

Survey: Initial AMPC preferences for adding Amphibians questions 1 & 2 to research agenda

To help inform the discussion for the September 3rd AMPC meeting regarding modifying the research agenda, the AMPC Co-chairs worked with Terry to develop the following short survey. The purpose of this survey is to guide the discussion at the September 3rd meeting. The ODF staff and co-chairs will use the results to inform facilitation of the meeting. We realize that many are still forming thoughts, please do your best to write down your early impressions/ thoughts.

Instructions:

1. Please review the [IRST scoping proposal for Amphibian questions 1 & 2](#):
2. Please review this document, fill out the questions, and **send a completed copy back to Terry by noon on August 31st, 2026.**

Survey Questions

1. **Amphibians question 1:** Please numerically rank the following five options in order of preference to best address Amphibians research question 1. #1 represents your first choice and #5 represents your last choice.

Option	Ranking (1 = high, 5 = low)	Average
1. No action	5 4 5 5 5 3	4.5
2. Targeted Geographic Range & Distribution Refinement	2 2 3 4 4 5	3.3
3. Among Watershed Habitat Associations	1 1 1 2 3 2	1.7
4. Within Watershed Habitat Associations - stream network	3 3 2 1 2 1	2
5. Population Diversity — Genetics & Demography	4 5 4 3 1 2/4	3.5

On a scale of 1-10, how solid are you on your ranking above? (1 is least solid, 10 is most solid)

5 (6 or 7) 4 7 5 9 (average: 6.1)

Detwiler comment: “Based on initial review and without further conversation to date, I would give my certainty on these rankings around 4. Much of this is impacted by available funding and timing, and it also doesn’t easily convey the options to combine multiple approaches.”

2. **Amphibians question 2:** Please numerically rank the following two options in order of preference to best address Amphibians research question #2.

Option	Ranking (1 = high, 2 = low)	Average
1. Broad-Scale Torrent Salamander Monitoring Network	1 1 1 2 1 1	1.2

2. Intensive Torrent Salamander Monitoring + Demography	2 2 2 1 2 2	1.8
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On a scale of 1 to 10, how solid are you on your ranking above? (1 is least solid, 10 is most solid)

5 (6 or 7) 5 - 5 6 (average: 5.5)

3. Is there information missing that would help you to make this decision? Please add any additional comments or questions here. This will help ODF staff, and potentially IRST co-chairs, prepare for the September 3rd meeting.

Bugni comment: *"It appears to me, from reading the descriptions of the options, that some are not at the same level as others. For example, Q105 appears to be a recommendation to be implemented alongside Q103 or O4. This is why I selected Options 1, 2, 3, and 4 over Option 5. Similar for the Question 2 options. Therefore, it would seem best to combine Q103 with Q105 and Q201 with Q202, but these combinations do not seem financially realistic."*

Ohms comment: *"I feel strongly that our research investments should help answer the fundamental management question we were tasked with addressing: Are the current rules sufficient to support amphibian population persistence? Some of the topics above could potentially be adapted to address rule effectiveness, but as currently described, I don't see a direct connection between the proposed studies and that question. For that reason, I do not support funding any of the studies as currently described."*

To help think through this, I reached out to a USGS colleague who studies amphibians and their habitat use. She provided a literature review and summary of her thoughts, which I found very informative. Her assessment was that even though there are some knowledge gaps, there was enough information about the ecology of the focal amphibians to formulate and research the effectiveness of the harvest rules.

Given our mandate, I think we should prioritize research that tests management- and rule-relevant hypotheses and helps us evaluate whether the current protections are achieving their intended outcomes, rather than investing in broad basic research that does not have a clear connection to rule effectiveness."

4. **Estimated Total Cost:** Please add the total for your highest priority options for Amphibians questions 1 & 2 below.

Note: a summary of this information is omitted since it didn't lend itself to a simple summary.