

The Economic Toll of a Disappearing Community

The community of North Cove, Washington, is located on Cape Shoalwater, a spit of land that is more commonly known by its more descriptive nickname: “Washaway Beach.” Strong tides, storms and manmade development have all contributed to North Cove’s rapid erosion. On average, more than 100 feet of beach per year has disappeared into the ocean since the early 1900s, making Cape Shoalwater the fastest eroding landscape on the West Coast.

Over the years this erosion has had significant economic consequences, including:

- 537 parcels of land eroded totaling 2,018 acres
- \$3.8 million in losses to single-family homes
- \$738 thousand in losses to vacation cabins and residences
- \$479 thousand in losses to garages, sheds and other structures
- \$3.5 million in losses to undeveloped land
- \$2.8 million in losses to exempt property
- total estimated economic loss of \$20.3 million

If nothing is done to stabilize the shoreline, the erosion is expected to continue in the years to come. By the end of 2060, the region is projected to lose an additional:

- 499 parcels of land totaling 547 acres
- 280 residential properties
- \$30 million in property value

Preventing additional costly coastal erosion in North Cove requires urgent actions such as re-establishing the barrier dune, as significant portions of it have already eroded away, and investigating further long-term solutions.



For more information, visit the website for **Willapa Erosion Control Action Now** (WECAN): www.wacoastalnetwork.com/wecan

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