



Adaptive Management Program Committee

July 28, 2026

Attendance



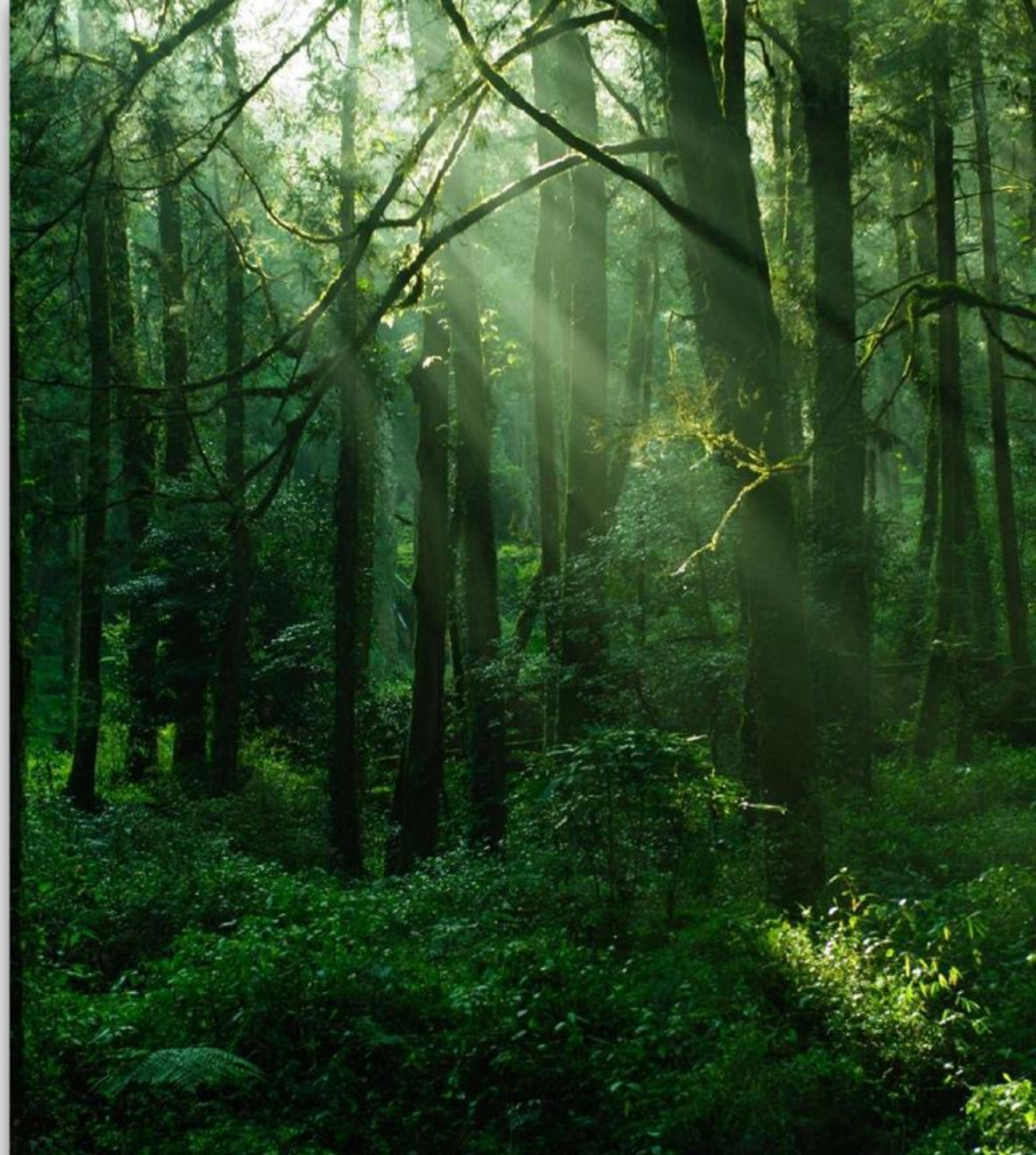


Public Comment



Updates

- **Adam Coble, his position**
- **Roads RFP open until Aug. 31**



Agenda

- Report from AMPC-IRST Subcommittee on Effectiveness Monitoring Strategy
- IRST co-chairs presentation on scoping proposals for Amphibians Q1 and Q2
- Discussion: Scoping proposal for Amphibians Q1and Q2 (**possible decision item*)



What's ahead

Sept. 3, 2026

- **Decision item:** Vote to advance preferred option(s) for Amphibians Q1 and Q2
- **Effectiveness monitoring strategy next steps**



Amphibian Research Scoping Proposal

Overview of Proposal Document and
Research Options for AMPC Review

Independent Research and Science Team (IRST) | 28 July 2026



What's Driving This Work

The Research Questions Developed by the Adaptive Management Program Committee

AMPC Question 1:



For each of the covered amphibian species, what is the distribution (including population diversity) within Oregon, and what factors (e.g., stream gradient, stream size, fish presence/absence, slope, aspect, temperature, seasonality, micro-habitat conditions) determine this distribution at a smaller spatial scale (e.g., watershed)?

AMPC Question 2:



What is the population trend of the Columbia and Southern torrent salamanders over time on lands subject to the Forest Practices Act (FPA) rules? This question is informed by the following overarching biological goal as stated in the draft PFA HCP: “Forest practices that support the survival and recovery of the covered species by providing clean, cool, connected, and complex habitats.”

AMPC Question 1 covers all five species.

AMPC Question 2 covers the two torrent salamander species — Columbia and southern torrent salamander.

What's in This Proposal

1

Front Matter, Executive Summary & Introduction

Overview of the 2022 PFA Priorities, AMPC research questions, covered species, and research options; background on the AMPC process

2

Scoping Literature Review Summary

Key findings on distribution, habitat associations, population diversity, and trends

3

Scoping Proposal — Options, Costs & Integration

All seven research options with cost estimates, tradeoffs, and integration scenarios

4

References

Full citation list supporting the literature review and option descriptions

5

Appendices (A & B)

Appendix A: AMPC research questions; Appendix B: full literature review

Literature Review — Key Takeaways & Uncertainties

Findings most relevant to evaluating the 7 research options presented in Section 3 — full review provided in Appendix B

Distribution & Watershed Occurrence

- Broad range boundaries are reasonably well established for all five species across western Oregon
- Watershed-scale distribution is incompletely characterized; records are geographically uneven and largely opportunistic
- Most existing surveys have not accounted for imperfect detection. Detection probability has rarely been estimated — apparent absences can't be distinguished from true absences

Habitat Associations

- All five species are strongly associated with cold, perennial headwater streams, coarse substrates, and forested riparian areas
- Quantitative thresholds (gradient, temperature, flow permanence) are poorly constrained
- Torrent salamanders are the most thermally and hydrologically sensitive taxa
- Most data come from reach-scale, single-visit studies without detection correction

Population Diversity & Trends

- Rangewide population size and long-term trends are unknown for all five species
- Strong genetic structure and limited connectivity are documented; Oregon-specific sampling is spatially limited
- Demographic rates are poorly quantified across Oregon
- No standardized long-term time-series exist for Columbia or southern torrent salamanders on FPA lands

IRST developed 7 research options to address the AMPC questions in light of these findings and uncertainties—ranging from no action to intensive long-term monitoring

Seven Research Options at a Glance

Section 3 of the Scoping Proposal

Option	Name	Timeframe	Total Estimated Cost	Annual Estimated Cost
Option 1	No Action	—	\$0	—
Q1- Option 2	Targeted Geographic Range & Distribution Refinement	1–2 yr	\$130k–\$400k	\$130k–\$200k/yr
Q1-Option 3	Among Watershed Habitat Associations	2–3 yr	\$700k–\$1.7m	\$350k–\$575k/yr
Q1-Option 4	Within Watershed Habitat Associations - stream network	3–5 yr	\$1.1m–\$2.5m	\$375k–\$500k/yr
Q1-Option 5	Population Diversity — Genetics & Demography	3–5+ yr	\$625k–\$1.7m	\$200k–\$275k/yr
Q2-Option 1	Broad-Scale Torrent Salamander Monitoring Network	5–10 yr	\$2.3m–\$7.4m	\$450k–\$700k/yr
Q2-Option 2	Intensive Torrent Salamander Monitoring + Demography	7–10+ yr	\$3.4k–\$7.1k	\$475k–\$700k/yr

All costs include 26% indirect rate. Genetics one-time lab costs are incorporated into high-end totals and shown separately (see Q1-5, Q2-1, Q2-2 details).

Question 1 Options — Key Details



Q1-2

**Targeted Range
& Distribution**

1–2 years

\$130,000–\$400,000

\$130k–\$200k/yr

Contributes:

New presence/absence records; refined range boundaries; foundation for future studies

Limitations:

Non-probabilistic; no detection correction; no habitat/trend data

Q1-3

**Among Watershed
Habitat Associations
Broad Sampling**

2–3 years

\$700,000–\$1,700,000

\$350k–\$575k/yr

Contributes:

Range-wide watershed occurrence; landscape/watershed habitat associations; ~80–120 HUC12s

Limitations:

Repeat visits unlikely; apparent absences uncertain; no stream network inference

Q1-4

**Within Watershed
Habitat Associations
Intensive Sampling**

3–5 years

\$1,100,000–\$2,500,000

\$375k–\$500k/yr

Contributes:

Detection-corrected occupancy more feasible; reach-scale habitat inference; strongest alongside Q1-3; ~20–35 HUC12s

Limitations:

Limited spatial inference beyond sampled watersheds; no diversity/trend data

Q1-5

**Population Diversity
(Genetic &
Demography)**

3–5+ years

**Standalone:
\$625,000–\$1,675,000
\$200k–\$275k/yr**

**Added to Op. 3 or 4
+\$248k genetics (one-time)
\$100k–\$150k/yr**

Contributes:

Genetic connectivity & structure; demographic rates; best as add-on to Q1-3 or Q1-4

Limitations:

Partial view from each sub-approach independently; does not address watershed-scale distribution, habitat associations, or population trends

Question 2 Options — Key Details

Q2 focuses only on Columbia and Southern torrent salamanders on FPA lands.

Q2-1

Broad-Scale Torrent Salamander Monitoring Network

5–10 years

\$2,225,000–\$7,375,000

\$450k–\$700k/yr

+\$414k genetics (one-time)

Contributes:

Detection-corrected occupancy trends across broad FPA landscape; first standardized long-term torrent time-series; optional eDNA; ~50–100 HUC12s

Limitations:

Does not explain demographic drivers of trends; requires Q2-2 for mechanistic understanding

Q2-2

Intensive Torrent Salamander Monitoring + Demography Components

7–10+ years

\$3,350,000–\$7,075,000

\$475k–\$700k/yr

+\$62k genetics (one-time)

Contributes:

Occupancy trends + optional abundance estimation + demographic rates within intensively monitored watersheds; insight into whether and why populations are changing; ~5–15 HUC12s

Limitations:

Limited landscape inference (fewer watersheds); requires Q2-1 for range-wide trend signal; highest cost and complexity

eDNA costs included in high-end estimates for both options.

Integration Scenarios

Q1 + Q2 Integration Opportunity

Q1-3 or Q1-4 sampling in torrent salamander watersheds can be designed with sufficient temporal replication to simultaneously address habitat association (Q1) and trend detection (Q2) objectives, reducing duplication of effort and generating estimated 25–30% cost savings over independent implementation.

Integrated Q1 + Q2 Research Program Scenarios

Scenario	Options Combined	Annual Cost	Total Cost
S1	Q1-3 + Q2-1	~\$550k–\$950k/yr	~\$2m–\$6.8M
S2	Q1-4 + Q2-2	~\$600k–\$900k/yr	~\$3.1m–\$7.2M
S3	Q1-3 + Q2-1 + Q2-2	~\$875k–\$1.5M/yr	~\$4.4m–\$12.1M

Note on Initial Study Funding Recommendation

The 2022 Private Forest Accord Report recommended \$1.5m as an "initial study" to begin amphibian research. All Q2 options and integrated scenarios exceed this figure on an annual basis. The \$1.5m figure represents a starting point; ongoing investment across multiple funding cycles will be necessary to address both questions.

Seven Research Options at a Glance

Section 3 of the Scoping Proposal

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Q1-Option 5	Population Diversity — Genetics & Demography	3–5+ yr	\$625k–\$1.7m	\$200k–\$275k/yr
Q2-Option 1	Broad-Scale Torrent Salamander Monitoring Network	5–10 yr	\$2.3m–\$7.4m	\$450k–\$700k/yr
Q2-Option 2	Intensive Torrent Salamander Monitoring + Demography	7–10+ yr	\$3.4k–\$7.1k	\$475k–\$700k/yr

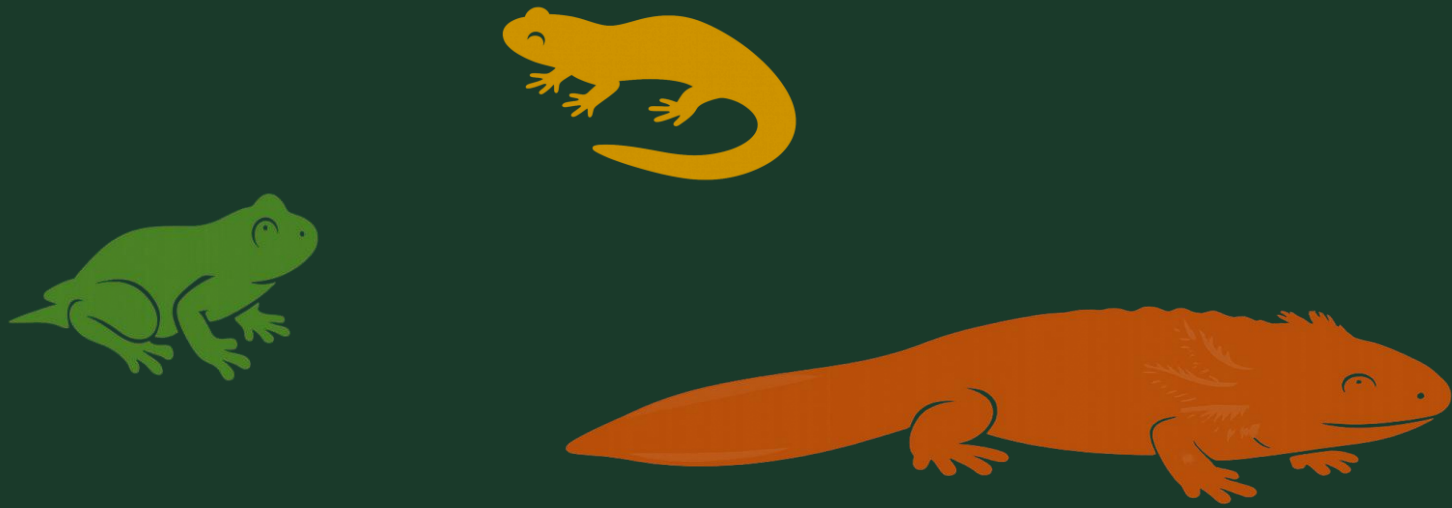
All costs include 26% indirect rate. Genetics one-time lab costs are incorporated into high-end totals and shown separately (see Q1-5, Q2-1, Q2-2 details).

Options Summary — Knowledge Contributions

Option	Geographic Range Refinement (Q1)	Watershed Distribution (Q1)	Habitat Associations (Landscape/Watershed) (Q1)	Habitat Associations (Reach/Stream network) (Q1)	Population Diversity (Genetics) (Q1)	Population Diversity (Demography) (Q1)	Torrent Population Trends & Abundance (Q2)
Option 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q1-2	✓	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q1-3	—	✓	✓	—	—	—	—
Q1-4	—	—	—	✓	—	—	—
Q1-5	—	—	—	—	✓	✓	—
Q2-1	—	✓	✓ ^a	—	✓ ^b	—	✓
Q2-2	—	✓	—	✓	—	✓ ^c	✓

^a Incidental to broad spatial design, not a primary objective. ^b If optional tissue sampling is included. ^c If optional demographic components are included. Abundance estimation is an optional enhancement for both Q2 options.

Due to the complexity of the research questions, no single research option address all topic areas, however research options can be integrated.



Questions?

**Amphibians
Scoping Proposal**

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

Scoping Proposal

Submitted to
The Oregon Department of Forestry
Adaptive Management Program Committee
17 July 2026

AMPC Discussion:
**Amphibians scoping
proposal Q1 and Q2**



Decision Process: Amphibians Q1 & Q2

- **Pre-survey questions before Sept meeting:** For discussion of Roads and Slopes in June 2025, AMPC responded to a pre-survey to gauge interest in different options.
 - Following this meeting discussion, we can share out a short pre-survey to inform the September meeting discussion.
 - What else do we need to be ready to vote in September?



Funding situation

New funding in 25-27 biennium:

\$3.1M* for next round of research projects, BUT \$0.5M removed
(June 2026 EBoard request) -> **\$2.6M***

23-25 Funding carried forward to 25-27:

\$3M to IRST housed at INR

Total funding available for AMP: \$5.6M*

*Governor's July 2025 signing letter



Board-approved Research Agenda Budget (Sept. 2025)

Project	Budget for 2025-2027 biennium	Total budget^
Road-Stream Hydrologic Connectivity	\$2.7 M*	\$5.4 M
Eastern Oregon Steep Slopes	\$80,000	\$80,000
Amphibians/other	TBD	TBD
TOTAL		\$5.48 M

^Not to exceed

****Note: Roads spending likely less than \$1.5M during this biennium***



What Funds Are Available?

Available funds: \$5.6M available to AMP for research

Obligated funds in 25-27:

- \$2.7M allocated to Roads research (25-27)* [likely less than \$1.5M needed for 25-27]
- \$0.1M allocated to Steep Slopes research (25-27)

Available funds minus obligated funds:

\$5.6M - \$2.7M - \$0.1M = \$2.8M available in 25-27*

Additional funds in 27-29 biennium? Unknown

**NOTE: BOF has approved a total of \$5.4M for Roads research (not to exceed). \$2.6M is not currently available due to signing letter.*

BOF approved budget includes multi-year research for Roads beyond 25-27 biennium, so any balance (\$2.8M) would likely be allocated to this research under current approach.

What Funds Are Available?

Any balance (\$2.8M) would likely be allocated to Roads research under current approach.

Existing funds: \$5.6M

\$2.8M for (roads* + slopes) + \$2.8M balance**



Unknown FY 27-29 Funds

Any additional funding allocated in FY 27-29 (approved June 2027)

****Note: Roads spending likely less than \$1.5M during 25-27 biennium***

***** \$2.6M Governor's signing letter***



Implementation Status of 2025 Research Agenda

Steep Slopes: study in progress, both reports to AMPC early 2027

Roads: RFP closes Aug. 31, this fall for contract (~4 years)

Note: effectiveness monitoring strategy will require IRST, AMPC time





John P. Clare
amphibianphotos.com



Amphibians

“Uncertainty exists around amphibian population characteristics, distribution, productivity, survival, and abundance. A robust effectiveness monitoring plan as part of an adaptive management program will be used to better understand the relationship between forest management and covered amphibian species. To support this program, it is recommended that \$1.5 million be initially applied to research through the first funding cycle of the adaptive management program **to better understand how riparian and unstable slope protections of at least the current and proposed rules for private forestland impact persistence of populations.** The Authors agree that the \$1.5 million will be used to fund an initial study and that ongoing research over appropriate intervals of time beyond this initial study will be necessary to understand research outcomes over long periods of time. **The priority species for monitoring will be the Columbia and Southern torrent salamanders...**”

-- PFA Report, p. 120-121

Amphibians Research Question Development Timeline

- **April 2025:** Voted to approve [research question package](#)
- **October 2025:** AMPC approves modified questions in response to IRST questions
- **November 2025 – July 2026:** IRST development of scoping proposal for Q1 and Q2



Proposed Next Steps: Amphibians

Amphibians Questions 1 & 2:

- A. Decide on Research Agenda addendum (using IRST scoping proposal)
- B. Board decision on budget (Jan. or March 2026?)
- C. IRST implement studies

Amphibians Question 3*:

1. IRST hones list of relevant rules from ODF, AMPC subcommittee reviews, AMPC review & finalize
2. AMPC answers IRST questions (preliminary convo March 2026)
3. IRST develops scoping proposal

** Delayed to focus on components of effectiveness monitoring, amphibians questions 1 & 2*



Amphibians Question 1

For each of the covered amphibian species, what is the **distribution** (including population diversity) within Oregon, and what **factors** (e.g., stream gradient, stream size, fish presence/absence, slope, aspect, temperature, seasonality, micro-habitat conditions) determine this distribution at a smaller spatial scale (e.g., watershed)?



Amphibians Question 2

What is the **population trend of the Columbia and Southern torrent salamanders over time** on lands subject to the Forest Practices Act (FPA) rules?

This question is informed by the following overarching biological goal as stated in the draft PFA HCP: “Forest practices that support the survival and recovery of the covered species by providing clean, cool, connected, and complex habitats.”



Questions for Consideration

- **What funding is available now, or likely to be available over next 5 years?**
- **What are the priorities for AMPC for research related to effectiveness monitoring strategy, HCP needs?**
- **Best investment in basic science given FPA, HCP structures?**
- **What is a reasonable timeframe to conduct research given funding and HCP constraints?**

“To support this program, it is recommended that \$1.5 million be initially applied to research through the first funding cycle of the adaptive management program to better understand how riparian and unstable slope protections of at least the current and proposed rules for private forestland impact persistence of populations..”

– PFA Report, p. 120-121

Amphibians Q1: Discussion

Option	Est. Time Frame	Est. Cost	Notes / Considerations
Option 1: No Action	0 months	\$0	
Option 2: Targeted Geographic Range and Distribution	1-2 years	\$130k - \$400k	
Option 3: Watershed-scale Habitat Associations	2-3 years	\$700k - \$1.7M	
Option 4: Reach-scale Habitat Associations	3-5 years	\$1.1M - \$2.5M	
Option 5: Population Diversity – Genetic and Demographic Approaches	3-5+ years	\$625k - \$1.675M	

Amphibians Q2: Discussion

Option	Est. Time Frame	Est. Cost	Notes / Considerations
Option 1: Broad-scale Torrent Salamander Monitoring Network for Trend Detection	5-10 years	\$2.225M - \$7.375M	
Option 2: Intensive Torrent Salamander Monitoring Network with Demographic Components	7-10+ years	\$3.35M - \$7.075M	

Review of Options: For Reference



Amphibians Question 1: Options 1-5

Option	Timeframe	Cost	Knowledge Contribution
Option 1	None	\$0	No Action: Maintains current understanding from existing data; does not generate new information on watershed-scale distribution, habitat associations, population diversity, or population trends.
Q1- Option 2	1-2 years	\$130k–\$400k (\$130k–\$200k/year)	Targeted Range & Distribution Refinement: Limited new presence/absence records to refine range boundaries and reduce distributional uncertainty. Provides foundation for designing future field studies.
Q1 Option 3	2-3 years	\$700k–\$1.7m (\$350k–\$575k/year)	Watershed-Scale Habitat Associations -- Broad Sampling: Systematic, range-wide characterization of watershed-scale species presence/absence data and landscape- and watershed-scale habitat associations. Does not support reach-scale inference; apparent absences species carry uncertainty.
Q1 Option 4	3-5 years	\$1.1m–\$2.5m (\$375k–\$500k/year)	Reach-Scale Habitat Associations -- Intensive Sampling: Accommodates detection-corrected occupancy methods for species presence/absence at the stream-reach scale within a smaller number of watersheds, supporting more reliable habitat association inference at reach-scales within sampled watersheds. Most informative alongside Q1-3.
Q1 Option 5	3-5+ years	\$625k–\$1.7m (\$200k–\$275k/year)	Population Diversity — Genetic and Demographic Approaches: Population connectivity, genetic structure, and demographic rates. Most valuable as an add-on to Q1-3 or Q1-4. Each approach provides only a partial view independently.

Q1: Knowledge Contributions and Limitations

Option	Knowledge Contribution	Limitations
Q1, Option 1: No Action No cost	- Maintains current understanding of 5 amphibian species	- Watershed-scale distribution is incomplete for all 5 species - Wouldn't address Q2 at all
Q1, Option 2 1-2 years \$130-\$400k total	- Generates new presence/absence observations - Improves confidence in statewide distribution maps	- Results can't support statistical inference about occurrence patterns across broader landscape - Does not address habitat associations, demographic responses, population diversity, or population trends
Q1, Option 3 2-3 years \$700k-\$1.7M	- Generates presence/absence data across statistically valid sample of watersheds - Results can support landscape- and watershed-scale habitat association analyses - Can be combined with Option 4 or 5	- Doesn't estimate detection probabilities - Doesn't support reach-scale inference about how species use stream networks in individual watersheds - Does not address population diversity, demographic rates, or population trends

Q1: Knowledge Contributions and Limitations

Option	Knowledge Contribution	Limitations
Q1, Option 4 3-5 years \$1.1M - \$2.5M	- Generate detection-corrected species occupancy estimates within smaller # of watersheds with more precision - Fewer watersheds than Option 3, but concentrates efforts within those selected - Potential to combine Option 3 + 4, or 4 + 5	- If watersheds are selected using a probabilistic design, could support range-wide habitat association but confidence, statistical power, and precision would be less than Q1 Option 3 - Does not directly address population diversity, demographic rates, or population trends
Q1, Option 5 3-5+ years Stand-alone: \$625k - \$1.675 M. In combination with 3 or 4: \$300k - \$700k	- Generates insight into population persistence by evaluating connectivity and diversity across watersheds - Uses genetic data (tissue sampling) to describe population connectivity and structure; uses demographic data (repeated sampling of individuals) to evaluate life-stage structure, survival, and movement	- Independently, this option provides partial information and would be of greatest value in combination with Option 3 or 4 - Genetic data doesn't provide direct estimates of survival or reproduction - Demographic data is only feasible in a limited number of locations

Amphibians Question 2: Options 1-2

Q2 Option 1	5-10 years	\$2.3m–\$7.4m (\$450k–\$700k/year)	Broad-Scale Torrent Salamander Monitoring Network: Detection-corrected occupancy trends for Columbia and southern torrent salamanders across a broad geographic extent on FPA lands. Trend detection is the primary objective. Does not explain demographic mechanisms driving observed trends.
Q2 Option 2	7-10+ years	\$3.4m–\$7.1m (\$475k–\$700k/year)	Intensive Torrent Salamander Monitoring Network with Demographic Components: Detection-corrected occupancy trends for Columbia and southern torrent salamanders within intensively monitored watersheds on FPA lands; abundance estimation, demographic data collection, and habitat characterization are optional enhancements; most informative when implemented alongside Q2, Option 1.



Q2: Knowledge Contributions and Limitations

Option	Knowledge Contribution	Limitations
Q2, Option 1 5-10 years \$2.25M - \$7.375M Can be done in combination with Option 2	- Generates systematic, detection-corrected estimates of population trends for Columbia and southern torrent salamanders - Monitoring across 50-100 HUC 12 subwatersheds (FPA lands) - Supports inferences about whether populations are increasing, decreasing, or stable; allows assessment of variability in trends among watersheds, regions, and conditions	- Prioritizes broad spatial coverage over sampling intensity, so it is designed to detect regional signals in population change rather than explain demographic mechanisms that drive that change - Most informative when implemented with Q2 Option 2
Q2, Option Min 5 years, 7-10+ years \$3.35M - \$7.075M	- Generates detection-corrected occupancy estimates, and in certain cases, abundance estimates within a smaller # of watersheds - Concentrates sampling effort within fewer watersheds to support stronger inference about processes driving population change at watershed and reach scale - Target 5-15 HUC12 subwatersheds	- Concentrates sampling in fewer watersheds, which means that results are less suited for broad inference about range-wide population trends - Most informative in combination with Q2 Option 1

Integration options

Option Integration Scenario	Options Combined	Per Year — Low	Per Year — High	Total — Low	Total — High
1	Q1 Option 3 + Q2 Option 1	~\$550,000	~\$950,000	~\$2,025,000	~\$6,800,000
2	Q1 Option 4 + Q2 Option 2	~\$600,000	~\$900,000	~\$3,125,000	~\$7,175,000
3	Q1 Option 3 + Q2 Option 1 + Q2 Option 2	~\$875,000	~\$1,475,000	~\$4,375,000	~\$12,100,000

Knowledge Contribution Topic Area	Option 1 No Action	Q1, Option 2 Targeted Surveys	Q1, Option 3 Watershed-Scale Habitat Associations - Broad Sampling	Q1, Option 4 Reach-Scale Habitat Associations - Intensive Sampling	Q1, Option 5 Population Diversity	Q2, Option 1 Broad Torrent Monitoring	Q2, Option 2 Intensive Torrent Monitoring
Timeframe	None	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-5 years	3-5+ years	5-10 years	7-10+ years
Cost	\$0	\$130k–\$400k	\$700k–\$1.7M	\$1.1M–\$2.5M	\$625k–\$1.68M standalone; \$300k–\$700k add-on; +\$248k genetics one-time	\$2.23M–\$7.38M +\$414k genetics one-time	\$3.35M–\$7.08M +\$62k genetics one-time
Subwatersheds sampled	N/A	Targeted	~80–120 HUC12 (~6–9% of 1,288)	~20–35 HUC12 (~2–3% of 1,288)	Varies; add-on to Op. 3 or 4	~50–100 HUC12 (~7–14% of 716)	~5–15 HUC12 (~1–2% of 716)
Geographic range refinement		✓					
Watershed-scale distribution			✓			✓	✓
Landscape-scale habitat associations			✓			✓*	
Watershed-scale habitat associations			✓			✓*	
Reach-scale habitat associations				✓			✓
Population connectivity and genetic structure					✓	✓†	
Population demography					✓		✓§
Population trends (torrents, Q2)						✓	✓
Abundance estimates (torrents, Q2)						✓‡	✓

Knowledge contributions comparisons



Including Amphibians questions 1 & 2 in research agenda

- 1) Vote in September (contingent on available funds)**
- 2) Delay action until clear budget picture (June 2027), send research agenda to Board by July 2027**

If September, Proposed Process to Reach Decision:

- Send out pre-survey to gauge preferences among AMPC**
- Identify any additional information needed**
- Subcommittee?**
- September meeting: plan to vote (substantial decision) on option(s)**



Thank you for your participation today

