



### Geologic Hazards Team



Slide 3.-The 1983 Thistle landslide at Thistle, Utah-This landslide began moving in the spring of 1983 in response to groundwater buildup from heavy rains the previous September and the melting of deep snowpack for the winter of 1982-83. Within a few weeks the landslide dammed the Spanish Fork River, obliterating U.S. Highway 6 and the main line of the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad. The town of Thistle was inundated under the floodwaters rising behind the landslide dam. Total costs (direct and indirect) incurred by this landslide exceeded \$400 million, the most costly single landslide event in U.S. history. Photograph by R.L. Schuster, U.S. Geological Survey.

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