

## **STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Item No.:	11
Work Plan:	Forest Resources Division
Topic:	Implementing Legislative Direction
Presentation Title:	Update on the Adaptive Management Program
Date of Presentation:	March 4, 2026
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### **SUMMARY**

The Adaptive Management Program Committee (AMPC) Co-chairs, the Co-chairs of the Independent Research and Science Team (IRST), and staff from both OSU/Institute for Natural Resources (INR) and ODF will report on the progress of the Adaptive Management Program.

### **CONTEXT**

The legislature directed the Board of Forestry (Board) to set up an Adaptive Management Program. The Program will help inform future rulemaking and support an application for a programmatic habitat conservation plan (HCP). The goal of the Program is to use the best available science to assess the effectiveness of rules for achieving the biological goals and objectives described in the HCP.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2022, the legislature adopted the Private Forest Accord (PFA) recommendations through Senate Bill 1501 and 1502, and House Bill 4055. Senate Bill 1501 set the timeline and topics for making changes to the Forest Practices Act and rules from which the Board could apply for a programmatic HCP. The PFA Report further detailed the recommended changes to the Act and forest practices rules, as well as a pathway for an HCP. A key part of the rules is the Adaptive Management Program (Division 603). In addition to the Board, this Program includes the Adaptive Management Program Committee (AMPC) who develops the policy direction for the Program, and the Independent Research and Science Team (IRST) who oversees research and monitoring to address the policy direction.

## **ANALYSIS**

This analysis summarizes past and future work of the two committees (AMPC and IRST) of the Adaptive Management Program.

### **AMPC**

#### **2025:**

- Provided an annual update to the Board;
- Elected one co-chair;
- Updated charter;
- Conducted annual review of work accomplished in 2025;
- Completed Amphibians preliminary research questions package;
- Developed and finalized first research agenda;
- Presented research agenda to the Board and received Board approval of the agenda's budget;
- Conversated with IRST regarding scoping proposals on E. Oregon steep slopes and road-stream hydrologic connectivity;
- Provided feedback to IRST on research questions 1 and 2 on amphibians; and,
- Met with IRST to enhance inter-committee collaboration, address some challenges with research questions, discuss respective 2026 work plans, and how to develop researchable questions.

#### **2026:**

- Update Board on status of AMPC work;
- Elect a second co-chair;
- Conduct annual review of work accomplished in 2026;
- Regularly synchronize work with IRST;
- Collaborate with IRST to develop an effectiveness monitoring strategy;
- Review IRST scoping proposal on research questions 1 and 2 on amphibians;
- Integrate research questions 1 and 2 on amphibians into research agenda, with a budget for Board approval;
- Refine contextual information and list of relevant rules for third amphibian research question;
- Learn about IRST RFPs for road-stream hydrologic connectivity and E. Oregon steep slopes, and provide courtesy input on RFPs; and,
- Learn about HCP elements that influence the Adaptive Management Program. Elements include Biological Goals and Objectives, effectiveness monitoring framework, ODF's Compliance Monitoring Program, and ODFW's effectiveness monitoring program.

### **IRST**

#### **2025:**

##### **Research-related Activities**

- Finalized, approved, and submitted the [Eastern Oregon Steep Slopes Scoping Proposal](#) to the AMPC in January 2025 to address AMPC-submitted research questions pertaining to steep slopes in Eastern Oregon;

- Drafted, finalized, approved, and submitted the [Road-stream Hydrologic Connectivity Scoping Proposal](#) to the AMPC in May 2025 to address AMPC-submitted research questions pertaining to road-stream hydrologic connectivity;
- Worked with the AMPC to finalize research questions 1 and 2 for the amphibians research package;
- Drafted a chronology of events, starting at the delivery of the research question packages, for each current active research areas – eastern Oregon steep slopes, road-stream hydrologic connectivity, and amphibians – that will be continually updated until the final report for each research area has been completed;
- Based on the AMPC/Board approved research agenda, began drafting a road-stream hydrologic connectivity RFP;
- Made significant progress on a preliminary draft of the literature review for the amphibians scoping proposals for research questions 1 and 2;

#### Processes and Administrative Activities

- Used our IRST member nomination process to recommend two new members for the IRST, and onboarded two new members;
- Modified the charter to create co-chairs, and elected a co-chair;
- Drafted a succession plan presentation to ensure effective continuity through staggered IRST member terms;
- Developed and finalized the IRST FY26 annual work plan, as required in rule;
- Developed a general RFP process per rule, incorporating elements of planning, drafting and issuing RFPs, proposal review, and awarding projects;

#### Meetings

- Held 12 scheduled monthly meetings, and four additional meetings, to advance work products in 2025. Twelve meetings are scheduled through December 2026;
- IRST co-chairs met regularly with INR staff for IRST meetings and operations planning
- IRST ad hoc committees met to advance the work on both scoping proposal and request for proposal development, the amphibians literature review, and roles of research and monitoring in Oregon's Adaptive Management Program;
- IRST co-chairs met with the AMPC co-chairs, approximately quarterly;
- Convened a joint meeting with the AMPC in October that created a shared understanding of the work of both committees and progress to date, shared information about the roles of research and monitoring in adaptive management, discussed status and plans for research topics, and enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of IRST-AMPC communications; and,
- INR staff met weekly with the AMPC coordinator to ensure alignment with work products and expectations; INR also attended AMPC meetings.

#### 2026:

- Finalizing the IRST succession plan;
- Reviewing the best available science document;
- Working on the FY27 IRST workplan;

- Implementing competitive RFP process for eastern Oregon steep slopes research and road-stream hydrologic connectivity, including recruiting peer reviewers, selecting, awarding, and administering the research projects;
- Completing and submitting amphibians scoping proposal for question 1 and 2;
- Drafting amphibians scoping proposal for question 3;
- Drafting an RFP for questions 1 and 2 for the amphibians research;
- Collaborating with the AMPC on developing an effectiveness monitoring strategy; and,
- Reporting to the AMPC and the Board on progress of the research agenda.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

This item is information only.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None.