

Research Questions Process

This draft is based on input from the AMPC workgroup on January 8th, 2024.

Note that whatever the AMPC decides about this document can be changed relatively easily later. It is recommended that a finalized version of this document be incorporated into the AMPC charter as an appendix, where it will continue to be available in a “one-stop shop” of AMPC processes as a reference for AMPC members (especially new members).

Document purpose:

To outline the process for moving research questions from conception to the AMPC deciding to develop preliminary research question packages per OAR 629-603-0200(3), and to document the status of questions in that process.

Proposing research questions

Section A. Frequency for reviewing proposed preliminary research questions

The AMPC will consider proposed preliminary research questions in the fourth quarter of odd years, starting in 2025. (Note: this deadline will also be added to section VII of the charter). However, the AMPC may decide *ad hoc* to develop a preliminary research question package per OAR 629-603-0200(3), based on e.g., natural disasters, regulatory/legal issues, unforeseen circumstances, and emerging research, as well as Board recommendations or federal agency recommendations.

Section B. Proposing preliminary research questions

- a. At least 6 weeks before the AMPC meetings discussed in Section A, ODF staff will place a call for preliminary research question proposals from AMPC members.
- b. When an AMPC members proposes preliminary research questions, the following information is required in 500 words or less:
 - i. The rule, Biological Goals and Objectives (BGOs)¹, or issue the question relates to; and,
 - ii. The outcomes and/or concerns the proposer would like to learn about.
- c. ODF will communicate each proposed preliminary research question to the AMPC at least a week in advance of the meeting at which they will discuss the questions.
- d. Per rule², the Board of Forestry may direct the AMPC to develop preliminary research questions.

Note that proposed preliminary research questions that the AMPC considers but does not move into developing preliminary research question packages³ may be considered at subsequent AMPC meetings described in section A .

Section C. Background information for discussing proposed preliminary research questions

To inform AMPC discussions on proposed preliminary research questions, ODF staff will develop background material on the questions, including items such as:

- a. Useful information about the question based on communication with the AMPC member who proposed the question;
- b. Information outlined above in Section B.b;
- c. Whether the question is directly relevant to the BGOs or addresses other rules;
- d. The current budget situation;

¹ Per OAR 629-603-0000(6)(c)

² Per OAR 629-603-0200(3)(b)

³ Per OAR 629-603-0200(3)

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- e. The status of the current research agenda (e.g., timing, awarded contracts, RFPs in development, IRST work plans);
- f. Other relevant information including context, urgency, and need (e.g., HCP status); and,
- g. For proposed preliminary research questions that the AMPC has previously considered, a summary of these previous discussion(s).

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Appendix 1.

Life cycle of research questions

Research questions' movement through the AMP Steps (as outlined in OAR 629-603-0200) is summarized in Table 1 and illustrated in Figure 1. Note that the dispositions of some questions are not included in the OAR 629-603-0200 Steps, and their relationships to the AMP Steps are illustrated in Figure 1.

Table 1. Categories of research questions at various stages of their life cycle. Questions with an asterisk indicate they are not currently in the Steps described in OAR 629-603-0200.

Research Question category ⁴	Description	Decision maker to move out of category [per OAR 629-603-] ⁵
*AMPC Propose Preliminary Research Questions - Pending Review	Research questions, proposed by an AMPC member, that have not yet been formally discussed by the AMPC.	AMPC
*Proposed Preliminary Research Questions - On Hold	Research questions that the AMPC discussed and decided to not currently move into AMP Step 1 but to put on hold for later consideration if brought forward by an AMPC member.	AMPC
Step 1. AMPC draft Preliminary Research Questions	Proposed preliminary research questions the AMPC has voted to move to developing packages per OAR 629-603-0200(3)(a).	AMPC ⁶ [0200(3)(c)]
Step 2. IRST develop scoping proposals for Research Questions	Research questions for which the IRST is developing scoping proposals per OAR 629-603-0200(4).	IRST [0200(4)(e)]
Step3. AMPC consider IRST scoping proposals & set Research Agenda	Research questions and their associated scoping proposals that the AMPC is considering for inclusion in the research agenda.	AMPC [0200(5)(c)]
*AMPC Research Questions with IRST Scoping Proposals - on hold	Research questions that have IRST scoping proposals but that the AMPC decided to not include (e.g., because of insufficient funds or personnel) in the current research agenda; they will be reconsidered for future research agendas.	AMPC
Step 4. IRST implements Research Agenda Step 5. IRST sends completed reports to AMPC and Board	Research questions which are included in the current research agenda per OAR 629-603-0200(5)(d), and that the IRST is implementing per OAR 629-603-0200(6). The completed reports from these studies are sent to the AMPC and Board per OAR 629-603-0200(7).	IRST [0200(6 & 7)]
Step 6. IRST prepare summary and technical reports on Research Questions	Research questions that have both the summary and final technical reports from the IRST and that the AMPC is developing a report to the Board per 629-603-0200(8)(a).	AMPC [0200(8)(a)] and Board [0200(8)(b)]
*Research Questions - Finished AMP Steps	Research questions for which the Board has made a decision based on IRST results and the AMPC report. These questions may ⁷ :	AMPC or Board

⁴ "Step" refers to the AMP process steps specified in OAR 629-603-0200 and illustrated in Figure 1.

⁵ Note that some of these Research Question categories are not specified in rule and thus no rule is cited for the decision maker.

⁶ The Board may direct the AMPC to develop a preliminary question.

⁷ Actions (i.e., commencing rule making, making other policy changes, or retaining the status quo) following Board decisions per OAR 629-603-0200(8)(b) are outside of the AMP process, and therefore not included in this table.

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	A. Lead to development of a new preliminary research question (i.e., Step 1 of the AMP process) if selected by the AMPC or directed by the Board; B. Be moved into “Completed Research Question” category (see next row in this table).	
*Completed Research Questions	Research questions that have passed through the entire AMP Steps outlined in OAR 629-603-0200 and are intended to not be revisited again barring changed circumstances or a Board request.	AMPC

ODF staff will post the current categorization of research questions, along with relevant details (e.g., dates and vote tallies of substantial decisions) on the AMPC website.