



Adaptive Management Program Update

**Board of Forestry
January 8, 2025**

Overview of the Adaptive Management Program



AMP: Program Purpose



1. Timely, effective change to meet BGOs
2. Predictability, stability of rule change process
3. Apply best available science in Board decisions
4. Meet BGOs with less expensive prescriptions when feasible



Adaptive Management Program: Key points

Program is:

- Mandated in statute
- Required to obtain Private Forests HCP
- Updated FPA rules: can change only via AMP process
- Coordination with Compliance Monitoring Program



AMP Participants

- Adaptive Management Program Committee (AMPC)
- Independent Research and Science Team (IRST)
- IRST Housing Agency (OSU/INR)
- ODF (AMP Coordinator & support)



Adaptive Management Program Committee (AMPC): Member organizations

1. Oregon Forest and Industries Council
2. Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts
3. Associated Oregon Loggers
4. A conservation organization
5. Oregon Small Woodlands Association
6. Commission on Indian Service
7. A recreational or commercial angling organization
8. Association of Oregon Counties
9. ODFW
10. DEQ
11. ODF*
12. USFWS*
13. NOAA/NMFS*

* Non-voting members



AMPC: Charge

- a) Guide AM process
- b) Set research agenda & recommend IRST budget
- c) Assess IRST findings, report alternatives to Board
- d) Submit AMPC reports to Board
- e) Assist Board to regularly identify & modify resource objectives
- f) Review compliance monitoring & enforcement reports
- g) Board recommendations re: rule adjustment, guidance or training
- h) Strive for full consensus *(but super-majority = required)*



Independent Research and Science Team (IRST)

Odd # of members ≥ 5 , including 1 each:

1. A public institution
2. Timber industry
3. Freshwater, aquatic, conservation NGO

Members must have an advanced degree in a relevant natural resources (e.g., forestry, ecology, fisheries)



IRST: Charge

1. Oversee research requested by the AMPC
2. Report to the Board & AMPC on research findings:
 - A. Effectiveness
 - B. Causal links
 - C. Magnitude of impacts on species of concern
 - D. Timescale
 - E. Scope of inference
 - F. Degree of scientific confidence or uncertainty



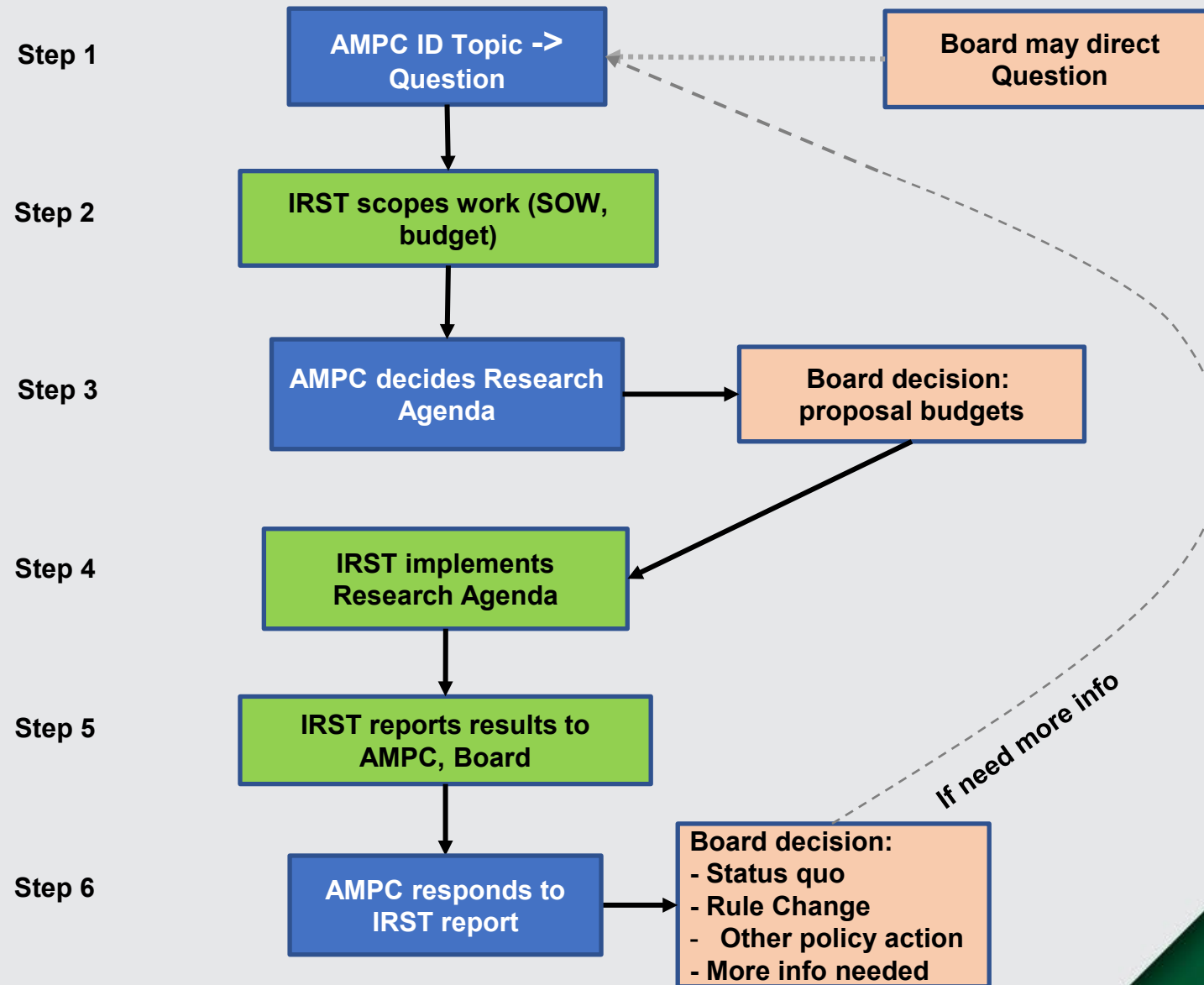


AMP Participants

- IRST supported by contracted public body (OSU/INR)
- ODF: collaboration with IRST via AMP Coordinator, OSU/INR



Adaptive Management Process Steps



Adaptive Management Program Committee (AMPC) Co-chairs

- 2024 year in review
- 2025 work plan



Adaptive Management Program Committee: First focus

Rule requires addressing:

1. E. Oregon steep slopes
2. Baseline, trend monitoring road rules
3. Amphibians



AMPC Work

- Thorough, robust conversations to reach decisions (diverse perspectives)
- Long meetings & work between meetings
- ODF - Co-chair meetings re: planning
- Developing process templates
- Work groups to detail information
- Exchanges with IRST
- Complicated, technical research topics



AMPC 2024 year in review

- Update: Jan. 2024 Board meeting
- Joint IRST-AMPC meeting
- Prioritized & started effectiveness monitoring strategy
- Refined process for preliminary research questions
- Developed preliminary research question packages:
 - E. Oregon steep slopes
 - Hydrologic disconnection of forest roads
- Worked with IRST to finalize these questions
- Attended field tour re: amphibians, roads
- Completed first draft amphibians question package





2024

2025

Dec 2024

Q1

Q2

Q3+

Roads

IRST scoping proposal (est. 3/1/2025)

July 2025 Research Agenda

AMPC finalize research agenda

Board decision (9/25):
Research Budget

E Oregon Steep Slopes

IRST scoping proposal (12/31/24)

July 2025 Research Agenda

Amphibians

AMPC votes on questions (Feb. 2025)

AMPC responds to IRST questions (March 2025)

IRST scoping proposal (summer/fall 2025?)

Effectiveness Monitoring Strategy

AMPC votes on help request (March 2025)

IRST analysis (fall 2025?)

AMPC research agenda: 7/15/25

Upcoming Board involvement

- Research agenda budget– Board decision Sept. 2025
- Research agenda includes (per rule):
 - A. Prioritized research projects;
 - B. Key milestones for each research project;
 - C. Timeline for progress on research projects; and,
 - D. IRST budget, with budget for each year of each project.
- New process, figuring out challenges along the way



AMPC 2025 work planning



2025 AMPC work planning

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Meeting Topics</u>
Feb. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Discuss E. Oregon steep slopes scoping proposal from the IRST-*Discuss AMPC charter modifications-*Finalize Amphibians questions package
April 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Discuss Roads scoping proposal from the IRST-*Finalize request to the IRST for help with the Effectiveness Monitoring Strategy-*Respond to IRST feedback on Amphibians questions

*Substantial decision



2025 AMPC work planning

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Meeting Topics</u>
Feb. 3	-Discuss E. Oregon steep slopes scoping proposal from the IRST -*Discuss AMPC charter modifications -*Finalize Amphibians questions package
April 7	- Discuss Roads scoping proposal from the IRST -*Finalize request to the IRST for help with the Effectiveness Monitoring Strategy -*Respond to IRST feedback on Amphibians questions
June 2	-Converse with IRST re: scoping proposals and research agenda -Prepare research agenda and budget for Sept. 2025 Board approval -*Respond to IRST feedback on the Effectiveness Monitoring Strategy
July 7	-*Finalize Research Agenda budget presentation for Board September meeting
Early Oct.	<i>(Via email, solicit preliminary research questions)</i>
Oct. 27	-Field trip
Dec. 8	-2025 year in review, 2026 work plan -*Discuss proposed preliminary research questions

More TBD

*Substantial decision



Independent Research and Science Team



An aerial photograph of a vast mountain range. The foreground shows rolling green hills with scattered evergreen trees and a dirt road. The middle ground features more rugged terrain with patches of forest and open land. The background consists of numerous layers of mountain ridges, creating a sense of depth and scale. The sky is bright with some light clouds.

The Independent Research and Science Team (IRST)

BOARD OF FORESTRY MTG.
JANUARY 8, 2025

IRST Chair, Kelly Burnett, PhD.; and INR Director, Lisa Gaines, PhD.



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IRST Purpose & Guidelines

Purpose (Section 38(8), chapter 33, Oregon Laws 2022)

- a) Conduct or oversee research requested by the Adaptive Management Program Committee; and,
- b) Report to the [Board of Forestry] and the committee on the findings of the research, including findings concerning the magnitude of impacts on species of concern, the urgency of needed action and the degree of scientific confidence or uncertainty behind the findings.

Guidelines (Division 603 of OAR chapter 629)

- a) Develop its operating procedures and standards for best available science;
- b) Pursue scientific inquiry via various avenues; and,
- c) Conduct meetings as public meetings.

IRST Members & Housing Agency

As per Senate Bill 1501, representation on the IRST must include, at all times, at least one voting member that the IRST determines represents the following: a public institution, the timber industry, and a nongovernmental organization that promotes the conservation of freshwater aquatic habitat.

Ellen Morris Bishop , PhD., Conservation/Oregon Wild

Kelly Burnett , PhD., Wild Salmon Center (*Chair*)

Rebecca Flitcroft , PhD., USDA Forest Service

Jessica Homyack , PhD., Weyerhaeuser (*Chair-elect*)

Jeff Light , MS., Oregon Forest Industries Council

Housing Agency :

Institute for Natural Resources, Oregon State University



Institute for Natural Resources

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Standards for Best Available Science: A Guidance Document

**Independent Research and Science Team
Adaptive Management Program, Oregon Board of Forestry**

This document was approved by the Independent Research and Science Team (IRST) during a public meeting on January 19, 2024, with the understanding that it will consider amendments of the following items in February and/or March 2024:

- Adding a section on researchable questions;
- Distinguishing between research and monitoring;
- Refining the set of principles regarding the quality of scientific work;
- Determining if the IRST should crosswalk this document with the IRST charter (the role of external experts in providing information);
- Adding definitions for the categories in the section on types and sources of available science;
- Asking an expert to review the indigenous knowledge section; and,
- Establishing a process for peer review (consider the CMER process as a template).

Introduction

The mission of the Independent Research and Science Team (IRST) is to provide science-based recommendations and technical information to assist the Oregon Board of Forestry's Adaptive Management Program (AMP) in determining when it is necessary or advisable to adjust rules, guidance, procedures, and training programs to achieve its biological goals and objectives. This document fulfills one of IRST's initial required tasks, which is the development of standards for best available science (BAS) to use in its work [administrative rules 629-603-0400(4)].

The IRST reviews and interprets existing knowledge and defines and solicits studies from others that add to the knowledge base (i.e., creating new knowledge) to support the decision-making processes of the AMP. In this context, BAS encompasses both the identification and use of existing scientific results (best available science information) and a process for how new research will be developed (best available science practices) to address AMP questions. Additionally, monitoring is an important part of the adaptive management process. Monitoring is usually based on methods and relationships that have been previously established by research, rather than attempting to discover new relationships. These three applications can be supported by the same set of standards, to varying degrees, which are described in the next section.

The IRST held its first meeting on November 16, 2023 and by rule is required to approve BAS standards by January 31, 2024. This document is a working document and will be revised as the IRST gains experience in executing its tasks.

Process-related Progress

- Charter for the IRST
- Best Available Science Standards
- Nomination and Application Process
- Monthly public meetings
- AMPC communications, field trips

Research Scoping Proposal Development

An aerial photograph of a mountainous landscape. A river flows through a valley, surrounded by green vegetation. A dirt road runs alongside the river. The background shows rugged, brownish mountains under a clear blue sky.

Roads-Stream Connectivity: Scoping Proposal

Independent Research and Science Team
Institute for Natural Resources – Oregon State University

DRAFT

Scoping Proposal

Submitted to
The Adaptive Management Program Committee
2025

- Eastern Oregon Steep Slopes (in progress)
- Roads-Stream Connectivity (in progress)
- Amphibians (upcoming)



WORKING WELL

- Professional and collegial nature of the IRST
- Facilitated monthly meetings
- Joint meeting with full IRST -AMPC
- Joint IRST-AMPC Chairs meeting
- Responsiveness of INR

CHALLENGES

- Collaborating on technical documents only in public meetings
- Concurrent development of HCP & related needs
- Budget uncertainty for longer term research & monitoring needs
- Maintaining minimum membership & 2/3 vote for decisions (no alternates allowed)



Thank you.

[IRST website](https://inr.oregonstate.edu/forest-landscapes/independent-science-team)

<https://inr.oregonstate.edu/forest-landscapes/independent-science-team>

Photo by Ellen M. Bishop, IRST Member



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Questions

