Prioritizing Sea Level Rise Exposure and Habitat Sensitivity Across Puget Sound

What parts of Puget Sound are most vulnerable to sea level rise? Is that vulnerability due to the presence of infrastructure, or are there places where important habitats are vulnerable as well? Trying to answer these types of questions motivates this project.

What we are doing
During this project we will work to understand which areas of Puget Sound are exposed to future flooding and erosion associated with sea level rise, and what the consequences might be of that exposure to both existing infrastructure and habitats.

How we are doing it
This is a spatial, GIS-based analysis. We will combine elevation data for Puget Sound with sea level rise projections, flood magnitude estimates, and coastal asset databases (infrastructure, habitats, etc.) to examine relationships between projected sea level rise and local conditions and habitats across Puget Sound.

WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT?
With its approximately 1,330 miles of coastline, Puget Sound is exposed to increased flooding, inundation, and erosion as sea level rises. Flooding and erosion will impact homes, businesses, and community infrastructure, as well as coastal habitats. Understanding and planning for those impacts is critical to protect the future of Puget Sound for people and fish and wildlife.

WHAT YOU CAN DO
Support sea level rise planning in your community by participating in comprehensive planning, hazard planning, and restoration planning processes.

ABOUT WASHINGTON SEA GRANT
A leader in research, outreach and education for nearly 50 years, Washington Sea Grant helps people understand and address the challenges facing Washington’s ocean and coasts. The Washington Sea Grant mission is to help people and marine life thrive by supplying research, technical expertise and educational activities that support the responsible use and conservation of ocean and coastal ecosystems.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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