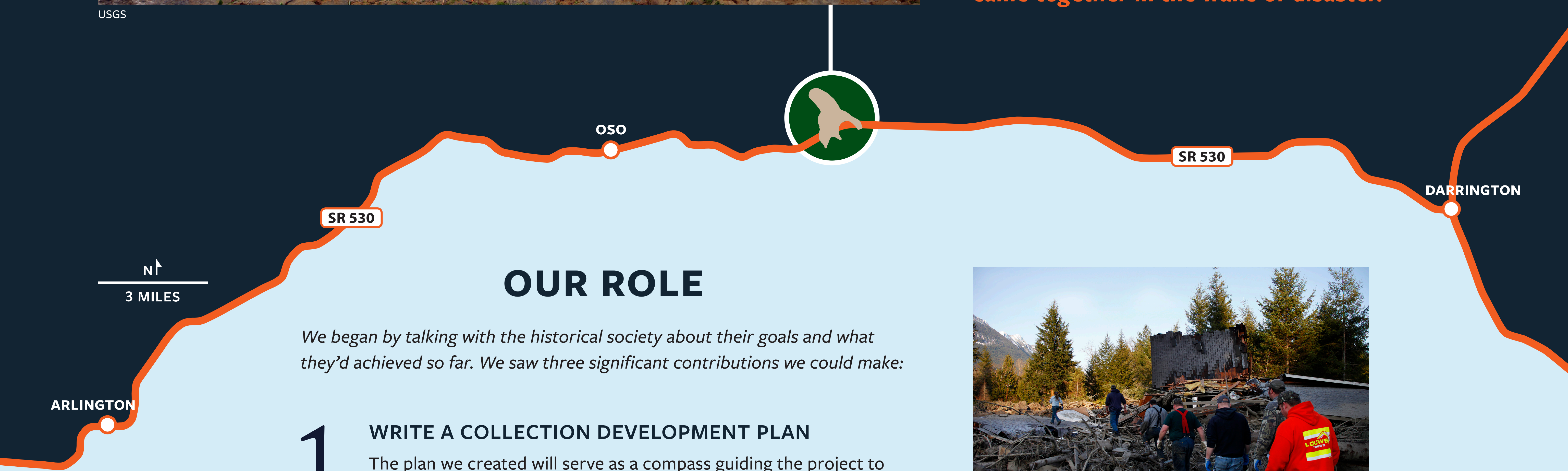


USGS

ON MARCH 22, 2014, 43 PEOPLE WERE KILLED when a massive mudslide engulfed the Steelhead Haven neighborhood near Oso, Washington, and buried nearly a mile of State Route 530.

In the aftermath, the town of Darrington was cut off: no power, no cable, no phone, and no direct route to the I-5 corridor. But the people rallied. During the weeks of search and recovery efforts that followed, they contributed vital expertise, equipment, support, and determination. Since then, the Darrington Historical Society has embarked on an ambitious project:

Creation of a digital archive to document the community's experiences, and how the people came together in the wake of disaster.



OUR ROLE

We began by talking with the historical society about their goals and what they'd achieved so far. We saw three significant contributions we could make:

- 1 WRITE A COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT PLAN**
The plan we created will serve as a compass guiding the project to completion. It defines mission, scope, and practices, and will help a small organization achieve a huge goal in a steady, systematic way.
- 2 DESIGN A TRACKING SYSTEM**
The archive will hold hundreds of items from a variety of sources, and the project's success will depend on help from many volunteers. The system we developed will keep the collection organized and easy to manage, with a minimum of training, as people come and go.
- 3 MAKE A BACKLOG OF ITEMS ACCESSIBLE**
The historical society had a substantial number of photos, maps, and documents for the collection. We made selections, added metadata, and uploaded the items, greatly increasing the size of the archive.



At top, friends and neighbors march into the debris on the Darrington side of the landslide to search for survivors; at bottom, volunteers at the Darrington Community Center stack packages of donated water. Photos: Everett Herald

*The recovery of the Darrington community will be a long one.
Our project helps to ensure their story will not be forgotten.*



Our thanks to our sponsors, Scott and Erika Morris; the Darrington Historical Society; the Darrington community; and UW Digital Strategies.