

Draft 2

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 member 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;

Commented [TF1]: Or, does the AMPC want to document questions in additional “states” (e.g., after they’ve been through the entire AMP process steps (i.e., Board decision)

Commented [FT*O2]: “preliminary” is used here to tie it directly with OAR 629-603-0200(3), but it that confusing?

Commented [TF3]: The intent here is a minimal amount (e.g., a few paragraphs) of information that helps both ODF staff and the AMPC understand what and why an AMPC member is raising the question, rather than having to guess.

Commented [FT*O4]: Wendy proposed that these questions would only be reconsidered if an AMPC member brings it up; could leave it unprescribed at this time, and hone that when get there.

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).

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.

Commented [FT*O5]: I heard mixed response to the utility of this section, so keeping as an appendix

Commented [FT*O6]: Is this intuitive terminology, given the word “Step” is used throughout OAR 629-603-0200?

Commented [FT*O7]: Is this figure valuable any longer, given the conversation last time?

Commented [WG8]: In the table, I suggest making it not categories or definitions, but steps, and to say who does what. See edits in red below.

Commented [TF9]: Using this word to match term in OAR 629-603-0200(3)

Commented [FT*O10]: For example, Josh Seeds’ two questions posed for the June 2023 meeting.

Commented [FT*O11]: As noted in the footnote for the header of this column, “Step” is used exactly as in OAR 629-603-0200 to maintain a clear link with rule.

Commented [FT*O12]: I intentionally didn’t include categorization of questions that are finalized by IRST but before the IRST finalizes a scoping proposal; I did that because the AMPC doesn’t technically see the finalized research question (or, take action on it) until receipt of the scoping proposal, and because I don’t see the value to specify this

Commented [WG13]: If the term “Research Question” is used here, it feels like it should be defined above (since the proposed question types are).

Commented [FT*O14]: I heard some workgroup members consider these would definitely be moved into a research agenda given that the AMPC decided to ask IRST for scoping proposals, which makes sense; do you want to leave open the possibility that they might never be included in a research agenda due to e.g., new research (outside of this AMP) providing clear policy answers, or other questions remaining a higher priority?

Commented [TF15]: FYI - I didn’t break Steps 4 and 5 into separate categories because a research question isn’t really in a “state” in Step 5 because Step 5 is essentially a single action, whereas all the other Steps require some time to complete.

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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.

Commented [WG16]: What's the authority for this non-revisiting statement?

Commented [FT*O17R16]: There is nothing in statute compelling action on a question that has moved through all of OAR 629-603-0200, and this entire category is not specified in rule but is rather an administrative exercise that the AMPC could choose to use

Commented [FT*O18]: The intent here is that this would be a long-term record of what has happened, as well as a current status.