



Eastern Oregon Steep Slopes Scoping Proposal

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

Scoping Proposal

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Eastern Oregon Steep Slopes: Scoping Proposal

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The Independent Research and Science Team

Prepared by

The Institute for Natural Resources

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Disclaimer

This scoping proposal is submitted to the Adaptive Management Program Committee as a requirement of the Oregon Department of Forestry Adaptive Management Program rules ([Chapter 629, Division 603](#)).

The contents of this report reflect the views of the Independent Research and Science Team (IRST), which is solely responsible for the facts and accuracy of the material presented. This scoping proposal does not constitute a standard, specification, or regulation.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AMPC	Adaptive Management Program Committee
BGO	Biological, Goals, and Objectives
CEE	Collaboration for Environmental Evidence
CMER	Washington State’s Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Committee
EMC	California’s Effectiveness Monitoring Committee
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
INR	Institute for Natural Resources
IRST	Independent Research and Science Team
OSU	Oregon State University
PFA	Private Forest Accord
ROSES	RepOrting standards for Systematic Evidence Syntheses

Executive Summary

The Independent Research and Science Team (IRST) was established to support the work of the Oregon Department of Forestry Adaptive Management Program Committee (AMPC) by responding to AMPC-developed research question packages. The AMPC-submitted research questions pertaining to steep slopes in eastern Oregon are:

Overarching Question: What impact do hillslope processes have on the covered species included in the draft HCP and their habitats in Eastern Oregon?

- Primary Focus: What does the literature say about upslope initiated shallow rapid slides and how timber harvesting may impact these in Eastern Oregon environments?
- Secondary Focus: Are there hillslope processes other than upslope initiated shallow rapid slides that may affect covered species within the draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and are these processes changed by forest practices?

Only those amphibians and fish species identified in Section 1.4 of the Private Forest Accord (PFA) Report (2022) are considered “covered species,” as defined for use in developing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) consistent with USFWS and NMFS (2016), and thus are relevant to the overarching question. Road impacts on shallow rapid slides were not considered for the primary and secondary focus questions. Similarly, other hillslope processes unrelated to mass wasting were excluded for the secondary focus question.

The IRST was asked to prepare a research scoping proposal framing how these questions could be addressed using literature reviews, which would assess the robustness of conclusions based on the literature and identify key gaps that may prompt the need for additional research. Through the Institute for Natural Resources (INR) – the housing agency of the IRST – the IRST conducted a scoping review to characterize the potential amount and nature of the existing scientific literature. It was intended, not as a comprehensive literature review, but as a necessary first step to support the development of a research proposal package that will inform the AMPC and Board of Forestry decisions about the utility of soliciting a further literature review or research via requests for proposals.

Traditional searches considered 45 documents from two document repositories, two documents contributed from IRST members, several documents found through the Google search engine, and citations within these. Seven predetermined searches were performed across three electronic literature database sources. Of the thousands of documents retrieved through searches for the scoping review, 39 documents were found to have potential relevance to the research questions.

Primary Focus. Twenty of the 39 documents were deemed potentially relevant to the primary focus question and included content on hillslope processes, specifically shallow rapid slides; three of these documents were studies focused in eastern Oregon and two additional documents were focused in eastern Washington.

Secondary Focus. Four of the 39 documents, none of which targeted eastern Oregon or Washington, were deemed potentially relevant to the secondary focus question and included content on mass wasting processes apart from shallow rapid landslides, such as deep-seated earthflows, slumping, and soil bulking

debris flows. One document included mention of aquatic species and fire. All four were also identified as potentially relevant to the primary focus question.

Of the 39 documents, 19 were identified as potentially relevant to hillslope processes related to mass wasting on forested lands in semi-arid environments but did not explicitly include forest harvest-related practices.

The scoping review yielded insights on the literature review process and content that could be valuable for the AMPC when considering future work and for those designing and conducting that work. Insights on content are summarized here:

- 1) The approach used to search and review the literature identified few documents that directly addressed the research questions, and only Fitzgerald and Clifton (1997) explicitly examined mass wasting in eastern Oregon.
- 2) Many of the potentially relevant documents reported mass wasting in northeastern Oregon, southeastern Washington, and Idaho following an intense storm event in February 1996.
- 3) Landslide inventories generally indicated that fewer landslides and debris flows occur in arid and semi-arid environments east of the Cascade Mountain Crest compared to west of the Crest.
- 4) Although not well characterized in the literature for eastern Oregon, the factors there associated with the initiation and runout of shallow rapid slides and other mass wasting processes appear similar to those in western Oregon. These factors include slope steepness and heavy precipitation.
- 5) The effects of changing climate and weather patterns on precipitation events and thus mass wasting in eastern Oregon are unclear but may be important for evaluating landslide susceptibility and risk to covered species. Halofsky and Peterson (2017) report that climate change impacts to precipitation, plant communities, and wildfires in eastern Oregon may contribute to increasing mass movement susceptibility.
- 6) Shallow rapid landslides were associated with timber harvest in environments similar to eastern Oregon. However, the influence of timber harvesting on landslide and debris flow characteristics (e.g., number, size, runout distance) in semi-arid environments is less well studied and understood than in westside forests.
- 7) Watershed analyses in eastern Washington, Idaho, and western Montana included landslide inventories and explicitly examined the role of forest management on landslides. These landslide inventories may be a source of information to address the research questions if a future review occurs.
- 8) The impacts of debris flows and other hillslope processes on habitat characteristics or their influence on demographics and persistence of covered amphibian and fish species in eastern Oregon has not been researched extensively. Limited studies identified in the scoping review examined changes to in-stream habitat conditions following mass wasting events. Other studies from semi-arid regions broadly infer habitat responses to changes in sediment levels related to climate change, forest management practices, and in particular the frequency, extent and severity of wildfires (e.g., Goode et al. 2012, Halofsky et al. 2017, Luce et al. 2012). The eastside watershed analyses may contain information on fish habitat as related to mass wasting, but this has not yet been explored.

Based on the results of this scoping review, four options are presented to address the AMPC research questions: (1) a full systematic mapping review following the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence

(CEE) process; (2) a more rapid systematic mapping review following the corresponding CEE advice; (3) a standard but less rigorous descriptive review; and, (4) no further searching or literature review. The four options differ in time required, costs, and knowledge contributions. However, the knowledge contributed from each of the first three options in Table I should sufficiently characterize the state of science and gaps in understanding to help inform policy discussions regarding steep slopes in eastern Oregon.

Table ES-1. Summary of scoping proposal options timeframes, costs, (excluding indirect costs and administrative startup and closeout time), and knowledge contributions.

Option	Timeframe	Cost	Knowledge Contribution
Full systematic map	12–18 mo.	\$50,000-\$100,000	Extracts data from reviewed documents to support quantitative and narrative synthesis about the state of and important gaps in knowledge regarding eastern Oregon steep slopes. Compiles any existing empirical databases for future use. Further describe differences between eastern and western Oregon in the drivers of mass wasting processes and what is known about covered species habitat vulnerabilities in eastern Oregon.
Rapid systematic map	4–8 mo.	\$20,000-\$50,000	Extracts data from reviewed documents to support quantitative and narrative synthesis about the state of and important gaps in knowledge regarding eastern Oregon steep slopes. This may exclude some of the gray literature, especially older studies or those from other states. The search and review process would still be well documented for transparency and replicability but relying only on one or two reviewers without consistency checking could increase bias.
Descriptive review	3–6 mo.	\$15,000-\$30,000	Provides a reasonable collation of the literature on steep slopes in eastern Oregon based primarily on peer-reviewed literature. It is unlikely to capture much of the gray literature, especially older studies or those from other states. The searching, screening and review methods would not be as thoroughly documented, so would be less transparent and replicable. A narrative synthesis of findings would result but would be more limited than for the rapid systematic mapping option.
No further searching or review	0 mo.	N/A	Provides only the characterization and summary of the literature garnered from this scoping effort (Section 2.5 Content Insights, Appendices B, C, and D) and does not identify knowledge gaps. The search for literature conducted for this scoping review was not exhaustive and was not intended to be a full synthesis of existing information relative to the research questions.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background and Project Purpose

The Independent Research and Science Team (IRST) was established via [Senate Bill 1501](#) as part of the Oregon Department of Forestry's [Adaptive Management Program](#). The IRST supports the work of the Adaptive Management Program Committee (AMPC) by responding to AMPC-developed research questions packages. Per rule, and in consultation with the AMPC, the IRST refines preliminary research questions into final research questions, then develops scoping proposal(s) to address those questions. The scoping proposal(s) need(s) to include:

- A literature review that specifies the need for, or the type of, monitoring, research, commissioned studies, or other means of scientific inquiry necessary to answer the finalized research questions mentioned above;
- A preliminary estimate of the budget for each year of the research, and a timeline to complete the research project with specific deliverables; and,
- A preliminary description of research project requirements, scope of work including an estimate of the timeline and key milestones, and an estimate of the degree to which knowledge may be improved if the research proposal is implemented.

As per [OAR 629-603-0200](#), the IRST develops requests for proposals (RFP) in an open, competitive process after the AMPC and Board of Forestry approve an AMPC research agenda that is based on IRST scoping proposal(s). See Figure 1.

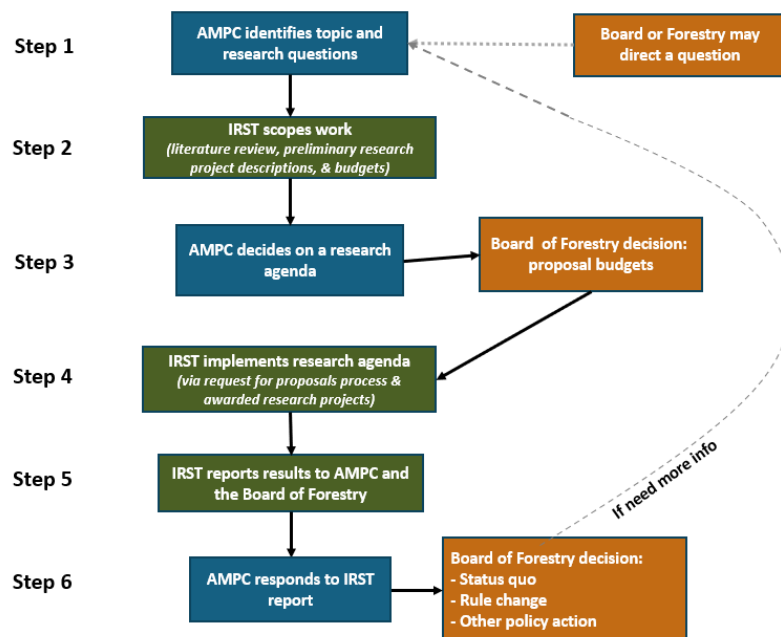


Figure 1. Adaptive Management Process.

With these requirements, the purpose of this effort was to conduct a scoping review that provides an initial characterization of the potential amount and nature of existing literature in relation to the AMPC research questions (see Section 1.2) and to determine if there is enough to warrant a full literature review through the required RFP process.

1.2 Research Questions

On July 11, 2024, the AMPC submitted the research questions package (Appendix A) pertaining to the geographic region ¹ of Eastern Oregon. The IRST was asked to address the questions using literature reviews, assess the robustness of conclusions based on the literature, and identify key gaps that may prompt the need for additional research.

Overarching Question: What impacts do hillslope processes have on the covered species in the draft HCP and their habitats in Eastern Oregon?

- Primary Focus: What does the literature say about upslope initiated shallow rapid slides and how timber harvesting may impact these in Eastern Oregon environments?
- Secondary Focus: Are there hillslope processes other than upslope initiated shallow rapid slides that may affect covered species within the draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and are these processes changed by forest practices?

1.3 Types of Literature Reviews

Literature reviews may differ based on their objectives and the rigor of approach used to search for documents, to screen found documents for relevance to review objectives, and to summarize content in the relevant documents. The search approach is foundational to any review, and so it is highlighted here.

Searches may aim to be comprehensive, attempting to identify every document relevant to the review objectives, but more often strive to balance sensitivity and precision. Precise or focused searches may retrieve fewer irrelevant results but have a higher risk of missing relevant documents and so can be less comprehensive. Sensitive or broad searches typically retrieve more documents but may require greater effort in evaluating which are relevant to the review objectives. When searching electronic databases, the greater the number of search terms linked with “AND,” the more precise and fewer results. Conversely, the more terms or synonyms linked with “OR,” the greater the sensitivity and number of results returned.

Searches are rarely comprehensive, and so searchers will introduce some level of bias when locating documents for review. To help reduce the potential for bias, a “predetermined” search approach identifies beforehand the sources (e.g., electronic databases, agency archives, or program repositories) to be searched as well as the search terms and how these are linked when searching those sources. A predetermined search approach aims to be transparent and reproducible. In contrast, a “traditional” search approach is iterative - the document sources and search terms may evolve during the search. For example, citations in an initial set of potentially relevant documents can be considered to reveal other potentially relevant documents, those documents are located, their citations considered, and the process of “citation

¹ Note: The Oregon Department of Forestry maintains a regulatory Geographic Information Systems layer of the Forest Practices Act delineation between eastern and western Oregon.

mining” is repeated until the reviewer decides to stop searching. Traditional searches may proceed until no or few new relevant documents are found.

Characteristics of the review types most pertinent to preparing this scoping proposal or providing useful context are briefly described here. Unless otherwise noted, much of the text below is summarized from the National Library of Medicine (2017).

Scoping reviews, such as the one conducted for this scoping proposal (Section 2), provide an initial assessment of the existing literature to answer a question or set of questions on an emergent topic. These are intended to broadly characterize the amount and types of studies available to help determine the value of undertaking a more comprehensive literature review and/or identify research gaps (Paré et al. 2015). Scoping reviews may use both predetermined and traditional search approaches and often consider peer-reviewed publications along with non-peer reviewed “gray” literature, such as working papers, technical reports, and conference proceedings. Consistent with their main objective, scoping reviews usually conclude by presenting an agenda or options for future work.

Narrative reviews are mainly descriptive, focusing on a subset of studies in an area chosen based on availability or author selection rather than predetermined searching and screening criteria as with the other types of review. A narrative review summarizes or synthesizes what has been written on a particular topic but does not seek generalization or cumulative knowledge from what is reviewed. Such reviews are common in the introduction section of peer-reviewed journal articles.

Descriptive Reviews determine the extent to which a body of knowledge on a particular topic reveals any interpretable patterns or trends. Descriptive reviews typically provide only a qualitative, narrative summary of the relevant literature, as illustrated in “Literature Review: Effects of Salvage Logging on Riparian Zones in Coniferous Forests of Eastern Washington and Adjacent Regions” (Barrett and Reilly 2017). Although descriptive reviews may apply predetermined strategies for searching and screening documents, these exclude a critical appraisal of study methods for quality.

Systematic reviews are designed to answer a clearly formulated and often narrow question on a well-researched topic and seek to identify causation or the effectiveness of a specific intervention. These reviews aggregate and synthesize all results from similar studies in the primary literature. Two of the better-known systematic literature review protocols developed for the field of environmental management are the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence (CEE 2022) and the RepOrting standards for Systematic Evidence Syntheses (ROSES, Haddaway et al. 2018). These build on methods developed to enhance objectivity and rigor when searching and synthesizing results in clinical medicine (e.g., Page et al. 2021; Higgins et al. 2024). The critical appraisal of study methods is a hallmark of systematic reviews. This is essential for any systematic review that includes a meta-analysis, whereby data from the reviewed studies are statistically summarized into a single quantitative estimate of effect size (CEE 2022).

Systematic maps retain many of the methodological requirements and benefits of systematic reviews but offer greater flexibility (Haddaway et al. 2016). For example, systematic maps are useful for addressing a wider array of questions, can include more types of studies (e.g., primary, secondary, quantitative, or qualitative), and are intended to identify knowledge gaps. These reviews are appropriate for synthesizing broad areas of science that have not been extensively

studied and are prompted by open-framed questions, such as the primary and secondary focus questions in Section 1.2.

Rapid reviews accelerate “the process of conducting a traditional systematic review through streamlining or omitting a variety of methods to produce evidence in a resource-efficient manner (Smela et al 2023).” Similar time-saving modifications can be applied to systematic maps. Although it may increase bias, one of the more common modifications is to use only one reviewer, rather than multiple independent reviewers. Limiting the number of sources searched can also help accelerate the process but may return fewer publications, posing concerns about the reliability and validity of the results. Less or no effort can be expended in the critical appraisal of study validity, however lower quality studies with less reliable findings may be included that influence conclusions drawn from evidence synthesis. The Oregon Department of Forestry recently conducted a rapid review. Its purpose was “to determine whether the post-catastrophic event alternative vegetation retention prescriptions described in Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 629-643-0300(3) are effective in avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating effects on riparian areas and aquatic habitat” (Thompson et al. 2024). Their review, with a few departures, generally followed CEE protocol.

2. Scoping Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

This scoping literature review, as the first step in developing the eastern Oregon steep slopes proposal, was undertaken to help determine the value of conducting a more in-depth review. It is intended to serve, not as a comprehensive literature review, but rather to understand if literature might be available to support the development of a research proposal package and help the AMPC determine the next steps in investing resources. Unless future research questions from the AMPC specifically request answers through a review of the literature, a narrative review, in lieu of a scoping review, will likely be sufficient to support the associated scoping proposal for those questions and meet rule requirements (OAR 629-603-0200).

This scoping review does not directly address the broad, overarching question in Section 1.2. Instead, for the primary focus question, the scoping review provides a preliminary indication of the existing scientific research available that could potentially determine if shallow rapid slides are prevalent enough to be an important driver of riparian and stream habitats in eastern Oregon and if forest harvest is likely to influence characteristics (e.g., initiation rate, size, runout distance) of these slides. The scoping review uses a similar approach for the secondary focus question but considers other potentially important mass wasting processes and the influence of forest harvesting on those processes. Consistent with Appendix A, Section 3.3.8 from the Private Forest Accord Report (2022), the only hillslope processes considered for the secondary focus question are related to mass wasting.

2.3 Methods

This scoping review used a three-step process. Step one was finding the potentially relevant literature, step two was screening the found literature to determine relevance, and step three was a simple data extraction and summarization of articles that were deemed potentially relevant to the research questions.

Approaches to finding potentially relevant literature

Two search approaches (traditional and predetermined) were used to find potentially relevant literature for the scoping review.

Traditional search approach

Documents were obtained by soliciting the IRST, examining repositories of two related programs (Washington State's Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Committee (CMER) and California's Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC)), and using the Google search engine. Consistent with the iterative process described in Section 1.3 for traditional searches, citations in potentially relevant documents were also considered (citation mining) to identify additional material not found in initial searches.

For the Google search, the search terms "debris flows", "landslides", "mass wasting", "semi-arid", "steep slopes", "hillslopes," "forest practices", "forest management", "lumbering", and "timber harvest" were input in combination with: a) individual names of four mountain ranges in eastern Oregon (specifically, Ochocos, Blue, Wallowa, and Strawberry); b) individual western state names of Idaho, Montana, Washington, Oregon, Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming; and, c) individual eastern Oregon national forests

(specifically, Wallowa-Whitman, Deschutes, Malheur, Ochoco, and Umatilla). Not all eastern Oregon mountain ranges, federal lands, or national forests were included in this search effort.

Predetermined search approach

With input and revisions from the IRST, INR developed the predetermined search approach. This included specifying document sources, search terms, how search terms were linked, and how many articles to screen from each search. Searching took place from September to December 2024. Sources of potentially relevant documents were three electronic literature databases: [Web of Science](#), [Google Scholar](#), and the [OSU Scholars Archive](#). The core topic areas and search terms in Table 1 were derived from the two research questions (Section 1.2).

Table 1. Core topic areas and terms used in the predetermined searches to find documents with potential relevance to the research questions.

Core Topic Area	Search Terms
Hillslope processes-mass wasting	mass wasting, "debris flow", landslid*, landslide, "debris slide", "hillslope process"
Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	semi-arid, east, eastern, eastside, "eastern Oregon", Oregon, "eastern Washington", Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, California, "British Columbia", OR "Sierra Nevada" OR Alberta
Forest harvest-related activities	forest
HCP covered species and their habitats	<i>(No specific terms were searched for, rather this topic was used in the review)</i>

* The asterisk is a search operator available in some databases, it finds any words that begin with the preceding characters, e.g. landslid* finds landslide, landsliding, etc.

Because few documents that directly addressed eastern Oregon were found in preliminary searches, search terms were broadened to include other western states with environments similar to eastern Oregon (Table 1). Search terms were linked in searches using Boolean operators. Examples include: forest AND hillslope AND (arid OR semi-arid OR dry), hillslope AND (trout OR salmon OR salamander) AND (eastern AND (Oregon OR Washington)). Given guidance in the PFA Report (Appendix A), search terms related to "roads" as a forest harvest-related activity were not considered.

For the predetermined searches, the first 20 results from each search were selected to be screened. If there were fewer than 20 search results, all were selected for screening.

Screening of the traditional and predetermined search results to assess potential relevance

Consistent with the *Standards for Best Available Science: A Guidance Document* produced by the IRST, documents were screened to assess potential relevance between the study subject matter and the primary and secondary focus questions. Potential relevance of the documents selected for screening was assessed by reading the abstracts or introductions and searching within each document for keywords that we identified for each topic area (Table 2).

Table 2. Core topic areas considered as inclusion criteria and related keywords for determining potential relevance to a research question as part of the screening process.

Core Topic Area (Inclusion Criteria)	Related Keywords
Hillslope processes-mass wasting	shallow rapid slides/landslides, landslides, debris flows, mass wasting, hillslope failure, slope stability, soil bulking, geologic mapping, geologic-mapped landslides, landslides with geologic map
Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	semi-arid systems, arid systems, dry-side, arid environments, snow-dominated systems
Forest harvest-related activities	timber harvesting, harvest, clear cutting, thinning, fuel treatment
HCP covered species and their habitats	aquatic & riparian biota, cutthroat trout, bull trout, rainbow trout, salmonids, salmon, Torrent salamander, Giant salamander

The first three core topic areas in Table 2 were essential inclusion criteria when determining whether a document had potential relevance overall to a focus question. The fourth core topic area (“HCP covered species and their habitats”) was not considered essential because studies meeting the other criteria could be connected to species impacts via the processes described in the draft HCP biological goals and objectives (Appendix A, Section B.2). The screening determined whether a document was potentially relevant but not the degree of relevance to a focus question.

Data extraction

For documents determined to be potentially relevant, the reference was entered into an Excel spreadsheet, along with a Yes/No indication for each of the screening criteria and whether content was relevant to the primary focus question (includes shallow rapid slides) or secondary focus question (includes other hillslope mass wasting processes). The general geographic location and text clips of the potentially relevant content were also recorded. These data were used to generate document counts by various categories.

2.4 Findings

General characterization of the potentially relevant literature

This scoping review provided an indication of the size, nature, and relevance of the existing literature with potential application to the primary focus and the secondary focus research questions from AMPC (Table 3). Seven predetermined searches were performed across the three electronic literature database sources. Regarding the traditional searches, 45 documents from the two document repositories, two documents contributed from IRST members, several documents returned from searching Google, and citations within these were screened.

Table 3. Results from traditional and predetermined searches performed to address the research questions

Source	Search Terms Strings	Total Articles	Articles Screened	Q1 Relevant Articles	Q2 Relevant Articles	Process Relevant ²
Google Scholar	mass wasting OR "debris flow" forest semi-arid	7,170	20	1	0	1
	landslide forest Idaho OR Montana OR Wyoming OR Colorado OR Utah OR Nevada	41,200	20	3	1	3
	landslide forest "eastern Oregon" OR "eastern Washington"	4,280	20	2	0	0
Web of Science	(landslid* OR "debris flow") AND (Oregon OR Washington OR California OR "British Columbia") AND (east OR eastern OR eastside) AND forest*	10	10	0	0	0
	(landslid* OR "debris flow") AND (Idaho OR Montana OR Wyoming OR Colorado OR Utah OR Nevada OR "Sierra Nevada" OR Alberta) AND forest*	31	20	1	0	4
OSU ScholarsArchive	forest AND (landslide OR "mass wasting" OR "debris flow" OR "debris slide" OR "hillslope process")	1	1	0	0	0
	landslide OR "mass wasting" OR "debris flow" OR "debris slide" OR "hillslope process"	5	5	0	0	0
CA BoF EMC	[reviewed projects list on website]	18	18	0	0	0
WA CMER	[reviewed publications list on website]	27	27	1	0	0
Google Search + Citation Mining	[various – see section 2.3 Methods]	NA [†]	NA [†]	10	3	11
IRST Contributions		2	2	2	0	0
Totals			141	20	4	19

* The asterisk is a search operator available in some databases, it finds any words that begin with the preceding characters, e.g. landslid* finds landslide, landsliding, etc.

[†] NA means that the information is not available.

Types of documents found and reviewed included peer-reviewed journal articles, dissertations and theses, government office or agency reports, technical reports, conference proceedings, and book chapters. Some of the potentially relevant documents were produced outside of traditional commercial, academic, or publishing channels, and may not be peer-reviewed. Examples include working papers, technical reports, conference proceedings, or oral presentations.

Although searches returned thousands of documents, few were screened - either by design in the predetermined searches or because most in the traditional searches had little relevance to the review questions. Of the 141 documents screened from the predetermined searches, the two repositories, and IRST contributions along with an uncounted number identified from the Google search and citation mining, 39 documents passed the screening and had potential relevance to the research questions (Table 3). Twenty documents were potentially relevant to the primary focus research question, four of which were

² "Process relevant" articles are not referenced in the body of the report; however, they are in the references (Section 4) indicated by the authors' names being in red italic font. Abstracts or summaries of these articles appear in Appendix D.

also potentially relevant to the secondary focus question, and 19 other documents were potentially relevant to mass wasting processes on forested lands but did not address forest harvest-related activities. Forest harvest-related topics included skid trails, logging with ground-based equipment and cable yarding, fuel treatments, stand density management, regeneration, preventing damage from disturbance, clearcutting, and harvest methods.

Of the 39 potentially relevant documents, 74% were published between 2001 and 2024 (Figure 2), indicating an increasing interest over time in the effects of forest harvest-related activities on mass wasting processes in semi-arid environments.

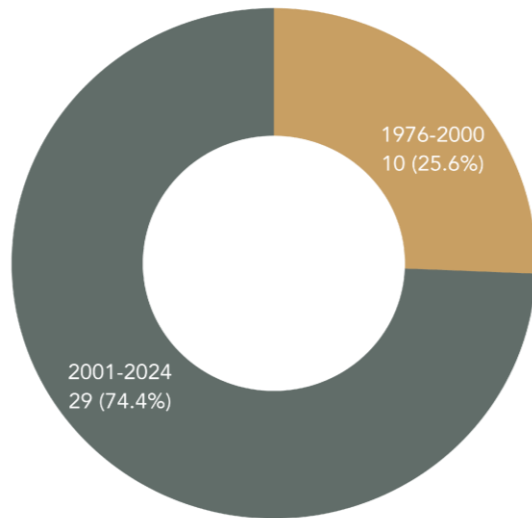


Figure 2. Number and percent of potentially relevant documents by publication year.

Whereas the traditional and predetermined searches focused on western states, the majority of potentially relevant documents were obtained from studies in Idaho (Figure 3). Only three documents were found from studies in eastern Oregon (Figure 3 and Table 4).

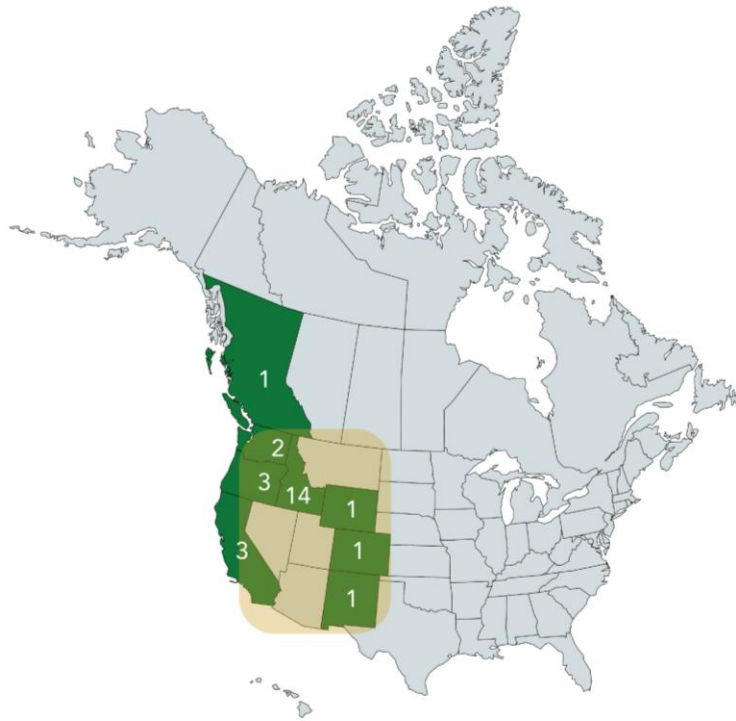


Figure 3. Locations of 39 potentially relevant studies identified in the scoping review. The 9 states and provinces yielding potentially relevant documents are shown in green. In addition, 12 documents were described simply as representing studies in the western United States (depicted by tan box), and one study included numerous locations not specific to any state, province, or region.

Table 4. The three potentially relevant documents that met the first three inclusion criteria (Table 2) and were located in eastern Oregon.

Fitzgerald, J., and C. Clifton 1997. Flooding, land use, and watershed response in the Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. In: Inland Northwest Water Resources Conference, Program and abstracts. https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5208929.pdf
Halofsky, J.E., and D.L. Peterson. 2017. Climate change vulnerability and adaptation in the Blue Mountains region. Pacific Northwest Research Station General Technical Report, PNW-GTR-939. 331 p. https://doi.org/10.2737/PNW-GTR-939
Wondzell, S.M. 2001. The influence of forest health and protection treatments on erosion and stream sedimentation in forested watersheds of eastern Oregon and Washington. <i>Northwest Science</i> 75:128-140. https://rex.libraries.wsu.edu/esploro/outputs/journalArticle/The-influence-of-forest-health-and/99900501658801842

In assessing potential relevance to core topic areas, all 39 documents contained the core topic of mass-wasting related hillslope processes. Aquatic species were least well represented in the potentially relevant documents (Figure 4).

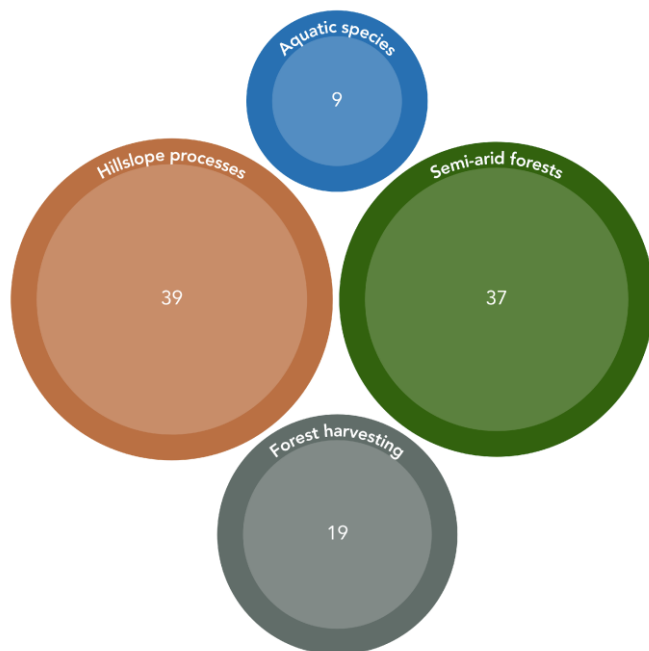


Figure 4. Distribution of the 39 potentially relevant studies in the scoping review by core topic area in Table 2.

Characterizing the publications in relation to the AMPC questions

Primary focus: What literature exists relating to upslope initiated shallow rapid slides and how timber harvesting may impact these in eastern Oregon environments?

Of the 39 potentially relevant documents, the 20 presented in Table 5 were deemed potentially relevant to the primary focus question and included content on hillslope processes, specifically shallow rapid slides. Three of these documents were studies focused in eastern Oregon, and two additional documents were from studies in eastern Washington. As previously noted, screening determined whether a document was potentially relevant but not the degree of relevance. Regarding the primary focus question for example, McGreer et al. (1998) and McClelland et al. (1997) associated timber harvest with mass wasting events using data from empirical studies, whereas Wondzell (2001) inferred the association based on westside literature.

Abstracts of the potentially relevant literature are provided in Appendix B.

Table 5. Documents potentially relevant to the primary focus research question.

Publication		Location	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes-mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Fitzgerald and Clifton (1997)		Eastern Oregon				
Halofsky and Peterson (2017)*						
Wondzell (2001)						
Harp et al. (1996)		Eastern Washington				
Klock and Helvey (1976)*						
Gorsveski et al. (2006)		Idaho				
Istanbulluoglu et al. (2004)*						
Ketcheson et al. (1999)						
Lineback Gritzner et al. (2001)						
McClelland et al. (1999)*						
Megahan et al. (1978)						
Platts et al. (1989)						
Goode et al. (2012)*		Western U.S.				
Herrera Environmental Consultants (2004)						
Luce et al. (2012)*						
McGreer et al. (1998)						
Peterson et al. (2009)*						
Wondzell and King (2003)*						
Jordan et al. (2010)		British Columbia				
Sidle (2005)		Various				

* Denotes a document that includes wildfire effects.

Eight documents included content on wildfire and are highlighted in Table 5 because these provide insights into hillslope processes and mass wasting, with potential consequences for aquatic habitats and/or species.

The six documents that included content on aquatic species are briefly described here:

- Halofsky and Peterson (2017), in a climate change vulnerability assessment for three national forests in the Blue Mountain region, suggested that landslides and debris flows following wildfires are an issue in this area of eastern Oregon. They do not specifically link forest harvesting to mass wasting processes, but they do mention the potential for climate change to affect mass wasting impacts on aquatic species and recommend the need for debris flow / landslide hazard mapping as part of post-fire response approaches.
- Luce et al. (2012) described the nexus among physical processes, biological interactions, and management decisions as well as potential interactions of fish populations with wildfire.
- McClelland et al. (1997) investigated the extent of mass wasting in the Blue Mountains of eastern Washington after a severe rainfall event in 1996. They described the relative abundance and volume of sediment delivered by landslides and debris flows associated with natural areas (no management), roads, and timber harvest, and described “aquatic habitat parameters” that either degraded, were unchanged, or improved because of flooding or flooding with landslide sediment.

- McGreer et al. (1998) summarized results of mass wasting analyses for 23 watersheds in forested areas of eastern Washington, Idaho, and western Montana. In the original studies, landslide inventories were used to associate geology, geography, and forest management activities (both road- and non-road-related) with mass wasting events and their potential effects on aquatic resources, per the State of Washington's Watershed Analysis process.
- Peterson et al. (2009) assessed the effects of post-fire logging based on the biophysical setting of the forest, pattern of burn severity, operational aspects of tree removal, and other management activities (e.g., removal of snags, road construction, logging with ground-based equipment, cable yarding) in dry forests of the western United States. They describe potential effects on aquatic systems and species in relation to the intensity and extent of post-fire logging.
- Platts et al. (1989) documents sediment delivery to spawning and rearing areas for Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), noting logging and road construction, in combination with large storm events in a two-year period, resulted in increased amounts of fine sediment delivery to an Idaho river.

Secondary focus: Are there hillslope processes other than upslope initiated shallow rapid slides that may affect covered species within the draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and are these processes changed by forest practices?

Four documents (Table 6) were deemed potentially relevant to the secondary focus question and included content on mass wasting processes apart from shallow rapid landslides, such as deep-seated earthflows, slumping, and soil bulking debris flows. One document included mention of aquatic species and fire. All four were also identified as potentially relevant to the primary focus question. Abstracts or summaries of the potentially relevant literature are provided in Appendix C.

Table 6. Documents potentially relevant to the secondary focus research question.

Publication	Location	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes-mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Lineback Gritzner et al. (2001)	Idaho				
Megahan et al. (1978)					
Luce et al. (2012)*	Western U.S.				
Jordan et al. (2010)	British Columbia				

* denotes publication that includes wildfire effects.

Other process relevant studies

Nineteen documents were classified as "process relevant," (Table 3) that is, these considered mass wasting on forestlands but without any direct connection to forest management. These documents are summarized here as demonstrating the role that mass wasting can play after wildfire. Although not specifically addressed, forest harvest-related activities may affect the processes driving post-fire mass wasting. The largest number of documents came from studies in Idaho (7), followed by studies spanning multiple western states (6); three were located in California and one each in Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico. None were located in eastern Oregon or Washington. By definition, none of these addressed forest harvest-related activities but all addressed hillslope processes and all overlapped with semi-arid

environments. Most of these studies (14) investigated post-wildfire surficial erosion and mass wasting. Abstracts or summaries of the potentially relevant literature are provided in Appendix D.

Studies with potentially useful literature review methods

Two literature reviews were found (Barrett and Reilly 2017; Herrera Environmental Consultants Inc. 2004) that described methods that could be useful in conducting a comprehensive literature review. Herrera (2004) included both project initiation and mid-project workshops in which information and feedback was solicited from broader user groups, whereas Barrett and Reilly (2017) gave a final presentation to the sponsoring group. Both reviews were focused on eastern Washington, but because of the lack of literature directly addressing this area, they broadened their searches to similar environments in other western states and Canada. Both reviews researched literature databases and solicited documents from subject matter experts. These two reviews are also useful for estimating the time and cost of this type of work. Further details on the review steps used in each of these literature reviews can be found in Appendix D.

2.5 Insights

The scoping review yielded insights that could be valuable for the AMPC when considering future work and for those designing and conducting that work. Insights were gleaned on the process of conducting the review and from the content of the reviewed documents.

Review process insights

Although the gray literature was particularly helpful in addressing the research questions, no gray literature was identified from predetermined searches of the three electronic literature databases. Approximately half the documents that were potentially relevant to the primary focus question (9 of 20) and the secondary focus question (2 of 4) were classified as gray literature. All of the gray literature was found via the traditional search approach (i.e., personal contacts (IRST members), agency websites, Google searches, and subsequent reviews of citations). Only one of the 19 documents describing the process-relevant literature was classified as gray literature. This may be due to different search emphases – process-relevant literature was not requested from IRST members and not included in the review of agency websites. Rather the process-relevant category was created after examining search results. More than half of the process-relevant literature came from searching Google and mining citations; the latter led to formally published sources.

Although the predetermined search approach returned thousands of documents, the majority of these are unlikely to be relevant for a more comprehensive review. This was particularly true of the Google Scholar search, where results included less relevant conference abstracts and multiple entries for a single document. If a comprehensive review related to the research questions is pursued, the reviewer will need to determine a reasonable top number of search results to review.

The search for literature conducted for this scoping review was not exhaustive and was not intended to be a full synthesis of existing information relative to the research questions. Thus, a more comprehensive search that includes other search terms may return documents not considered here. However, the IRST does not expect expanded searches to discover substantially more studies specific to the research questions and conducted in eastern Oregon. A subsequent literature review would synthesize across the best available science and has the potential to develop different conclusions than the content insights that follow.

Content insights

Based on the limited amount of literature identified and characterized in the scoping review, we provide the following insights:

- 1) The approach used to search and review the literature identified few documents that directly addressed the research questions, and only Fitzgerald and Clifton (1997) explicitly examined mass wasting in eastern Oregon.
- 2) Many of the potentially relevant documents reported mass wasting in northeastern Oregon, southeastern Washington, and Idaho following an intense storm event in February 1996.
- 3) Landslide inventories generally indicated that fewer landslides and debris flows occur in arid and semi-arid environments east of the Cascade Mountain Crest compared to west of the Crest.
- 4) Although not well characterized in the literature for eastern Oregon, the factors associated with the initiation and runout of shallow rapid slides and other mass wasting processes appear similar to those in western Oregon. These factors include slope steepness and heavy precipitation.
- 5) The effects of changing climate and weather patterns on precipitation events and thus mass wasting in eastern Oregon are unclear but may be important for evaluating landslide susceptibility and risk to covered species. Halofsky and Peterson (2017) report that climate change impacts to precipitation, plant communities, and wildfires in eastern Oregon may contribute to increasing mass movement susceptibility.
- 6) Shallow rapid landslides were associated with timber harvest in environments similar to eastern Oregon. However, the influence of timber harvesting on landslide and debris flow characteristics (e.g., number, size, runout distance) in semi-arid environments is less well studied and understood than in westside forests.
- 7) Watershed analyses in eastern Washington, Idaho, and western Montana included landslide inventories and explicitly examined the role of forest management on landslides. These landslide inventories may be a source of information to address the research questions.
- 8) The impacts of debris flows and other hillslope processes on habitat characteristics or their influence on demographics and persistence of covered amphibian and fish species in eastern Oregon has not been researched extensively. Limited studies identified in the scoping review examined changes to in-stream habitat conditions following mass wasting events. Other studies from semi-arid regions broadly infer habitat responses to changes in sediment levels related to climate change, forest management practices, and in particular the frequency, extent and severity of wildfires (e.g., Goode et al. 2012, Halofsky et al. 2017, Luce et al. 2012). The eastside watershed analyses may contain information on fish habitat as related to mass wasting, but this has not yet been explored.

3. Scoping Proposals

3.1 Introduction

Although few studies that related forest harvest to mass wasting hillslope processes in eastern Oregon and similar environments were found in the scoping review, it is expected that additional relevant literature would be found with more intensive searching, particularly in gray literature and state-sponsored technical reports. Based on the scoping review, the literature for the primary and secondary focus questions seems sufficiently intertwined that separate reviews are unlikely to be fruitful if future work is undertaken. Therefore, the four options presented here could address both of the AMPC research questions together. The options are: 1) a full systematic mapping review following the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence (CEE) process, 2) a more rapid systematic mapping review following the corresponding CEE advice, 3) a standard but less rigorous descriptive review, and 4) no further literature review. If subsequent review is pursued, the IRST would provide advice and oversight throughout, including reviewing the search and screening protocols, initial search results, data coding plan, and draft of final results. The following information describes the four options in more detail.

3.2 Scoping proposal: Systematic map

Scope of work

A systematic mapping approach, following the CEE process, could be used to more fully describe the amount and nature of the literature on forest harvest practices related to hillslope processes in eastern Oregon. The search terms could be broadened beyond those used in the scoping review to include non-empirical studies that use modeling. These types of studies are often framed as susceptibility or risk assessments. Databases from empirical studies or developed in modeling work could be compiled as part of the systematic map to be made available for use in future research, particularly in developing and calibrating new models for application in eastern Oregon if deemed appropriate.

Given that the Private Forest Accord (PFA) identified the differences in climate and geology between eastern and western Oregon, part of the systematic mapping process could describe these differences and inventory data sources available to assess these differences. Similarly, a section related to the aquatic/riparian species of most concern and their habitat needs in relation to mass wasting processes could be included. To best access gray literature, a list of organizational and individual experts could be developed and contacted. This option could include workshops for input and broad participation, beyond iterative interaction with the IRST. Consistent with its previously listed roles, the IRST would advise on the contact list of experts for workshop participation and document solicitation.

Screening and coding/analysis of publications would be done by multiple independent reviewers with checks for consistency. A full database of the publications found, including those accepted and rejected, and other coding fields would be delivered, as well as a list of accepted publications in Zotero or a common bibliographic interchange format (RIS, Bibtex). Critical appraisal of study validity and data would be described (e.g., model v. empirical datasets; experimental design v. opportunistic assessment; statistical analysis and sample size). Empirical databases that can be used for later model calibration and/or mapping purposes would be compiled and made available (possibly using GitHub).

The core elements, milestones, and timelines of the scope of work are documented in Figure 5, showing a maximum estimated duration of 18 months, not including administrative startup and closeout.

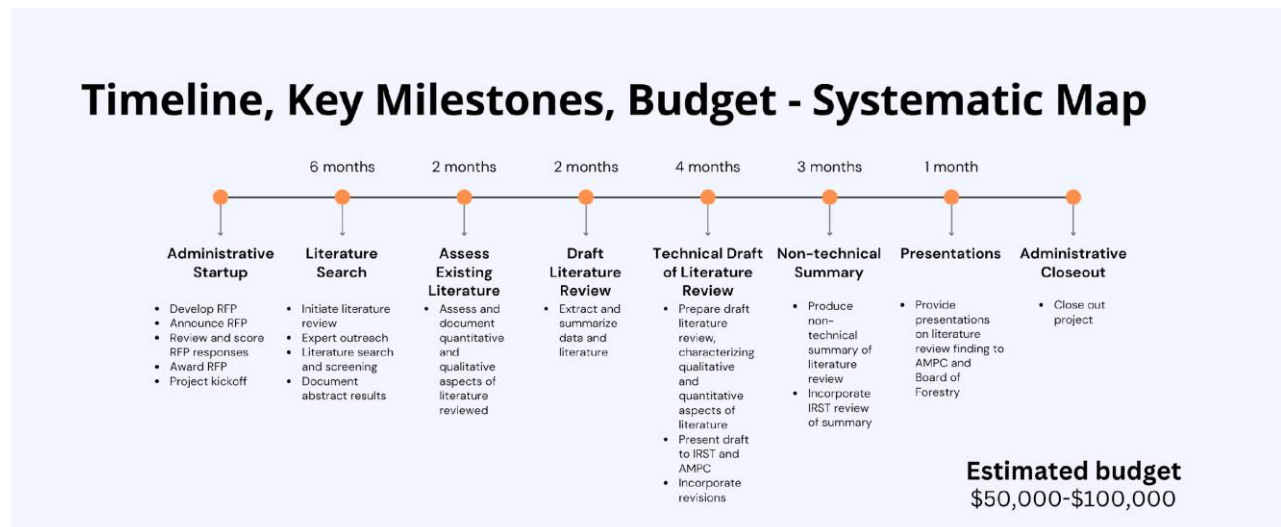


Figure 5. Timeline, key milestones, and budget for a systematic map.

Knowledge contribution

A systematic map is intended to inform the AMPC on the extent of knowledge about whether forest practices on private lands in eastern Oregon are affecting hillslope processes that in turn may affect HCP-covered species. A full mapping would be expected to uncover all the literature available on the topic, particularly the more difficult to find gray literature. It would identify important gaps and compile relevant empirical data that could be used in later analysis/research efforts (as in model calibration for landslide susceptibility/risk assessment). This option may also further describe the differences in the drivers of mass wasting processes eastside vs. westside, and what is known about related species habitat vulnerabilities on the eastside. This information on knowledge gaps and environmental condition differences could support AMPC policy decisions or inform the need for future research.

Budget

The estimated budget for the full systematic mapping review ranges from an estimated \$50,000 to \$100,000. This budget is primarily personnel costs (e.g., salary and benefits). It excludes indirect costs, which vary among institutions.

3.3 Scoping proposal: Rapid systematic map

Scope of work

Conduct a more rapid systematic mapping review following the corresponding CEE advice. The process would be simplified from the full option by:

- 1) Reducing review and inputs beyond the IRST (e.g., no external workshops);
- 2) Reducing the number of databases searched and experts consulted;
- 3) Relying on only one reviewer, rather than two or more independent reviewers, when screening and extracting information from each publication;

- 4) Limiting the critical appraisal of study validity;
- 5) Limiting the literature database to only relevant documents, rather than also including those that were rejected, and;
- 6) No compilation of available empirical datasets.

The core elements, milestones, and timelines of the scope of work are documented in Figure 6, showing a maximum estimated duration of 4–8 months, not including administrative startup and closeout.

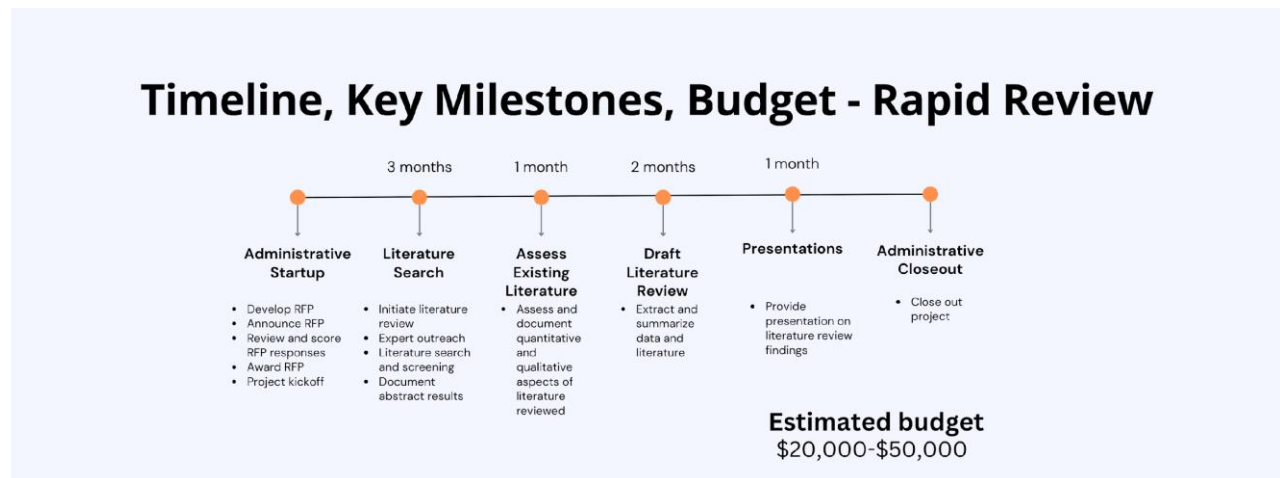


Figure 6. Timeline, key milestones, and budget for a rapid review.

Knowledge contribution

A rapid systematic mapping review would collate the relevant literature on this topic. As with the full systematic map, this review would be expected to extract data from the documents and, based on this, summarize the state of knowledge and identify research gaps, but would not capture some of the gray literature that could be identified in workshops of subject experts. This option could begin to describe the differences in the drivers of mass wasting processes eastside vs. westside, and what is known about related species habitat vulnerabilities on the eastside. The search and review process would be well documented for transparency and replicability, however, relying only on one or two reviewers without consistency checking would increase the potential influence of individual biases. Because relevant empirical databases would not be compiled, later use in model calibration for risk or susceptibility assessment would not be possible.

Budget

The estimated budget for the rapid review ranges from an estimated \$20,000 to \$50,000. This budget is primarily personnel costs (e.g., salary and benefits). It excludes indirect costs, which vary among institutions.

3.4 Scoping proposal: Descriptive review

Scope of work

A descriptive review would spend less effort on documenting a systematic and transparent procedure but would still include a knowledge synthesis with some information on searching, screening and classifying

methods. Multiple literature sources would be searched, but expert contacts would be limited. Characteristics of the review literature would be summarized, such as publication year, research methods, data collection techniques, and general research outcomes. Relevance to AMPC questions would be described, but no empirical data would be compiled, and no critical appraisal of study methods would occur.

The core elements, milestones, and timelines of the scope of work are documented in Figure 7, showing an estimated duration of 3–6 months, not including administrative startup and closeout.

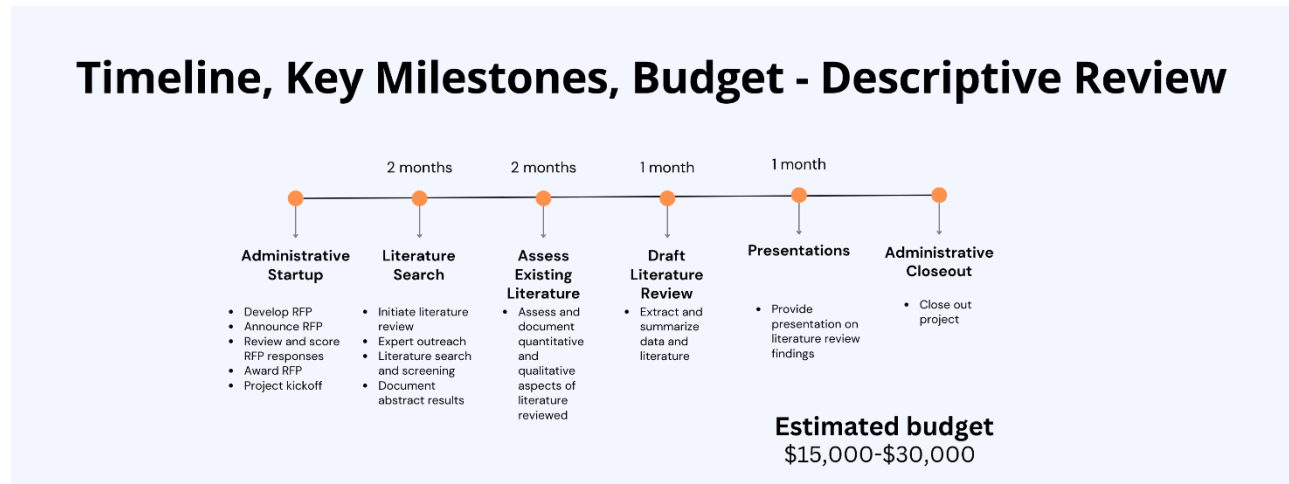


Figure 7. Timeline, key milestones, and budget for a descriptive review.

Knowledge contribution

As with the rapid systematic mapping, this option would collate the literature on this topic but may not capture some of the gray literature because the focus would be on peer-reviewed and journal published sources. The searching, screening and review methods would not be as thoroughly documented as in the full systematic map or the rapid review, yielding a less transparent and replicable product. Only a narrative synthesis of findings would be presented without a quantitative summary of the literature. Related datasets would not be compiled.

Budget

The estimated budget for the narrative review ranges from an estimated \$15,000 to \$30,000. This budget is primarily personnel costs (e.g., salary and benefits). It excludes indirect costs, which vary among institutions.

3.5 Scoping proposal: No further searching or review

The results of the scoping review suggest that mass wasting can be an issue in eastern Oregon and can be influenced by forest removal by both management activities and natural disturbance. Although only five percent of the area on private lands in eastern Oregon has slopes exceeding 65 percent, a full characterization of other drivers that might render locations susceptible to mass wasting, how forest harvest-related activities may affect susceptibility, and where covered species might be most at risk were

not well represented in the cursory scoping review. However, a more thorough search and review process may or may not yield further insights. Should an additional search be completed, the search would include search terms such as landslide susceptibility, landslide inventory, and topics including geologic maps, climate models, and arid steep slope processes. In which case, knowledge gaps with relevance to timber management practices on steep slopes in eastern Oregon could be identified and research proposals prepared.

Knowledge contribution

Unless further work is directed by the AMPC to characterize knowledge gaps and develop associated scoping proposals, the knowledge gained from this option is summarized in Section 2.5 Content Insights.

3.6 Summary

The four options for addressing the research questions differ in the time required, cost, and knowledge contribution (Table 7). The costs exclude indirect costs, which vary among institutions; and the timeframes exclude administrative start up and close out. Knowledge contributions from the first three of the four options in Table 7 should sufficiently characterize the state of science and gaps in understanding to help inform policy discussions regarding steep slopes in eastern Oregon. However, the knowledge contribution from those three options do vary regarding several factors, including the inclusion of gray literature, potential for bias in the results, exploration of issues beyond forest harvest-related activities that may influence mass wasting, and acquisition of empirical data for future use.

Table 7. Summary of scoping proposal options relative to timeframes, costs (excluding indirect costs and administrative startup and closeout time), and knowledge contributions.

Option	Timeframe	Cost	Knowledge Contribution
Full systematic map	12–18 mo.	\$50,000-\$100,000	Extracts data from reviewed documents to support quantitative and narrative synthesis about the state of and important gaps in knowledge regarding eastern Oregon steep slopes. Compiles any existing empirical databases for future use. Further describe differences between eastern and western Oregon in the drivers of mass wasting processes and what is known about covered species habitat vulnerabilities in eastern Oregon.
Rapid systematic map	4–8 mo.	\$20,000-\$50,000	Extracts data from reviewed documents to support quantitative and narrative synthesis about the state of and important gaps in knowledge regarding eastern Oregon steep slopes. This may exclude some of the gray literature, especially older studies or those from other states. The search and review process would still be well documented for transparency and replicability but relying only on one or two reviewers without consistency checking could increase bias.
Descriptive review	3–6 mo.	\$15,000-\$30,000	Provides a reasonable collation of the literature on steep slopes in eastern Oregon based primarily on peer-reviewed literature. It is unlikely to capture much of the gray literature, especially older studies or those from other states. The searching, screening and review methods would not be as thoroughly documented, so would be less transparent and replicable. A narrative synthesis of findings would result but would be more limited than for the rapid systematic mapping option.
No further searching or review	0 mo.	N/A	Provides only the characterization and summary of the literature garnered from this scoping effort (Section 2.5 Content Insights, Appendices B, C, and D) and does not identify knowledge gaps. The search for literature conducted for this scoping review was not exhaustive and was not intended to be a full synthesis of existing information relative to the research questions.

4. References

NOTE: *Articles with authors' names in red italic are "process relevant" articles that are not referenced in the body of the report; however, "process relevant" articles are a column in Table 3 (Search results). Abstracts or summaries of these articles appear in Appendix D.*

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https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-540-69970-5_9

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[https://doi.org/10.1016/0169-555X\(94\)90019-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/0169-555X(94)90019-1)

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Gill, R.E. 1994. Sediment delivery to headwater stream channels following road construction and timber harvest in the Blue Mountains, Oregon. M.S. Thesis, Oregon State University. 68pp. https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/concern/graduate_thesis_or_dissertations/db78tf69p

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5. Appendices

Appendix A. AMPC Research Questions Package

Appendix B. Abstracts or Summary of Publications Potentially Relevant to the Primary Focus

Appendix C. Abstracts or Summary of Publications Potentially Relevant to the Secondary Focus

Appendix D. Abstracts or Summary of “Process Relevant” Publications

Appendix E. Literature Review Examples

Appendix A. Key Aspects of the AMPC Research Questions Package

A. Final research questions

These preliminary research questions were approved by the AMPC as a substantial decision at their July 2, 2024 meeting. These questions apply east of the crest of the Cascades³ in Oregon and are to be answered via literature reviews. In addition to an overview of literature, the review should provide an assessment of how robust the conclusions from the literature are and where there may be need for additional research.

Overarching Question:

What impacts do hillslope processes have on the covered species in the draft HCP and their habitats in eastern Oregon?

Primary Focus: What does the literature say about upslope initiated shallow rapid slides and how timber harvesting may impact these in eastern Oregon environments?

Secondary Focus: Are there hillslope processes other than upslope initiated shallow rapid slides that may affect covered species within the draft HCP and are these processes changed by forest practices?

B. Contextual information

The remainder of this document provides contextual information that details the context for the preliminary research questions, as required by rule⁴. The following are organized per the elements in this rule.

B.2 The rule, biological goals and objectives (BGOs), or other issue being studied⁵

AMPC response: The BGOs⁶ are listed below with those applicable to these questions [in red font]:

“Overarching Goal: Forest practices that support the survival and recovery of the covered species by providing clean, cool, connected, and complex habitats.

Goal 1: Provide clean water and substrate for the covered species.

- *Objective 1.1 - Forest practices near streams minimize sediment delivery.*
- *Objective 1.2 – Slope Retention Areas reduce episodic sediment delivery to fish-bearing streams.*
- *Objective 1.3 – Road runoff directly to streams is minimized.*
- *Objective 1.4 – Roads are not a significant source of episodic sediment delivery to streams.*

Goal 2: Shade and watershed processes controlling stream temperature provide cool water compatible with the needs of the covered species.

- *Objective 2.1 – Forest practices maintain stream shade sufficient to support desired cool water temperatures on fish-bearing streams.*

³ Note: ODF maintains a regulatory GIS layer of the FPA delineation between eastern and western Oregon.

⁴ OAR 629-603-0200 (3)(a)

⁵ OAR 629-603-0200(3)(a)(B)

⁶ The most recent version of the BGOs is in the Dec. 2022 draft HCP. The BGOs will be finalized within the HCP due Dec. 31, 2027.

- *Objective 2.2 – No-harvest RMAs maintain stream shade sufficient to support desired cool water temperatures for covered amphibians.*
- *Objective 2.3 – Forest practices near non-fish-bearing perennial streams do not notably increase water temperatures in fish-bearing streams.*

Goal 3: Stream network connectivity satisfies freshwater habitat needs for covered species.

- *Objective 3.1 – Road crossings on fish-bearing streams are passable by the covered fish species.*
- *Objective 3.2 – Forest practices maintain the hydrologic continuity of stream-associated wetlands and stream-adjacent seeps and springs to stream habitats.*
- *Objective 3.3 – Timber harvest maintains stream-associated connectivity in riparian areas along non-fish streams sufficient to support covered amphibians.*

Goal 4: Riparian areas function to support complex habitats for the covered species.

- *Objective 4.1 – Mature, complex riparian forests are fostered in no-harvest zones of RMAs.*
- *Objective 4.2 – Forest practices within tree retention areas of RMAs promote delivery of large wood.*
- *Objective 4.3 – Designated Debris Flow Traversal Areas function to deliver large wood to fish-bearing streams.*
- *Objective 4.4 – Forest practices maintain stream-associated wetlands and stream-adjacent seep and spring habitat for amphibians.”*

B.3 The objective of the research⁷

The objective of this research is to inform deliberations about whether rules or other policies are needed regarding timber harvest and other forest practices on steep slopes in eastern Oregon to protect HCP-covered species.

B.4 A brief description of the context of the research question⁸

The following direction was provided in the PFA Report and provides the foundation for these research questions:

“CHAPTER 3. TIMBER HARVEST ON STEEP SLOPES

3.2 Goals

The goals of the PFA commitments regarding timber harvest on steep slopes is to provide large wood and sediment consistent with maintaining or improving aquatic habitat within large basins over long timeframes. (For the purposes of this Chapter, large basins are those of a size equivalent to those supporting independent populations of Oregon coastal coho salmon. In modeling to support the PFA, these are USGS HUC 4th Field [8-digit] basins). To accomplish this, sediment sources and debris flow runout paths will be identified and a subset of these will be managed during timber harvest activities to retain trees and other vegetation. These actions, together with other HCP commitments, are intended to provide high-quality

⁷ OAR 629-603-0200(3)(a)(C)

⁸ OAR 629-603-0200(3)(a)(D)

habitat to support recovery and long-term conservation of the species covered by this HCP on private forestlands.

3.2.1 Objectives

- Aligned with the overall goals for timber harvest on steep slopes to provide high-quality habitat that supports the recovery, protection, and long-term conservation of covered species on private forestlands, the Authors establish the following objectives under the PFA:
- Leave trees in Designated Debris Flow Traversal Areas to help create and maintain high-quality habitat in:
 - Type F or Type SSBT streams by delivering large wood and regulating sediment storage and transport.
 - Type N streams by creating shade and cover for amphibians covered under the HCP.
- Leave trees in Slope Retention Areas to:
 - Reduce timber-harvest-related increases in the frequency and volume of sediment delivered to Type F or Type SSBT streams from mass wasting events.
 - Contribute large wood to Type F or Type SSBT streams.
 - Leave trees on a subset of steep (>70%) slopes immediately adjacent to Type F or Type SSBT streams to:
 - Stabilize these areas.
 - Contribute large wood to Type F or Type SSBT streams.

3.3.8 Timber Harvest on Steep Slopes in Eastern Oregon

The Private Forest Accord does not prescribe new management measures for landslide initiation zones or debris flow traversal channels in Eastern Oregon. The Authors agree that Eastern Oregon's unique geologies and climates likely mean that these processes are different in magnitude, frequency, and impact on the covered species, when compared to Western Oregon. Similarly, the impact of timber harvesting on these processes is potentially different in Eastern Oregon. In light of this uncertainty, the Authors agree that the Adaptive Management Program shall, beginning no later than January 1, 2024, examine the scientific literature on the impacts that hillslope processes have on the covered species in Eastern Oregon. The primary focus will be on upslope initiated shallow rapid slides and how timber harvesting may impact these in Eastern Oregon environments. A secondary and more limited focus is whether other hillslope processes that likely affect covered species are changed by forest practices. Findings of the Adaptive Management Program on these topics will be presented to the Board of Forestry. These findings should focus primarily on the importance of shallow rapid landslides in Eastern Oregon to habitat for the covered species and the potential modification of these processes by forest practices or lack thereof. The report on this primary topic may or may not include recommendations as to desirability and relative importance of potential management measures. In addition, the report should convey whether the secondary review of literature on the effect of forest practices on other hillslope processes merits more thorough consideration by the Adaptive Management Program in light of scientific literature on the connection of these processes to covered species. Nothing in this Report should be read to suggest that any additional Eastern Oregon steep slope or other hillslope prescriptions are, or are not, necessary. The timber harvest prescriptions for steep

slopes established under Section 3.3.3 of this Chapter for Designated Debris Flow Traversal Areas and under Section 3.3.4 of this Chapter for Designated Sediment Source Areas and Slope Retention Areas do not apply to any private forest ownership class east of the summit of the Cascade Mountains. The timber harvest prescriptions for steep slopes established under Section 3.3.7 Stream Adjacent Failures apply to all private forest ownership classes both west and east of the summit of the Cascade Mountains.”

Appendix B. Abstracts of Publications Potentially Relevant to the Primary Focus

Primary Focus: What literature exists relating to upslope initiated shallow rapid slides and how timber harvesting may impact these in eastern Oregon environments?

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Fitzgerald and Clifton 1997	eastern Oregon	Q1		x	x	x	

Reference

Fitzgerald, J., and C. Clifton. 1997. Flooding, land use, and watershed response in the Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. In: Inland Northwest Water Resources Conference, Program and Abstracts. https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5208929.pdf

Abstract

The northern Blue Mountains sustained heavy rain and rapid snowmelt in November 1995 and rapid snowmelt over frozen soil in February 1996. The result was multiple record flood events, with February peak flows being more wide-spread and of higher magnitude. In addition to flooding, the storms triggered debris flows and slides on the Umatilla National Forest. These features commonly occurred in the rain-snow transition zone, in saturated loam-clay-ash soil, and on steep slopes (30-80 percent). Debris flows or torrents were the dominate feature, starting as an earthslide and then transporting debris sometimes over a mile. Roading and logging were associated with 37 percent of the observed mass wasting features. High flows and mass wasting combined to produce a variety of channel responses including: scouring of substrate and banks; aggradation of sediment; accumulation of large woody debris; and, lateral channel migration. Fluvial responses appear to differ with elevation and land use intensity. Flood discharge of National Forest streams was estimated using the indirect, slope-area method based on post-flood field evidence. Flood frequencies were then estimated using U. S. Geological Survey regional flood equations. Flood magnitude and frequency varied by watershed with some areas experiencing one or more "100 year" events (Umatilla and Walla Walla) and others experiencing less than a "25 year" event (Tucannon and Wenaha). Flood effects on National Forest investments (instream fish habitat structures and road-stream crossings) were also assessed. Results from field inventories indicate a high rate (73 percent) of instream fish habitat structure survival. Anchored rock weirs had the highest success rate. In roaded watersheds, a sample of culverts at stream-road crossings indicated about 50 percent of the culverts failure. The failure rate varies by watershed, however, from 23 to 95 percent. Culverts failed because of plugging with sediment often causing additional flood damage to roads and streams. Preliminary results indicate variability in watershed response to flooding which is partly attributed to different watershed characteristics and land use intensities. The post-flood assessments will be used to improve understanding of watershed response to extreme hydrologic events and to improve management practices to reduce damage from future high flows.

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Goode et al. 2012	western US	Q1		x	x	x	

Reference

Goode, J.R., C.H. Luce, and J.M. Buffington. 2012. Enhanced sediment delivery in a changing climate in semi-arid mountain basins: implications for water resource management and aquatic habitat in the northern Rocky Mountains. *Geomorphology* 139: 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2011.06.021>

Abstract

Sediment yields tend to be larger in semi-arid climates than in arid and humid environments due to the regulating effect of vegetation on hillslope stability and soil generation. Sediment yields in semi-arid mountain basins will increase in response to projected warming and increased climate variability. Potential approaches for reducing sediment through land management include post-fire stabilization, suppression of fire and fire severity, and attention to other anthropogenic sources of sediment (e.g., roads, logging, grazing, mining). Determining the most effective method depends on the relative contribution of each source, management resources and objectives, and feasibility of actions. Increased sediment yields following logging result from vegetation disturbance; exposure of bare soils accelerates surface erosion, loss of forest interception and transpiration increases soil pore pressure, and loss of root strength destabilizes shallow hillslope soils, increasing the potential for shallow land sliding in both humid and semi-arid landscapes. Logging roads exacerbate this erosion and commonly produce greater erosion per unit area, but their overall extent is small compared to the area of timber harvest (Megahan, 1986). Although logging has declined in the western US over the last few decades, legacy sediment stored within the fluvial system may continue to affect channel morphology and aquatic habitat. The ecological consequences of sediment chronically supplied from roads may be more detrimental than from sediment periodically supplied from post-fire debris flows. Despite the dramatic nature of debris-flow disturbances and their potential impacts to river corridor infrastructure, salmonids and other aquatic organisms have evolved with, and are adapted to, these disturbances.

Aquatic Species: The authors generally reference aquatic species, fish, and salmonids.

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Gorsevski et al. 2006	Idaho	Q1		x	x	x	

Reference

Gorsevski, P.V., P.E. Gessler, J. Boll, W.J. Elliot, and R.B. Foltz. 2006. Spatially and temporally distributed modeling of landslide susceptibility. *Geomorphology* 80(3): 178–198. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2006.02.011>

Abstract

Mapping of landslide susceptibility in forested watersheds is important for management decisions. In forested watersheds, especially in mountainous areas, the spatial distribution of relevant parameters for landslide prediction is often unavailable. This paper presents a GIS-based modeling approach that includes representation of the uncertainty and variability inherent in parameters. In this approach, grid-based tools are used to integrate the Soil Moisture Routing (SMR) model and infinite slope model with probabilistic analysis. The SMR model is a daily water balance model that simulates the hydrology of forested watersheds by combining climate data, a digital elevation model, soil, and land use data. The infinite slope model is used for slope stability analysis and determining the factor of safety for a slope. Monte Carlo simulation is used to incorporate the variability of input parameters and account for uncertainties associated with the evaluation of landslide susceptibility. This integrated approach of dynamic slope stability analysis was applied to the 72-km² Pete King watershed located in the Clearwater National Forest in north-central Idaho, USA, where landslides have occurred. A 30-year simulation was performed beginning with the existing vegetation covers that represented the watershed during the landslide year. Comparison of the GIS-based approach with existing models (FSmet and SHALSTAB) showed better precision of landslides based on the ratio of correctly identified landslides to susceptible areas. Analysis of landslide susceptibility showed that (1) the proportion of susceptible and non-susceptible cells changes spatially and temporally, (2) changed cells were a function of effective precipitation and soil storage amount, and (3) cell stability increased over time especially for clear-cut areas as root strength increased and vegetation transitioned to regenerated forest. Our modeling results showed that landslide susceptibility is strongly influenced by natural processes and human activities in space and time; while results from simulated outputs show the potential for decision-making in effective forest planning by using various management scenarios and controlling factors that influence landslide susceptibility. Such a process-based tool could be used to deal with real-dynamic systems to help decision-makers to answer complex landslide susceptibility questions.

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Halofsky and Peterson 2017	eastern Oregon	Q1		x	x	x	x

Reference

Halofsky, J.E., and D.L. Peterson. 2017. Climate change vulnerability and adaptation in the Blue Mountains region. Pacific Northwest Research Station General Technical Report, PNW-GTR-939. 331 p.

<https://doi.org/10.2737/PNW-GTR-939>

Abstract

The Blue Mountains Adaptation Partnership was developed to identify climate change issues relevant to resource management in the Blue Mountains region, to find solutions that can minimize negative effects of climate change, and to facilitate transition of diverse ecosystems to a warmer climate. Partnering organizations included three national forests (Malheur, Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman National Forests), the Pacific Northwest Research Station and Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, the University of Washington, and the Climate Impacts Research Consortium at Oregon

State University. These organizations worked together over a 2-year period to conduct a state-of-the-science climate change vulnerability assessment and develop adaptation options for national forests in the Blue Mountains region. The vulnerability assessment emphasized four resource areas—water, fish, upland vegetation, and special habitats—regarded as the most important resources for local ecosystems and communities.

The vulnerability assessment indicated that effects of climate change on hydrology in the Blue Mountains will be especially significant. Decreased snowpack and earlier snowmelt will shift the timing and magnitude of streamflow; peak flows will be higher, and summer low flows will be lower. Projected changes in climate and hydrology will have far-reaching effects on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, especially as frequency of extreme climate events (drought) and associated effects on ecological disturbance (wildfire, insect outbreaks) increase. Abundance and distribution of spring Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* Walbaum), redband trout/steelhead (*O. mykiss gibsii* Walbaum)/(O.m. Walbaum), and especially bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus* Suckley) will be greatly reduced, although effects will differ by location as a function of both stream temperature and competition from nonnative fish species. Increasing air temperature, through its influence on soil moisture, is expected to cause gradual changes in the abundance and distribution of tree, shrub, and grass species throughout the Blue Mountains, with drought tolerant species becoming more competitive. Ecological disturbance, including wildfire and insect outbreaks, will be the primary facilitator of vegetation change. High-elevation forest types will be especially vulnerable to disturbance.

Resource managers developed a detailed list of ways to address these climate change vulnerabilities through management actions. The large number of adaptation strategies and tactics, many of which are a component of current management practice, provide a pathway for slowing the rate of deleterious change in resource conditions.

Aquatic Species: The authors reference chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), redband trout/steelhead (*O. Mykiss*), bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), and other aquatic species that are not on the HCP list.

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Harp et al. 1996	eastern WA	Q1		x	x	x	

Reference

Harp, E.L., A.F. Chleborad, R.L. Schuster, S.H. Cannon, M.E. Reid, and R.C. Wilson. 1996. Landslides and landslide hazards in Washington State due to February 5-9,1996 storm. U.S. Geological Survey Administrative Report. 33 p. <https://faculty.washington.edu/kramer/522/USGS1996StormSlides.pdf>

Abstract

The authors did not provide an abstract.

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Herrera Environmental Consultants, Inc. 2004		Q1		x	x	x	

Reference

Herrera Environmental Consultants Inc. 2004. Review of the Available Literature Related to Wood Loading Dynamics in and around Streams in Eastern Washington Forests.

https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/fp_cmer_03_308.pdf

Abstract

The authors did not provide an abstract.

Specific location: eastern WA and similar ecoregions

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Istanbulluoglu et al. 2004	Idaho	Q1		x	x	x	

Reference

Istanbulluoglu, E., D. Tarboton, R. Pack, and C. Luce. 2004. Modeling of the interactions between forest vegetation, disturbances, and sediment yields. Journal of Geophysical Research-Earth Surface 109(F1)

<https://doi.org/10.1029/2003JF000041>

Abstract

The controls of forest vegetation, wildfires, and harvest vegetation disturbances on the frequency and magnitude of sediment delivery from a small watershed (similar to 3.9 km²) in the Idaho batholith are investigated through numerical modeling. The model simulates soil development based on continuous bedrock weathering and the divergence of diffusive sediment transport on hillslopes. Soil removal is due to episodic gully erosion, shallow landsliding, and debris flow generation. In the model, forest vegetation provides root cohesion and surface resistance to channel initiation. Forest fires and harvests reduce the vegetation. Vegetation loss leaves the land susceptible to erosion and landsliding until the vegetation cover reestablishes in time. Simulation results compare well with field observations of event sediment yields and long-term averages over similar to 10,000 years. When vegetation is not disturbed by wildfires over thousands of years, sediment delivery is modeled to be less frequent but with larger event magnitudes. Increased values of root cohesion (representing denser forests) lead to higher event magnitudes. Wildfires appear to control the timing of sediment delivery. Compared to undisturbed forests, erosion is concentrated during the periods with low erosion thresholds, often called accelerated erosion periods, following wildfires. Our modeling suggests that drainage density is inversely proportional to root cohesion

and that reduced forest cover due to wildfires increases the drainage density. We compare the sediment yields under anthropogenic (harvest) and natural (wildfire) disturbances. Disturbances due to forest harvesting appear to increase the frequency of sediment delivery; however, the sediment delivery following wildfires seems to be more severe. These modeling-based findings have implications for engineering design and environmental management, where sediment inputs to streams and the fluctuations and episodicity of these inputs are of concern.

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Jordan et al. 2010	British Columbia	Q1, Q2		x	x	x	

Reference

Jordan, P., T.H. Millard, D. Campbell, J. W. Schwab, D.J. Wilford, D. Nicol, and D. Collins. 2010. Forest Management Effects on Hillslope Processes (Chapter 9, page 275-330). In: Compendium of Forest Hydrology and Geomorphology in British Columbia Volume 1 of 2. (Eds) R.G. Pike, T.E. Redding, R.D. Moore, R.D. Winkler, and K. D. Bladon. Ministry of Forests and Range Forest Science Program. British Columbia https://fews.forestry.oregonstate.edu/publications/AA_LMH66_volume1of2.pdf

Abstract

The authors did not provide an abstract.

Specific location: Interior British Columbia

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Ketcheson et al. 1999	Idaho	Q1		x	x	x	

Reference

Ketcheson, G.L., W.F. Megahan, and J.G. King. 1999. "R1–R4" and "BOISED" sediment prediction model tests using forest roads in granitics. *Journal of the American Water Resources Association* 35, 83–98. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1752-1688.1999.tb05454.x>

Abstract

Erosion and sedimentation data from research watersheds in the Silver Creek Study Area in central Idaho were used to test the prediction of logging road erosion using the R1-R4 sediment yield model, and sediment delivery using the "BOISED" sediment yield prediction model. Three small watersheds were instrumented and monitored such that erosion from newly constructed roads and sediment delivery to the mouths of the watersheds could be measured for four years following road construction. The errors for annual surface erosion predictions for the two standard road tests ranged from +3 1.2 t/ha/yr (+15

percent) to -30.3 t/ha/yr (-63 percent) with an average of zero t/ha/yr and a standard deviation of the differences of 18.7 t/ha/yr. The annual prediction errors for the three watershed scale tests had a greater range from -40.8 t/ha/yr (-70 percent) to +65.3 t/ha/yr (+38 percent) with a mean of -1.9 t/ha/yr and a standard deviation of the differences of 25.2 t/ha/yr. Sediment yields predicted by BOISED (watershed scale tests) were consistently greater (average of 2.5 times) than measured sediment yields. Hillslope sediment delivery coefficients in BOISED appear to be overly conservative to account for average site conditions and road locations, and thus over-predict sediment delivery. Mass erosion predictions from BOISED appear to predict volume well (465 tonnes actual versus 710 tonnes predicted, or a 35 percent difference) over 15 to 20 years, however mass wasting is more episodic than the model predicts.

Specific location: Silver Creek, central Idaho

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Klock and Helvey 1976	eastern WA	Q1		x	x	x	

Reference

Klock, G.O., and J.D. Helvey. 1976. Debris flows following wildfire in north central Washington. Proceedings of the Third Inter-agency Sedimentation Conference. US Water Resources Council, Sedimentation Committee, Washington DC. x1-91–1-98.
<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=umn.31951000143903p&seq=109>

Abstract

A combination of rapid snowmelt, high intensity rainstorms, and fire-denuded watersheds resulted in massive debris torrents from numerous tributary streams of the Entiat River in north-central Washington during the spring and summer of 1972. Debris torrents are summarized by location, soil type, topography, and land use history for five adjacent watersheds. Alternative forest management recommendations are suggested for minimizing the impact of possible future debris torrents within the study area.

Specific location: north-central Washington (Entiat River Valley 20 miles north of Wenatchee, WA)

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Lineback-Gritzner et al. 2001	Idaho	Q1, Q2		x	p		

Reference

Lineback Gritzner, M., W.A. Marcus, R. Aspinall, and S.G. Custer. 2001. Assessing landslide potential using GIS, soil wetness modeling and topographic attributes, Payette River, Idaho. *Geomorphology* 37(1): 149–165. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0169-555X\(00\)00068-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0169-555X(00)00068-4)

Abstract

This study utilizes GIS modeling to determine if the location of 559 landslides in the 875 km² catchment of the Middle Fork of the Payette River, Idaho can be predicted based on topographic attributes and a wetness index generated by the DYNWET model. Slope and elevation were significantly related to landslide occurrence at this landscape scale. Aspect was also retained as a variable for further analysis because, despite a non-significant chi-square relation to landslide occurrence, graphical analysis suggested a relation between aspect and mass wasting. Chi-square analysis indicated that plan and profile curvature, flow path length, upslope contributing area, and the DYNWET-based moisture index were not significantly related to landsliding. A Bayesian probability model based on combinations of elevation, slope, aspect, and wetness indicates that elevation exhibits the closest relation to landsliding, followed by slope; but that neither aspect nor wetness index values help in prediction. The Bayesian probability model using elevation and slope generates a map of relative landslide risk that can be used to direct activities away from mass wasting prone areas. The association between elevation and landslides is perplexing but is perhaps due to the location of logging road at specific elevations (roads could not be included in the input data for analysis because they have not been adequately mapped). The lack of explanation provided by the DYNWET wetness index was also surprising and may be due to the 30-m digital elevation model (DEM) and the soils data having resolutions too coarse to adequately portray local variations key to mass wasting. We believe the inadequacy of data to drive the models is typical of the majority of catchment scale setting. For now, the ability of researchers to effectively model landscape scale landsliding is more limited by the type, resolution, and quality of available data than by the quality of the landslide models.

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Luce et al. 2012	western US	Q1, Q2		x	x	x	x

Reference

Luce, C., P. Morgan, K. Dwire, D. Isaak, Z. Holden, and B. Rieman. 2012. Climate change, forests, fire, water, and fish: building resilient landscapes, streams, and managers. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-290. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 207 pp
<https://research.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/41932#>

Abstract

Fire will play an important role in shaping forest and stream ecosystems as the climate changes. Historic observations show increased dryness accompanying more widespread fire and forest die-off. These events punctuate gradual changes to ecosystems and sometimes generate stepwise changes in ecosystems. Climate vulnerability assessments need to account for fire in their calculus. The biophysical template of forest and stream ecosystems determines much of their response to fire. This report describes the framework of how fire and climate change work together to affect forest and fish communities. Learning how to adapt will come from testing, probing, and pushing that framework and then proposing new ideas. The western U.S. defies generalizations, and much learning must necessarily be local in implication. This report serves as a scaffold for that learning. It comprises three primary chapters on physical processes,

biological interactions, and management decisions, accompanied by a special section with separately authored papers addressing interactions of fish populations with wildfire. Any one of these documents could stand on its own. Taken together, they serve as a useful reference with varying levels of detail for land managers and resource specialists. Readers looking for an executive summary are directed to the sections titled “Introduction” and “Next Steps.”

Aquatic species: fish

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
McClelland et al. 1999	Idaho	Q1		x	x	x	x

Reference

McClelland, D.E., R.B. Foltz, C.M. Falter, W.D. Wilson, T. Cundy, R.L. Schuster, J. Saurbier, C. Rabe, and R. Heinemann. 1999. Relative Effects on a Low-Volume Road System of Landslides Resulting from Episodic Storms in Northern Idaho. *Transportation Research Record*. 1652(1): 235–243.
<https://doi.org/10.3141/1652-63>

Abstract

In late November to early December 1995 and February 1996, northern Idaho was hit by heavy rains on a deep snowpack, resulting in two flood and landslide events of historic magnitude. Each of these storms was larger than the previous significant storm, which occurred in January 1974. A study was initiated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service to survey and study the effects of the resultant landslides on the Clearwater National Forest, including the effects on the aquatic ecosystem. The results of this study were compared with the estimated average natural sediment resulting from landslides to evaluate the incremental impacts of these recent episodic landslides. They were also compared with the results of a study conducted on the landslides resulting from the January 1974 storm to determine if the landscape was responding more severely to large storms as a result of Forest Service management activities over the past 21 years. The general results of this study indicate that, of the Forest Service management activities, roads are the major contributor; however, they contribute less sediment than natural landslides. The total resultant sediment appears to be within the transport capacity of the aquatic system, and the landslide response in 1974 was similar to the 1995–1996 response. The results of the aquatic ecosystem study were generally mixed, with some habitat parameters indicating degradation, some unchanged, and some improved as a result of the flooding or flooding with landslide sediment.

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
McGreer et al. 1998	eastern WA & western MT	Q1		x	x	x	x

Reference

McGreer, D.J., B.D. Sugden, and D.T. Schult. 1998. Surface Erosion and Mass Wasting Assessment and Management Strategies for Plum Creek's Native Fish Habitat Conservation Plan. Native Fish Habitat Conservation Plan Technical Report #3. Columbia Falls, Montana: Plum Creek Timber Company.

Abstract

The authors did not provide an abstract.

Aquatic Species: Salmonids and fish

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Megahan et al. 1978	Idaho	Q1, Q2		x	x		

Reference

Megahan, W.F., N.F. Day, and Bliss, 1978. Landslide occurrence in the western and central northern Rocky Mountain physiographic province in Idaho. In: Youngberg, C.T. (Ed.), Forest Soils and Land Use, Proceedings of the Fifth North American Forest Soils Conference. Colorado State University, Department of Forest and Wood Sciences, Fort Collins, CO, pp. 116–139.

https://geodata.geology.utah.gov/pages/view.php?ref=4784&search=&offset=15100&order_by=resource_type&sort=DESC&archive=0&k=&

Abstract

The authors did not provide an abstract.

Specific location: Idaho batholith - Clearwater National Forest in northern Idaho and Boise National Forest in west-central Idaho

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Peterson et al. 2009	Western US	Q1		x		x	x

Reference

Peterson, D.L., J.K. Agee, G.H. Aplet, D.P. Dyskstra, R.T. Graham, J.F. Lehmkuhl, D.S. Pilliod, D.F. Potts, R.F. Powers, and J.D. Stuart. 2009. Effects of timber harvest following wildfire in western North America. General Technical Report PNW-GTR-776. Portland, OR: USDA Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 51 p. <https://doi.org/10.2737/PNW-GTR-77>

Abstract

Timber harvest following wildfire leads to different outcomes depending on the biophysical setting of the forest, pattern of burn severity, operational aspects of tree removal, and other management activities. Fire effects range from relatively minor, in which fire burns through the understory and may kill a few trees, to severe, in which fire kills most trees and removes much of the organic soil layer. Postfire logging adds to these effects by removing standing dead trees (snags) and disturbing the soil. The influence of postfire logging depends on the intensity of the fire, intensity of the logging operation, and management activities such as fuel treatments. In severely burned forest, timing of logging following fire (same season as fire vs. subsequent years) can influence the magnitude of effects on naturally regenerating trees, soils, and commercial wood value. Removal of snags reduces long-term fuel loads but generally results in increased amounts of fine fuels for the first few years after logging unless surface fuels are effectively treated. By reducing evapotranspiration, disturbing the soil organic horizon, and creating hydrophobic soils in some cases, fire can cause large increases in surface-water runoff, streamflow, and erosion. Through soil disturbance, especially the construction of roads, logging with ground-based equipment and cable yarding can exacerbate this effect, increasing erosion and altering hydrological function at the local scale. Effects on aquatic systems of removing trees are mostly negative, and logging and transportation systems that disturb the soil surface or accelerate road-related erosion can be particularly harmful unless disturbances are mitigated. Cavity-nesting birds, small mammals, and amphibians may be affected by harvest of standing dead and live trees, with negative effects on most species but positive or neutral effects on other species, depending on the intensity and extent of logging. Data gaps on postfire logging include the effects of various intensities of logging, patch size of harvest relative to fire size, and long-term (10+ years) biophysical changes. Uncertainty about the effects of postfire logging can be reduced by implementing management experiments to document long-term changes in natural resources at different spatial scales.

Specific location: western U.S., from the coastal ranges, Cascade Range, and Sierra Nevada east to the Rocky Mountains and associated ranges, and from SW Canada to the SW United States, including dry forests dominated by ponderosa pine, cold forests dominated by Engelmann spruce, fir species and lodgepole pine, and woodlands in the American Southwest

Aquatic species: fish, amphibian, benthic invertebrates

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Platts et al. 1989	Idaho	Q1		x	x	x	x

Reference

Platts, et al. 1989. Changes in spawning and rearing habitat from increased delivery of fine sediment to the South Fork Salmon River, Idaho. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 118:274-283.

[https://doi.org/10.1577/1548-8659\(1989\)118%3C0274:CISSAR%3E2.3.CO;2](https://doi.org/10.1577/1548-8659(1989)118%3C0274:CISSAR%3E2.3.CO;2)

Abstract

Levels of surface and subsurface fine sediment (<4.75 mm in diameter) were measured annually from 1965 to 1985 in spawning and rearing areas for chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* and steelhead *O. mykiss* (formerly *Salmo gairdneri*) in the South Fork Salmon River, Idaho. Between 1950 and 1965, logging and road construction, in combination with large storm events of 1964 and 1965, resulted in the delivery of increased amounts of fine sediments to the South Fork Salmon River. Surface and subsurface fine sediment levels peaked at 46% of the surface area in 1966 and 48% of the volume in 1969, respectively. A logging moratorium initiated in 1965, coupled with natural recovery and watershed rehabilitation, led to significant decreases in the amounts of fine sediments delivered to and stored in the South Fork Salmon River; this reduction led to a limited resumption of logging operations within the watershed in 1978. By 1985, surface and subsurface sediment levels in chinook salmon spawning areas averaged 19.7% of the surface area and 25.4% of the volume, respectively. However, additional recovery to pre-logging fine sediment levels is probably contingent on both further watershed recovery and the occurrence of flood flows capable of transporting material downstream. An equilibrium between incoming sediment from the watershed and outgoing sediment from the river appears to have been reached under flow regimes that have occurred since 1975.

Specific location: South Fork Salmon River, Idaho

Aquatic species: salmonids

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Sidle 2005	various			x	x	p	

Reference

Sidle, R.C. 2005. Influence of forest harvesting activities on debris avalanches and flows. In: Hungr, O., Jacob, M. (Eds.), Debris Flow Hazards and Related Phenomena. Praxis, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, pp. 387-403

https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/3-540-27129-5_15.pdf

Abstract

The author did not provide an abstract.

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Wondzell and King 2003	Western US	Q1		x	x	x	

Reference

Wondzell, S.M., and J.G. King. 2003. Postfire erosional processes in the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain regions. *Forest Ecology and management* 178(1–2): 75–87. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0378-1127\(03\)00054-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0378-1127(03)00054-9)

Abstract

The objective of this paper is to provide a general overview of the influence of wildland fires on the erosional processes common to the forested landscapes of the western United States. Wildfire can accelerate erosion rates because vegetation is an important factor controlling erosion. There can be great local and regional differences, however, in the relative importance of different erosional processes because of differences in prevailing climate, geology and topography; because of differences in the degree to which vegetation regulates erosional processes; and because of differences in the types of fire regimes that disrupt vegetative cover. Surface erosion, caused by overland flow, is a dominant response to wildfire in the Interior Northwest and Northern Rocky Mountains (Interior Region). A comparison of measured postfire infiltration rates and long-term records of precipitation intensity suggest that surface runoff from infiltration-excess overland flow should also occur in the Coastal and Cascade Mountains of the Pacific Northwest after fires, but this has not been documented in the literature. Debris slides and debris flows occur more frequently after wildfire in the Interior Region and in the Coastal and Cascade Mountains of the Pacific Northwest (Pacific Northwest Region). Debris flows can be initiated from either surface runoff or from soil-saturation-caused debris slides. In the Pacific Northwest Region, debris flows are typically initiated as debris slides, caused by soil saturation and loss of soil cohesion as roots decay following fire. In the Interior Region, both overland-flow-caused and debris-slide-caused debris flows occur after wildfire. Surface erosion, debris slides, and debris flows all occur during intense storms. Thus, their probability of occurrence depends upon the probability of intense storms occurring during a window of increased susceptibility to surface erosion and mass wasting following intense wildfire.

Specific location: Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountains

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Wondzell, S.M. 2001	eastern Oregon	Q1		x	x	x	x

Reference

Wondzell, S.M. 2001. The influence of forest health and protection treatments on erosion and stream sedimentation in forested watersheds of eastern Oregon and Washington. *Northwest Science* 75:128-140.

<https://rex.libraries.wsu.edu/esploro/outputs/journalArticle/The-influence-of-forest-health-and/99900501658801842>

Abstract

A variety of Forest Health and Protection treatments have been proposed to reduce long-term risks to forests from wildfire, insects, and disease. This review examines the potential effects of these treatments on sediment production in watersheds of eastern Oregon and Washington, USA, channel forming processes, riparian vegetation, and risks posed to riparian zones. Wildfires can affect upland erosion; however, erosion from prescribed fires burning the same area should be much smaller. Dense riparian vegetation might help regulate the amount of sediment that reaches streams, but this effect would be strongly dependent on the geomorphic setting. Forest pathogens are not expected to cause accelerated erosion and stream sedimentation directly, but indirect effects might be substantial if they lead to increased wildfire. The largest risk of accelerated erosion is expected from ground-disturbing activities during fuels reduction treatments, such as construction of roads and firebreaks or salvage logging or thinning. Intense grazing has changed composition and cover of riparian vegetation, leading to bank erosion, and in many places, widening or incision of stream channels. Improved grazing prescriptions can result in major changes to riparian vegetation, but response of channel morphology will most likely be slow. Most of the studies reviewed were conducted at the site or small-watershed scale. Consequently, conclusions at these scales are generally well supported by the available literature. The cumulative effects of forest health and protection treatments imposed across a large region are difficult to assess, however. Given the current state of knowledge, dramatically changing forest land use practices across eastern Oregon and Washington-including the widespread use of prescribed fires, salvage logging, and mechanical fuel treatments-is a long-term, landscape-scale experiment, the cumulative effects of which are unknown.

Aquatic Species: The author mentions salmonids and the negative effects of sedimentation.

Appendix C. Abstracts of Publications Potentially Relevant to the Secondary Focus

Secondary Focus: Are there hillslope processes other than upslope initiated shallow rapid slides that may affect covered species within the draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and are these processes changed by forest practices?

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Jordan et al. 2010	British Columbia	Q1, Q2		x	x	x	

Reference

Jordan, P., T.H. Millard, D. Campbell, J. W. Schwab, D.J. Wilford, D. Nicol, and D. Collins. 2010. Forest Management Effects on Hillslope Processes (Chapter 9, page 275-330). In: Compendium of Forest Hydrology and Geomorphology in British Columbia Volume 1 of 2. (Eds) R.G. Pike, T.E. Redding, R.D. Moore, R.D. Winkler, and K. D. Bladon. Ministry of Forests and Range Forest Science Program. British Columbia https://fews.forestry.oregonstate.edu/publications/AA_LMH66_volume1of2.pdf

Abstract

The authors did not provide an abstract.

Specific location: Interior British Columbia

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Lineback-Gritzner et al. 2001	Idaho	Q1, Q2		x	p		

Reference

Lineback Gritzner, M., W.A. Marcus, R. Aspinall, and S.G. Custer. 2001. Assessing landslide potential using GIS, soil wetness modeling and topographic attributes, Payette River, Idaho. *Geomorphology* 37(1): 149–165. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0169-555X\(00\)00068-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0169-555X(00)00068-4)

Abstract

This study utilizes GIS modeling to determine if the location of 559 landslides in the 875 km² catchment of the Middle Fork of the Payette River, Idaho can be predicted based on topographic attributes and a wetness index generated by the DYNWET model. Slope and elevation were significantly related to landslide occurrence at this landscape scale. Aspect was also retained as a variable for further analysis because, despite a non-significant chi-square relation to landslide occurrence, graphical analysis suggested a relation between aspect and mass wasting. Chi-square analysis indicated that plan and profile curvature, flow path length, upslope contributing area, and the DYNWET-based moisture index were not significantly related to landsliding. A Bayesian probability model based on combinations of elevation, slope, aspect, and wetness

indicates that elevation exhibits the closest relation to landsliding, followed by slope; but that neither aspect nor wetness index values help in prediction. The Bayesian probability model using elevation and slope generates a map of relative landslide risk that can be used to direct activities away from mass wasting prone areas. The association between elevation and landslides is perplexing but is perhaps due to the location of logging road at specific elevations (roads could not be included in the input data for analysis because they have not been adequately mapped). The lack of explanation provided by the DYNWET wetness index was also surprising and may be due to the 30-m digital elevation model (DEM) and the soils data having resolutions too coarse to adequately portray local variations key to mass wasting. We believe the inadequacy of data to drive the models is typical of the majority of catchment scale setting. For now, the ability of researchers to effectively model landscape scale landsliding is more limited by the type, resolution, and quality of available data than by the quality of the landslide models.

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Luce et al. 2012	western US	Q1, Q2		x	x	x	x

Reference

Luce, C., P. Morgan, K. Dwire, D. Isaak, Z. Holden, and B. Rieman. 2012. Climate change, forests, fire, water, and fish: building resilient landscapes, streams, and managers. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-290. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 207 pp
<https://research.fs.usda.gov/treearch/41932#>

Abstract

Fire will play an important role in shaping forest and stream ecosystems as the climate changes. Historic observations show increased dryness accompanying more widespread fire and forest die-off. These events punctuate gradual changes to ecosystems and sometimes generate stepwise changes in ecosystems. Climate vulnerability assessments need to account for fire in their calculus. The biophysical template of forest and stream ecosystems determines much of their response to fire. This report describes the framework of how fire and climate change work together to affect forest and fish communities. Learning how to adapt will come from testing, probing, and pushing that framework and then proposing new ideas. The western U.S. defies generalizations, and much learning must necessarily be local in implication. This report serves as a scaffold for that learning. It comprises three primary chapters on physical processes, biological interactions, and management decisions, accompanied by a special section with separately authored papers addressing interactions of fish populations with wildfire. Any one of these documents could stand on its own. Taken together, they serve as a useful reference with varying levels of detail for land managers and resource specialists. Readers looking for an executive summary are directed to the sections titled “Introduction” and “Next Steps.”

Aquatic species: fish

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Megahan et al. 1978	Idaho	Q1, Q2		x	x		

Reference

Megahan, W.F., N.F. Day, and Bliss, 1978. Landslide occurrence in the western and central northern Rocky Mountain physiographic province in Idaho. In: Youngberg, C.T. (Ed.), Forest Soils and Land Use, Proceedings of the Fifth North American Forest Soils Conference. Colorado State University, Department of Forest and Wood Sciences, Fort Collins, CO, pp. 116–139.

https://geodata.geology.utah.gov/pages/view.php?ref=4784&search=&offset=15100&order_by=resourcetype&sort=DESC&archive=0&k=&

Abstract

The authors did not provide an abstract.

Specific location: Idaho batholith - Clearwater National Forest in northern Idaho and Boise National Forest in west-central Idaho

Appendix D. Abstracts of “Process Relevant” Publications

These documents found were classified as “process relevant,” that is they were focused on mass wasting on forestlands but without any direct connection to forest management activities. As these were seen as containing potentially useful context information, they are summarized here. The largest number came from Idaho (7), followed by studies spanning multiple western states (6); three were located in California and one each in Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico. None were located in eastern Oregon or Washington. By definition none of these addressed forest practices but all addressed hillslope processes and all overlapped with semi-arid environments. Most of these studies (14) involved investigations of post-wildfire surficial erosion and mass wasting.

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Cannon and DeGraff 2008	California		x		x	x	

Reference

Cannon, S.H., and J. DeGraff. 2008. The increasing wildfire and post-fire debris-flow threat in western USA, and implications for consequences of climate change. In: Sassa, K., Canuti, P. (Eds.), Landslides — Disaster Risk Reduction: Proceedings of 1st World Landslide Forum. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, pp. 177–190.
https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-540-69970-5_9

Abstract

The authors did not provide an abstract.

Specific location: southern California and the intermountain West

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Cannon and Gartner 2005	western US		x		x	x	

Reference

Cannon, S.H., and J.E. Gartner. 2005. Wildfire-related debris flow from a hazards perspective. In: Hungr, O., Jacob, M. (Eds.), Debris Flow Hazards and Related Phenomena. Praxis, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, pp. 363–385
https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/3-540-27129-5_15.pdf

Abstract

The authors did not provide an abstract.

Specific location: various - data from 95 basins throughout the western United States

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Cannon et al. 2003	western US		x			x	

Reference

Cannon, S.H., J.E. Gartner, C. Parrett, and M. Parise. 2003. Wildfire-related debris-flow generation through episodic progressive sediment-bulking processes, western USA. In: Rickenmann, D., Chen, C. (Eds.), Debris-Flow Hazards Mitigation: Mechanics, Prediction, and Assessment. Millpress, Rotterdam, pp. 71–82.

Abstract

Debris-flow initiation processes on hillslopes recently burned by wildfire differ from those generally recognized on unburned, vegetated hillslopes. These differences result from fire-induced changes in the hydrologic response to rainfall events. In this study, detailed field and aerial photographic mapping, observations, and measurements of debris-flow events from three sites in the western U.S. were used to describe and evaluate the process of episodic progressive sediment bulking of storm runoff that leads to the generation of post-wildfire debris flows. Our data demonstrate the effects of material erodibility, sediment availability on hillslopes and in channels, the degree of channel confinement, the formation of continuous channel incision, and the upslope contributing area and its gradient on the generation of flows and the magnitude of the response are demonstrated.

Specific location: three sites in the western United States - Hamilton, Montana, Glenwood Springs, Colorado, and Los Alamos, New Mexico

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Cannon et al. 2010	western US		x	x	x	x	

Reference

Cannon, S.H., J.E. Gartner, M.G. Rupert, J.A. Michael, A.H. Rea, and C. Parrett. 2010. Predicting the probability and volume of post-wildfire debris flows in the intermountain western United States. Geological Society of America Bulletin 122, 127–144.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/249527492_Predicting_the_probability_and_volume_of_postwildfire_debris_flows_in_the_intermountain_western_United_States

Abstract

Empirical models to estimate the probability of occurrence and volume of post wildfire debris flows can be quickly implemented in a geographic information system (GIS) to generate debris-flow hazard maps either before or immediately following wildfires. Models that can be used to calculate the probability of debris-flow production from individual drainage basins in response to a given storm were developed using logistic regression analyses of a database from 388 basins located in 15 burned areas located throughout the U.S.

Intermountain West. The models describe debris-flow probability as a function of readily obtained measures of areal burned extent, soil properties, basin morphology, and rainfall from short-duration and low recurrence-interval convective rainstorms. A model for estimating the volume of material that may issue from a basin mouth in response to a given storm was developed using multiple linear regression analysis of a database from 56 basins burned by eight fires. This model describes debris-flow volume as a function of the basin gradient, aerial burned extent, and storm rainfall. Applications of a probability model and the volume model for hazard assessments are illustrated using information from the 2003 Hot Creek fire in central Idaho. The predictive strength of the approach in this setting is evaluated using information on the response of this fire to a localized thunderstorm in August 2003. The mapping approach presented here identifies those basins that are most prone to the largest debris-flow events and thus provides information necessary to prioritize areas for postfire erosion mitigation, warnings, and pre-fire management efforts throughout the Intermountain West.

Specific location: U.S. Intermountain West - Idaho, Montana, Utah, Colorado, and southern California

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Cannon et al. 2008	western US		x		x	x	

Reference

Cannon, S.H., J.E. Gartner, R.C. Wilson, J.C. Bowers, and J.L. Laber. 2008. Storm rainfall conditions for floods and debris flows from recently burned areas in southwestern Colorado and southern California. *Geomorphology* 96, 250–269.

Abstract

Debris flows generated during rain storms on recently burned areas have destroyed lives and property throughout the Western U.S. Field evidence indicate that unlike landslide-triggered debris flows, these events have no identifiable initiation source and can occur with little or no antecedent moisture. Using rain gage and response data from five fires in Colorado and southern California, we document the rainfall conditions that have triggered post-fire debris flows and develop empirical rainfall intensity–duration thresholds for the occurrence of debris flows and floods following wildfires in these settings. This information can provide guidance for warning systems and planning for emergency response in similar settings.

Debris flows were produced from 25 recently burned basins in Colorado in response to 13 short-duration, high-intensity convective storms. Debris flows were triggered after as little as six to 10 min of storm rainfall. About 80% of the storms that generated debris flows lasted less than 3 h, with most of the rain falling in less than 1 h. The storms triggering debris flows ranged in average intensity between 1.0 and 32.0 mm/h, and had recurrence intervals of two years or less. Threshold rainfall conditions for floods and debris flows sufficiently large to pose threats to life and property from recently burned areas in south-central, and southwestern, Colorado are defined by: $I=6.5D^{-0.7}$ and $I=9.5D^{-0.7}$, respectively, where I =rainfall intensity (in mm/h) and D =duration (in hours).

Debris flows were generated from 68 recently burned areas in southern California in response to long-duration frontal storms. The flows occurred after as little as two hours, and up to 16 h, of low-intensity (2–10 mm/h) rainfall. The storms lasted between 5.5 and 33 h, with average intensities between 1.3 and 20.4 mm/h, and had recurrence intervals of two years or less. Threshold rainfall conditions for life- and property-threatening floods and debris flows during the first winter season following fires in Ventura County, and in the San Bernardino, San Gabriel and San Jacinto Mountains of southern California are defined by $I = 12.5D^{-0.4}$, and $I = 7.2D^{-0.4}$, respectively. A threshold defined for flood and debris flow conditions following a year of vegetative recovery and sediment removal for the San Bernardino, San Gabriel and San Jacinto Mountains of $I = 14.0D^{-0.5}$ is approximately 25 mm/h higher than that developed for the first year following fires.

Specific location: Colorado and southern California

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
DeGraff 1994	California		x	x	x	x	

Reference

DeGraff, J.V. 1994. The geomorphology of some debris flows in the southern Sierra Nevada, California. *Geomorphology and Natural Hazards*. Elsevier, 1994. 231-252. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0169-555X\(94\)90019-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/0169-555X(94)90019-1)

Abstract

Debris flows are one of the natural hazards present in the southern Sierra Nevada of California. Historic debris flow activity is documented at a USDA Forest Service research facility in the Kings River drainage related to a 1937 storm event. No subsequent study of this phenomenon was undertaken until 1982. Observations of debris flows over the succeeding 10 years offer an initial assessment of the physical geomorphology of debris flows in this area. This information provides a starting point for future efforts to avoid or limit the effect of this natural hazard.

Observations were made in the Tuolumne, Merced, San Joaquin, and Kings River drainages. Of the twenty-six debris flows observed, six were examined in detail to provide specific data on this phenomenon. Triggering events for debris flows in the southern Sierra Nevada include intense rainfall, rain-on-snow storms, and seasonal melting of heavy snowpacks. Movement typically occurs at depths between 0.3 and 5 m below ground surface. This is representative of depths for the three interfaces associated with initiation of movement: (1) at the base of the root zone, (2) at the contact of well-weathered and less-weathered soil, and (3) at the contact between soil and unweathered bedrock. Measurement of debris flow velocity based on indirect methods found values ranging from 2.6 m/s to 7.2 m/s (9 km/h to 26 km/h). Recurrence intervals based on radiocarbon dates are between 425 and 500 years BP.

Roads and other land use investments have suffered damage from debris flow activity during the 1982 to 1993 period. Stump Springs road in the San Joaquin river drainage required US\$1.4 million to repair damage primarily from 1982 debris flows. The threat to life arising from debris flows is illustrated by the consequences of vegetation losses from wildfire near El Portal, California. The projected population growth

with associated increased infrastructure raises concern for greater impacts from future debris flow occurrence in the southern Sierra Nevada.

Specific location: southern Sierra Nevada of California, Tuolumne, Merced, San Joaquin, and Kings River drainages

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Dunham et al. 2007	Idaho		x		x	x	x

Reference

Dunham, J.B., A.E. Rosenberger, C.H. Luce, and B.E. Rieman. 2007. Influences of wildfire and channel reorganization on spatial and temporal variation in stream temperature and the distribution of fish and amphibians. *Ecosystems* 10:335–346. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10021-007-9029-8>

Abstract

Wildfire can influence a variety of stream ecosystem properties. We studied stream temperatures in relation to wildfire in small streams in the Boise River Basin, located in central Idaho, USA. To examine the spatiotemporal aspects of temperature in relation to wildfire, we employed three approaches: a pre–post fire comparison of temperatures between two sites (one from a burned stream and one unburned) over 13 years, a short term (3 year) pre–post fire comparison of a burned and unburned stream with spatially extensive data, and a short-term (1 year) comparative study of spatial variability in temperatures using a “space for time” substitutive design across 90 sites in nine streams (retrospective comparative study). The latter design included streams with a history of stand-replacing wildfire and streams with severe post-fire reorganization of channels due to debris flows and flooding. Results from these three studies indicated that summer maximum water temperatures can remain significantly elevated for at least a decade following wildfire, particularly in streams with severe channel reorganization. In the retrospective comparative study we investigated occurrence of native rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and tailed frog larvae (*Ascaphus montanus*) in relation to maximum stream temperatures during summer. Both occurred in nearly every site sampled, but tailed frog larvae were found in much warmer water than previously reported in the field (26.6_C maximum summer temperature). Our results show that physical stream habitats can remain altered (for example, increased temperature) for many years following wildfire, but that native aquatic vertebrates can be resilient. In a management context, this suggests wildfire may be less of a threat to native species than human influences that alter the capacity of stream-living vertebrates to persist in the face of natural disturbance.

Specific location: Boise River basin in central Idaho

Aquatic species: Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Rocky Mountain tailed frog (*Ascaphus montanus*) and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*)

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Gorsevski 2023	Idaho		x				

Reference

Gorsevski, P.V. 2023. A free web-based approach for rainfall-induced landslide susceptibility modeling: Case study of Clearwater National Forest, Idaho, USA. Environmental Modelling & Software. 161: 105632. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsoft.2023.105632>

Abstract

This study presents an interactive web-based approach for modeling rainfall-induced landslide susceptibility using Free Open Source Software (FOSS). The design is based on the R statistical framework and Shiny package coupled with the shallow slope stability model (SHALSTAB) from SAGA GIS. The easy-to-use real-time application extends the potential of current modeling efforts to non-expert R and GIS users and can also be used in an educational context for classroom teaching activity and enabling research-informed learning. The parsimonious approach (i.e. few parameter inputs) is accomplished in two sequential steps including modeling and validation by the use of site-specific datasets. The approach was tested in a case study on the Clearwater National Forest and the results from the validation showed an overall accuracy of 0.894, kappa of 0.789 and AUC from ROC curve was 0.715. The modeled landslide potential may be used as a decision-support tool for local planning.

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Istanbulluoglu et al. 2003	Idaho		x	x	x	x	

Reference

Istanbulluoglu, E., D.G. Tarboton, R.T. Pack, and C.H. Luce. 2003. A sediment transport model for incision of gullies on steep topography. Water Resources Research 39,1103. <https://research.fs.usda.gov/treearch/8362>

Abstract

We have conducted surveys of gullies that developed in a small, steep watershed in the Idaho Batholith after a severe wildfire followed by intense precipitation. We measured gully length and cross sections to estimate the volumes of sediment loss due to gully formation. These volume estimates are assumed to provide an estimate of sediment transport capacity at each survey cross section from the single gully-forming thunderstorm. Sediment transport models commonly relate transport capacity to overland flow shear stress, which is related to runoff rate, slope, and drainage area. We have estimated the runoff rate and duration associated with the gully-forming event and used the sediment volume measurements to calibrate a general physically based sediment transport equation in this steep, high shear stress environment. We find that a shear stress exponent of 3, corresponding to drainage area and slope

exponents of $M = 2.1$ and $N = 2.25$, match our data. This shear stress exponent of 3 is approximately 2 times higher than those for bed load transport in alluvial rivers but is in the range of shear stress exponents derived from flume experiments on steep slopes and with total load equations. The concavity index of the gully profiles obtained theoretically from the area and slope exponents of the sediment transport equation, $q_c = (M-1)/N$, agrees well with the observed profile concavity of the gullies. Our results, although preliminary because of the uncertainty associated with the sediment volume estimates, suggest that for steep hillslopes such as those in our study area, a greater nonlinearity in the sediment transport function exists than that assumed in some existing hillslope erosion models which calculate sediment transport capacity using the bed load equations developed for rivers.

Specific location: Idaho batholith region - Trapper Creek within the North Fork of the Boise River in SW Idaho

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Kirchner et al. 2001	Idaho		x		x	x	x

Reference

Kirchner, J.W., R.C. Finkel, C.S. Riebe, D.E. Granger, J.L. Clayton, J.G King, and W.F. Megahan. 2001. Mountain erosion over 10 yr., 10 k.y., and 10 m.y. time scales. *Geology* 29, 591–594.
<https://research.fs.usda.gov/treearch/23971>

Abstract

We used cosmogenic ^{10}Be to measure erosion rates over 10 k.y. time scales at 32 Idaho mountain catchments, ranging from small experimental watersheds (0.2 km²) to large river basins (35 000 km²). These long-term sediment yields are, on average, 17 times higher than stream sediment fluxes measured over 10–84 yr, but are consistent with 10 m.y. erosion rates measured by apatite fission tracks. Our results imply that conventional sediment-yield measurements—even those made over decades—can greatly underestimate long-term average rates of sediment delivery and thus overestimate the life spans of engineered reservoirs. Our observations also suggest that sediment delivery from mountainous terrain is extremely episodic, sporadically subjecting mountain stream ecosystems to extensive disturbance.

Specific location: central Idaho

Aquatic species: species that recolonize disturbed habitats

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
McGuire et al. 2016	Colorado		x	?	x	x	

Reference

McGuire, L., F. Rengers, J. Kean, J. Coe, B. Mirus, R. Baum, and J. Godt. 2016. Elucidating the role of vegetation in the initiation of rainfall-induced shallow landslides: Insights from an extreme rainfall event in the Colorado Front Range. *GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH LETTERS*. 43(17): 9084–9092.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/2016GL070741>

Abstract

More than 1100 debris flows were mobilized from shallow landslides during a rainstorm from 9 to 13 September 2013 in the Colorado Front Range, with the vast majority initiating on sparsely vegetated, south facing terrain. To investigate the physical processes responsible for the observed aspect control, we made measurements of soil properties on a densely forested north facing hillslope and a grassland-dominated south facing hillslope in the Colorado Front Range and performed numerical modeling of transient changes in soil pore water pressure throughout the rainstorm. Using the numerical model, we quantitatively assessed interactions among vegetation, rainfall interception, subsurface hydrology, and slope stability. Results suggest that apparent cohesion supplied by roots was responsible for the observed connection between debris flow initiation and slope aspect. Results suggest that future climate-driven modifications to forest structure could substantially influence landslide hazards throughout the Front Range and similar water-limited environments where vegetation communities may be more susceptible to small variations in climate.

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Meyer et al. 2001	Idaho		x	?	x	x	

Reference

Meyer, G., J. Pierce, S. Wood, and A. Jull. 2001. Fire, storms, and erosional events in the Idaho batholith. *Hydrological Processes* 15(15): 3025–3038. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hyp.389>

Abstract

In late December 1996, the South Fork Payette River basin in west-central Idaho experienced a prolonged storm that culminated on January 1, 1997, with intense rain on melting snow that triggered slide failures, producing debris flows and sediment-charged floods. Failures occurred in saturated, cohesionless, grussy colluvium derived from Weathered Idaho batholith granitic rocks. Many failures along the South Fork Payette River originated in ponderosa pine forests burned in the 1989 stand-replacing Lowman fire. An

example is the 0.49 km² 'Jughead' Creek basin. where a single large colluvial failure produced almost 40% of the total volume eroded from the basin and generated a massive and rapid debris flow. Failures also occurred in steep, unburned, and unforested drainages such as Hopkins Creek. In this south-facing 0.58 km² basin, 15 colluvial hollows failed, but no single failure produced more than 10% of the total eroded volume. Sediment transport in Hopkins Creek occurred by prolonged sediment-charged sheetflooding. Despite vegetation differences, sediment yields from the geomorphically similar Hopkins Creek (similar to 42 000 Mg km⁻²) and Jughead Creek (similar to 44 000 Mg km⁻²) basins were quite similar. These 1997 erosion events are equivalent to several thousand years of sediment yield at low rates (2.7-30 Mg km² year⁻¹) measured by short-term sediment trapping and gauging in Idaho batholith watersheds. If similar large events were solely responsible for sediment export, recurrence intervals (RIs) of several hundred years would account for higher sediment yields averaged over similar to 10⁴ year from Idaho batholith watersheds. Dating of small fire-induced sheetflooding events in an early Holocene tributary junction fan of Jughead Creek indicates that frequent small sedimentation events (RI approximate to 33-80 year) occurred between 7400 and 6600 cal year BP, with an average yield not greatly exceeding 16 Mg km⁻² year⁻¹. Compared with the Holocene average, erosion rates during that 800-year period were unusually low, suggesting that sediment yields have not been constant over time, and that climatic variations and related fire regime changes may exert a strong influence on the probability of major erosional events.

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Meyer et al. 1992	western US		x		x	x	

Reference

Meyer, G.A., S.G. Wells, R.C. Balling Jr, and A.J.T. Jull. 1992. Response of alluvial systems to fire and climate change in Yellowstone National Park. NATURE. 357(6374): 147–150. <https://doi.org/10.1038/357147a0>

Abstract

Projections of the ecological effects of global climate change often include increased frequency and/or intensity of forest fires in regions of warmer and drier climate 1-3. In addition to disturbing biological systems, widespread intense fires may influence the evolution of the physical landscape through greatly enhanced sediment transport 4. Debris-flow to flood-streamflow sedimentation events following the 1988 fires in the Yellowstone National Park area (Wyoming and Montana, USA) have allowed us to examine the geomorphological response to fire in a mountain environment. Abundant analogous deposits in older alluvial fan sequences bear witness to past fire-related sedimentation events in northwestern Yellowstone, and radiocarbon dating of these events yields a detailed chronology of fire-related sedimentation for the past 3,500 years. We find that alluvial fans aggrade during periods of frequent fire-related sedimentation events, and we interpret these periods as subject to drought or high climatic variability. During wetter periods, sediment is removed from alluvial fan storage and transported down axial streams, resulting in floodplain aggradation. The dominant alluvial activity is strongly modulated by climate, with fire acting as a drought-actuated catalyst for sediment transport.

Specific location: Montana, Wyoming

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Moody and Martin 2009	western US		x		x	x	

Reference

Moody, J.A., and D.A. Martin. 2009. Synthesis of sediment yields after wildland fire in different rainfall regimes in the western United States. *International Journal of Wildland Fire* 18: 96–115. <https://doi.org/10.1071/WF07162>

Abstract

Measurements of post-fire sediment erosion, transport, and deposition collected within 2 years of a wildfire were compiled from the published literature (1927–2007) for sites across the western United States. Annual post-fire sediment yields were computed and grouped into four measurement methods (hillslope point and plot measurements, channel measurements of suspended-sediment and sediment erosion or deposition volumes). Post-fire sediment yields for each method were then grouped into eight different rainfall regimes. Mean sediment yield from channels (240 t ha⁻¹) was significantly greater than from hillslopes (82 t ha⁻¹). This indicated that on the time scale of wildfire (10–100 years) channels were the primary sources of available sediment. A lack of correlation of sediment yield with topographic slope and soil erodibility further suggested that sediment availability may be more important than slope or soil erodibility in predicting post-fire sediment yields. The maximum post-fire sediment yields were comparable to long-term sediment yields from major rivers of the world. Based on 80 years of data from the literature, wildfires have been an important geomorphic agent of landscape change when linked with sufficient rainfall. These effects are limited in spatial scale to the immediate burned area and to downstream channel corridors.

Specific location: western U.S., including the Sub-Pacific rainfall regime, which spans eastern Oregon and eastern Washington

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Pierce et al. 2004	Idaho		x		x	x	

Reference

Pierce, J., G. Meyer, and A. Jull. 2004. Fire-induced erosion and millennial scale climate change in northern ponderosa pine forests. *Nature*. 432(7013): 87–90. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature03058>

Abstract

Western US ponderosa pine forests have recently suffered extensive stand-replacing fires followed by hillslope erosion and sedimentation(1-4). These fires are usually attributed to increased stand density as a result of fire suppression, grazing and other land use, and are often considered uncharacteristic or unprecedented(1-3). Tree-ring records from the past 500 years indicate that before Euro-American settlement, frequent, low-severity fires maintained open stands(1-3). However, the pre-settlement period between about AD 1500 and AD 1900 was also generally colder than present(5-10), raising the possibility that rapid twentieth-century warming promoted recent catastrophic fires. Here we date fire-related sediment deposits in alluvial fans in central Idaho to reconstruct Holocene fire history in xeric ponderosa pine forests and examine links to climate. We find that colder periods experienced frequent low-severity fires, probably fuelled by increased understory growth. Warmer periods experienced severe droughts, stand-replacing fires and large debris-flow events that comprise a large component of long-term erosion(11) and coincide with similar events in sub-alpine forests of Yellowstone National Park(12). Our results suggest that given the powerful influence of climate, restoration of processes typical of pre-settlement times may be difficult in a warmer future that promotes severe fires.

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Rengers et al. 2023	New Mexico		x		x	x	

Reference

Rengers, F.K., L.A. McGuire, K.R. Barnhart, A.M. Youberg, D. Cadol, A.N. Gorr, O.J. Hoch, R. Beers, and J.W. Kean. 2023 The influence of large woody debris on post-wildfire debris flow sediment storage. *Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences* 23(6): 2075–2088.

Abstract

Debris flows transport large quantities of water and granular material, such as sediment and wood, and this mixture can have devastating effects on life and infrastructure. The proportion of large woody debris (LWD) incorporated into debris flows can be enhanced in forested areas recently burned by wildfire because wood recruitment into channels accelerates in burned forests. In this study, using four small watersheds in the Gila National Forest, New Mexico, which burned in the 2020 Tadpole Fire, we explored new approaches to estimate debris flow velocity based on LWD characteristics and the role of LWD in debris flow volume retention. To understand debris flow volume model predictions, we examined two models for debris flow volume estimation: (1) the current volume prediction model used in US Geological Survey debris flow hazard assessments and (2) a regional model developed to predict the sediment yield associated with debris-laden flows. We found that the regional model better matched the magnitude of the observed sediment at the terminal fan, indicating the utility of regionally calibrated parameters for debris flow volume prediction. However, large wood created sediment storage upstream from the terminal fan, and this volume was of the same magnitude as the total debris flow volume stored at the terminal fans. Using field and lidar data we found that sediment retention by LWD is largely controlled by channel reach slope and a ratio of LWD length to channel width between 0.25 and 1. Finally, we demonstrated a method for

estimating debris flow velocity based on estimates of the critical velocity required to break wood, which can be used in future field studies to estimate minimum debris flow velocity values.

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Rengers 2020	California		x		x	x	

Reference

Rengers, F.K., L.A. McGuire, N.S. Oakley, J.W. Kean, D.M. Staley, and H. Tang. 2020. Landslides after wildfire: initiation, magnitude, and mobility. *Landslides* 17(11): 2631–2641. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10346-020-01506-3>

Abstract

In the semiarid Southwestern USA, wildfires are commonly followed by runoff-generated debris flows because wildfires remove vegetation and ground cover, which reduces soil infiltration capacity and increases soil erodibility. At a study site in Southern California, we initially observed runoff-generated debris flows in the first year following fire. However, at the same site three years after the fire, the mass-wasting response to a long-duration rainstorm with high rainfall intensity peaks was shallow landsliding rather than runoff-generated debris flows. Moreover, the same storm caused landslides on unburned hillslopes as well as on slopes burned 5 years prior to the storm and areas burned by successive wildfires, 10 years and 3 years before the rainstorm. The landslide density was the highest on the hillslopes that had burned 3 years beforehand, and the hillslopes burned 5 years prior to the storm had low landslide densities, similar to unburned areas. We also found that reburning (i.e., two wildfires within the past 10 years) had little influence on landslide density. Our results indicate that landscape susceptibility to shallow landslides might return to that of unburned conditions after as little as 5 years of vegetation recovery. Moreover, most of the landslide activity was on steep, equatorial-facing slopes that receive higher solar radiation and had slower rates of vegetation regrowth, which further implicates vegetation as a controlling factor on post-fire landslide susceptibility. Finally, the total volume of sediment mobilized by the year 3 landslides was much smaller than the year 1 runoff-generated debris flows, and the landslides were orders of magnitude less mobile than the runoff-generated debris flows.

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Welcker 2011	Idaho		x		x	x	x

Reference

Welcker, C. 2011. Bulking debris flow initiation and impacts. PhD Thesis, University of Idaho. 196pp. https://www.academia.edu/89622446/Bulking_Debris_Flow_Initiation_and_Impacts

Abstract

Bulking debris flows (BDFs) are generated by infiltration excess (Horton) overland flow, eroding sufficient sediment on steep, sparsely-vegetated hillslopes to achieve debris-flow rheology. BDFs erode sediment from hillslopes and previously unchanneled hollows, entering the perennial stream network and scouring alluvium along their path to junctions with larger streams, where they typically deposit. Although BDFs have been documented in arid or burned sites throughout the western United States for over 100 years, their initiation is poorly understood, as are their geomorphic and ecological effects.

I developed a numerical model of BDF initiation from overland flow to test the hypothesis that BDFs can be generated without mass failure or episodic addition of sediment. The model incorporated erosion of sediment as bedload, transfer of bedload to suspended load, and alteration of fluid properties based on increased suspended load, which in turn increased bedload and suspended sediment transport. The predicted transition to debris-flow sediment concentrations and the pattern of hillslope erosion showed good agreement with field observations.

Debris-flow generation in arid landscapes that experience progressive sediment bulking should lead to measurably different slope area trends of channel-head locations and topography than humid landscapes by shallow landslide debris flows (SLDFs). I hypothesized that the slope area trend of BDF channel heads would follow the underlying hillslope topography, rather than previously described theoretical relationships, and this expectation was confirmed by field surveys. I also hypothesized that the lack of bedrock erosion by BDFs would result in a different topographic signature than the profile previously attributed to SLDFs. Surprisingly, survey results revealed longitudinal profiles for BDFs similar to SLDFs, but they did not correspond with the observed extent of BDF erosion.

I hypothesized that BDF disturbance would reduce riparian vegetation and shading, leading to increased stream temperatures and adverse effects on aquatic biota. Field work demonstrated that BDF effects on stream temperature lasted for 7-40 years and were found to be greater than for wildfire disturbance alone. Stream temperature was well correlated with solar radiation, but reach heating was complicated by site-specific cooling, which appears to be related to the size of the local, alluvial aquifer.

Specific location: Idaho batholith

Aquatic species: fish

Reference	Location	Question (Q1 or Q2)	Process relevant	Forest harvest-related activities	Hillslope processes - mass wasting	Environmental similarity to eastern Oregon	HCP covered species and their habitats
Zung et al. 2009	Wyoming	Q2?			x	x	

Reference

Zung, A.B., C.J. Sorenson, and E. Winthers. 2009. Landslide Soils and Geomorphology in Bridger-Teton National Forest, Northwest Wyoming. *Physical Geography*. 30(6): 501–516. <https://doi.org/10.2747/0272-3646.30.6.501>

Abstract

Active landslides are evident throughout Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTNF), and northwestern Wyoming has one of the highest landslide densities in the country. Land use changes and increased demands for infrastructure challenge BTNF personnel to better understand landslide processes in order to make informed land management decisions. Despite recent population growth in the region, research on landslide phenomena is lacking. In this study, soil and geomorphic properties related to landslide occurrence were studied at 18 landslides in the BTNF. Landslides were categorized as active or inactive based on geomorphic features. Landslide soil characteristics including texture, shrink-swell potential, clay mineralogy, and horizonation were compared on active and inactive landslides. The results indicate that soil characteristics related to the degree of soil formation are different on active and inactive landslides. Soil characteristics such as plasticity, shrink-swell potential, and clay mineralogy influence slope stability and were distinctly different on active and inactive landslides, especially in C horizons. This study shows that soil characteristics and slope geomorphic properties may be useful for assessing landslide frequency. Our results support a hypothesis that landslide occurrence in the BTNF is related to weathering of soil and unconsolidated material, which affects clay mineralogy.

Appendix E. Literature Review Examples

The methods and structure of two literature reviews found as part of the search process were analyzed as examples (Barrett and Reilly 2017; Herrera Environmental Consultants Inc. 2004). Both reports were commissioned by Washington's adaptive management program. The following paragraphs summarize key aspects of these studies that may be relevant for the development of IRST's research proposal.

Research questions: Barrett and Reilly (2017) reviewed the potential effects of salvage logging on riparian areas for Washington eastside forests, whereas Herrera (2004) focused on wood loading dynamics in and around streams in eastern Washington forests. Herrera was given a list of 41 specific research questions grouped into nine topic areas. Barrett did not have a list of questions, but they identified five relevant research subthemes (Silviculture/Forest Practices, Fuels/Fire, Erosion/Soils, Riparian/Aquatic, and Biodiversity/Ecosystems).

Process context: The Herrera study was embedded in a broader process, which included a kick-off workshop with the sponsoring committee, followed by the literature search, a broader workshop to review the literature found, consolidation of results in a literature database, and a final report. Barrett did not report on broader process but presented their findings to the sponsoring committee at project conclusion.

Eligibility criteria (Study area): Both studies expanded their search to include similar environments outside of the target state. Barrett's search encompassed Oregon, Idaho, western Montana, northern California, northern Nevada, southeastern British Columbia, and southwestern Alberta and searched for specific forest types. Herrera (2004) described three location categories: eastern Washington, "analogous regions" (they did not further define this), and other studies relevant to the topic.

Search: Both studies searched literature databases and solicited documents from subject matter experts. Barrett mentions searching in Google Scholar and ResearchGate and provided a few keyword examples. Herrera provided an appendix explicitly listing all databases searched (but not keywords) and all individuals and institutions contacted.

Selection (Screening): Barrett includes a short section on screening but without much description of an explicit methodology or number of documents screened. They reviewed 75 documents. Herrera reports compiling more than 5,000 documents, however, no further information on screening is provided.

Data extraction: Barrett was given a number of elements to extract, including topics/keywords, location, forest types, forest practices, and analysis methods. In addition, they assigned studies to five relevant research subthemes (Silviculture/Forest Practices, Fuels/Fire, Erosion/Soils, Riparian/Aquatic, Biodiversity/Ecosystems). They used an Excel workbook to store and analyze the information.

Results: Herrera structured the main body of their report around the 41 specific research questions grouped into nine topic areas, addressing each one in a separate section. Each relevant literature source that contains quantitative data is briefly discussed, and an assessment is made of the extent to which data collected for the question covers eastern Washington stream channel sizes and forest types. Both reports started with a large number of specific questions (15 for Barrett and 41 for Herrera) and summarized the literature for each question. Barrett identified five relevant research subthemes (Silviculture/Forest Practices, Fuels/Fire, Erosion/Soils, Riparian/Aquatic, Biodiversity/Ecosystems) and summarized the literature for each. Barrett mapped the location of each study and noted certain clusters around large fires.

Additional products: Barrett produced a database of publications in Excel format; Herrera compiled the literature found in a Procite bibliographic database.