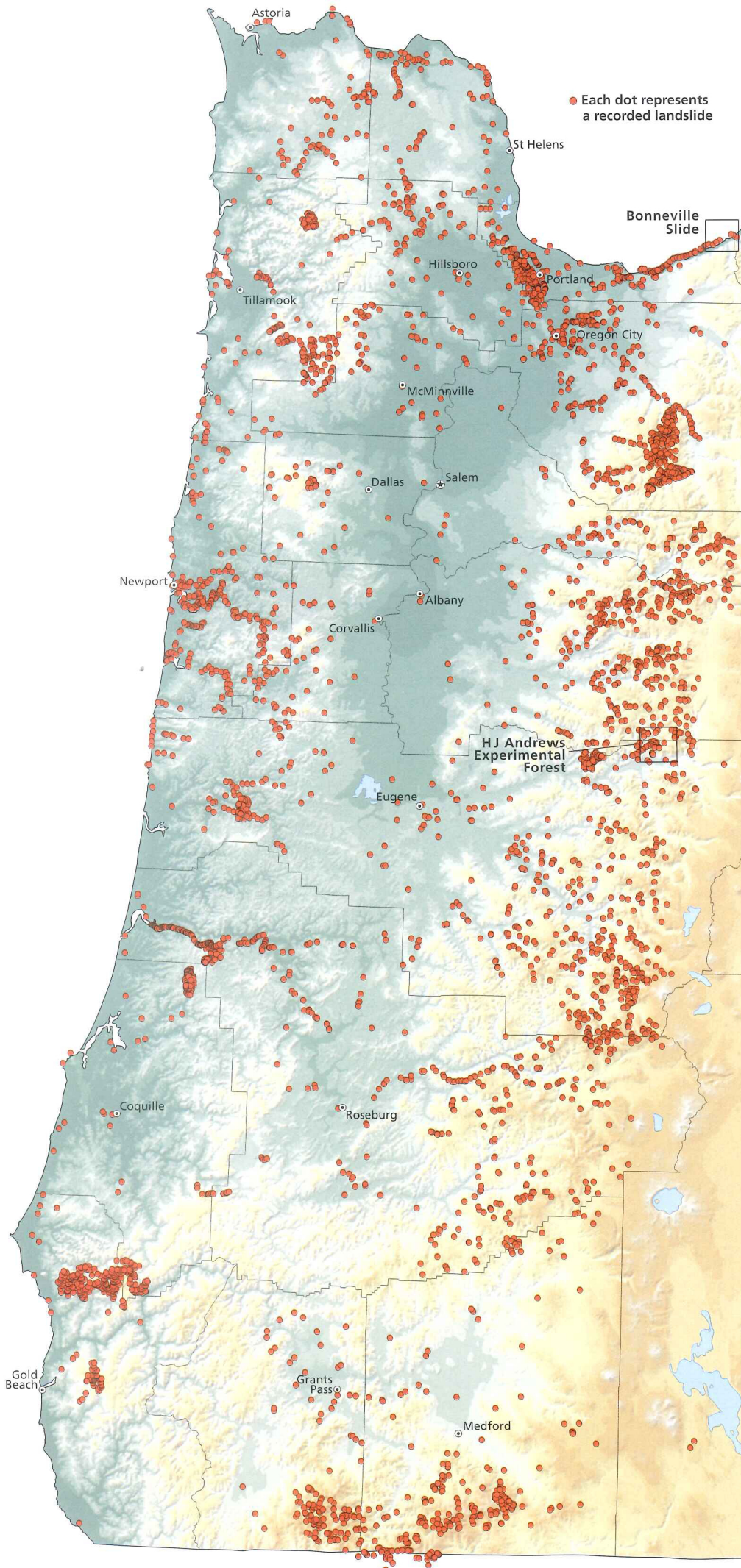


Landslides

1996–1997 Landslides in Western Oregon



Landslides are common in Western Oregon as a result of favorable conditions—steep slopes and high rainfall. Water increases the weight of porous materials, and lubricates both soil and rock particles and fracture planes, increasing the potential for movement. Slides are generally seasonal; rare during the dry summer and fall months, common in winter and spring. Slide conditions may develop over long periods of time, but there is a variety of typical triggering events. These include undercutting of steep slopes by stream erosion or by road building. The combination of clearcut logging and logging road construction on steep slopes has been a major source of slope failures, some lethal. Clearcut logging appears to increase landslide frequency for a decade or more; roads have an even longer-lasting effect.

1996–1997 Landslides in Oregon

