

Agenda Item No.:	E
Work Plan:	Forest Resources Division
Topic:	Implementing Legislative Direction
Presentation Title:	Adaptive Management Program Update
Date of Presentation:	September 6, 2023
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## **SUMMARY**

The department provides this update to the Board on the Adaptive Management Program. The program work includes supporting the committee and developing the contract with Oregon State University’s Institute for Natural Resources (INR) to house the Independent Research and Science Team (IRST). This report includes a budget for the board’s consideration. This is a decision item.

## **CONTEXT**

The legislature directed the board to set up an Adaptive Management Program. The program will help inform rulemaking and support the programmatic habitat conservation plan (HCP) application, and subsequent incidental take permit. The legislature set up the program to use the best available science to assess whether the Forest Practices Act rules effectively protect the HCP’s covered species.

## **BACKGROUND**

In February 2020, conservation and forest industry groups offered to revise the Forest Practices Act and administrative rules through a memorandum of understanding to include mediated discussions, known as the Private Forest Accord (PFA). The bill set the timeline and topics for making changes to the Forest Practices Act and rules from which the Board could apply for an HCP. The PFA concluded in late 2021. In March 2022, the legislature adopted the PFA recommendations through Senate Bills 1501 and 1502, and House Bill 4055. Senate Bill 1501 incorporated by reference the Private Forest Accord Report dated February 2, 2022. The PFA Report further detailed the recommended changes to the Act and rules and a pathway for an HCP. A key part of the rules is the Adaptive Management Program (AMP).

## **ANALYSIS**

Since the Board passed the AMP rules<sup>1</sup> on October 26, 2022, the following program-related work has happened:

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<sup>1</sup> Division 603 of chapter 629.

- The legislature appropriated one-time funds of \$4 million for the program.
- The department started developing an agreement for INR to house the IRST per rule<sup>2</sup>.
- The board appointed the Adaptive Management Program Committee (AMPC). ODF has supported the following AMPC work:
  - Oriented committee members to their roles, responsibilities, and the AMPC’s required tasks<sup>3</sup>;
  - Developed an AMPC charter and list of initial research topics<sup>4</sup>;
  - Elected co-chairs<sup>5</sup>;
  - Nominated IRST members<sup>6</sup>; and,
  - Started developing the first research questions for the IRST<sup>7</sup> to start scoping.
- Staff have developed other business processes to support the Program, including integrating the AMP into the HCP.

The department and INR developed the following budget for the Program, for the Board’s approval per OAR 629-603-0130(2):

**Table 1. Biennial budget for the Adaptive Management Program.**

<b>Item</b>	<b>2-year Budget</b>
IRST housing agency (INR)	\$ 695,814
Participation grants for the AMPC, IRST	\$ 625,920
IRST research projects	\$ 2,663,266
Program administrative expenses	\$ 15,000

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The department recommends that the Board approve the Adaptive Management Program budget in Table 1.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The department will coordinate with INR for IRST to complete work per this budget.

## **ATTACHMENT**

None.

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<sup>2</sup> OAR 629-603-0450.

<sup>3</sup> Sections 33-39, chapter 33, Oregon Laws 2022 and OAR chapter 629, division 603, respectively.

<sup>4</sup> OAR 629-603-0200(2)(a).

<sup>5</sup> OAR 629-603-0300(2).

<sup>6</sup> Section 37(3), chapter 33, Oregon Laws 2022.

<sup>7</sup> OAR 629-603-0200(3).