

Short Essay: Review of Landslide Hazards

Directions: Write an answer to each of the questions below.

Questions

1. How can earthquakes and wildfires contribute to landslides?
2. Describe how the geology of the Pacific Northwest makes the area vulnerable to landslides.
3. How can vegetation be used to mitigate landslide hazards?

Answers

1. Earthquakes weaken the ground and lead to soil liquefaction, which triggers a landslide. Wildfires strip the land of vegetation, making it more vulnerable to saturation with water and thus more vulnerable to landslide activity.
2. The land is sloped and has loose silt over hard bedrock. When the soil gets very wet after heavy rainfalls, which are common in this area, it slips easily and thunders downhill.
3. More vegetation holds down the soil and helps prevent and/or slow landslides.