

Agenda Item No.:	D
Work Plan:	Forest Resources Division
Topic:	Implementing Legislative Direction
Presentation Title:	Adaptive Management Program Committee Nominees to the Independent Research and Science Team
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**SUMMARY**

This agenda item is for the Board to appoint members to the Independent Research and Science Team (IRST). The Adaptive Management Program Committee (AMPC) compiled nominations and recommends the nominees below. This is a decision item.

**CONTEXT**

The legislature directed the board to set up an adaptive management program. The program will help inform future rulemaking and support an application for a programmatic habitat conservation plan, and subsequent incidental take permit. The goal of the program is to use the best available science to assess the effectiveness of rules for protecting several fish and other aquatic species. The IRST’s main functions are to implement a research agenda requested by the Adaptive Management Program Committee (AMPC), then report the findings to the AMPC and the Board.

**BACKGROUND**

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

## ANALYSIS

Senate Bill 1501 specifies that the Board shall appoint the first voting members of the IRST from a list of candidates provided by the AMPC. The AMPC solicited interest in serving on the IRST from representatives of different organizations. AMPC members were asked to consider diversity in the nominations. Attachment 1 provides biographies of all the proposed members.

The AMPC invited tribes to submit nominees to the IRST. Although tribes are interested in participating on the IRST, the representative from the Legislative Commission on Indian Services indicated that they do not currently have the capacity to participate. The AMPC believes it is important for the IRST and the Board to continue seeking tribal participation.

In recommending the slate of IRST nominees to the Board, the AMPC acknowledges that the IRST needs to have at least one representative from each of three groups (public institution, timber, and conservation) per section 38(2)(b), chapter 33, Oregon Laws 2022. Although the AMPC did not specifically identify which nominee represents the public institution, timber, and conservation seats, they worked to ensure balanced representation of those perspectives in their selection and for consistency with these statutory requirements. The AMPC selected the slate of nominees due to a combination of disciplinary expertise, ability to work well with differing viewpoints, and leadership skills.

## RECOMMENDATION

The AMPC recommends that the Board appoint the following nominees to the IRST:

<u>IRST Nominee</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Ellen Morris Bishop, Ph.D.	Eagle Cap Press
Kelley Burnett, Ph.D.	Self-employed
Rebecca Flitcroft, Ph.D.	United States Forest Service
Jessica Homyack, Ph.D.	Weyerhaeuser Co.
Jeff Light, M.S.	Self-employed

The AMPC respectfully requests that the Board carefully consider the balance of perspectives on the IRST and ensure alignment with statutory requirements<sup>1</sup> for representation with future appointments to the IRST.

## NEXT STEPS

The department will continue to coordinate with the IRST Housing Agency named in rule, which is the Institute of Natural Resources, to start the IRST work.

## ATTACHMENT

- (1) IRST nominees

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<sup>1</sup> Section 38(2)(b), chapter 33, Oregon Laws 2022.

## **Adaptive Management Program Committee Nominees for the Independent Research and Science Team**

### **Ellen Morris Bishop, Ph.D.**



#### **Collaboration:**

- Founding member of the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Council. Vice Chair of council for one year term. As the environmental representative, worked collaboratively with reps of irrigated agriculture, ranchers, commercial forestry, CTUIR, USFS, and local government to develop, modify, approve, and monitor projects to restore salmonid habitat in Grande Ronde watershed streams. Participated in the development of Wallowa County Salmon Restoration Plan.
- Community Outreach Coordinator for Oregon, Pacific Rivers Council.
- Collaborated with many researchers and co-authors for research and publications including papers on geology of accreted terranes in eastern Oregon, Arkansas/Oklahoma alkalic province, and Eocene volcanic rocks, central and eastern Oregon.
- Currently am a team member, Baker County Search and Rescue, which requires close work and coordination with team members in multiple specialties.

#### **Working with other disciplines:**

- Served on a variety of faculty committees to develop and teach multi-discipline courses, including:
  - Environmental Studies, Whitman College
  - Rangeland landscapes & ecology, Sul Ross State University
  - Oceanography and also planetary geology, Oregon State University
- Current research project: Ethnogeology of Columbia Plateau Tribes includes working with Nez Perce Cultural Resource office, Nez Perce Elders, Linguists (Phil Cash, Univ. Arizona) Anthropologists (Ken Lokensgard, WSU; Loren Davis, OSU) and other disciplines.
- Board member, Eastern Oregon Climate Change Coalition. Develop programs and other activities with board of diverse backgrounds and interests.

#### **Experience evaluating and interpreting science:**

- Book about Oregon's geology, In Search of Ancient Oregon, won Oregon Book award for non-fiction. (Timber Press, 2004)

- Wrote column on geology (Time Travel) for Oregonian.
- Science/environmental reporter, Vancouver Columbian newspaper.
- Agricultural/forestry reporter, covering Eastern Oregon western Idaho, for Capital Press.
- Founding partner of natural history center in Wallowa County (Wallowology). Developed and wrote (and photographed) many of the displays.
- Book about PNW geology, Living with Thunder, pub. by Oregon State University Press, is used as basic text for intro PNW geology courses in many colleges across Oregon and Washington.
- Journalist, Wallowa County Chieftain, included covering stories re salmon, Nez Perce tribal restoration of habitat for salmon, condor, lamprey, ranching, forestry, forest fires, Firewise Communities, and other natural resource projects. Won Oregon Newspaper Assoc awards for best feature articles for story on composition, nutrition, and production processing of Impossible Burger vs grass-fed beef, Nez Perce 16,500 year-old site, Coopers Ferry, ID.
- Editor of Wallowa County Chieftain. Won Oregon Newspaper Assoc award for best small newspaper in Oregon. Wrote and included at least one story on science related to Wallowa County in each issue. Those covered a broad range of topics, including new discoveries about mammoths, pollinators, forestry/forest management, and salmonids.
- Frequently invited to present lectures, lead field trips and hikes, and present classes on geology, ecology for the public by local organizations including the Western Rivers Conservancy, Wallowa Land Trust, Oregon Natural Desert Assoc., and Weston Public Library, Oregon Historical Society, and others.
- Reviewer for NSF and other granting entities

**Kelley Burnett, Ph.D.**



I would be honored to serve as a member of the Independent Science and Research Team. I hold a PhD in Fisheries Science and have over 30 years' experience in conducting policy relevant studies and communicating findings to decision makers. My research has focused on understanding how stream habitats are distributed and used by fish, how watershed processes and human uses influence aquatic ecosystems, and how complex systems can be best represented by data and models to plan for and evaluate the effects of land management. I served as the acting National Fish and Aquatic Program Leader (USDA Forest Service, Washington Office Research and Development) and was awarded the National Rise to the Future Award by the Chief of the US Forest Service for professional excellence in research.

Much of my career has focused on collaborating with partners across disciplines, agencies, and jurisdictions on the science and policy of forested environments. I have collaborated extensively to assess available data and distinguish important gaps; identify areas of high restoration/conservation value; formulate integrated forest management plans; inform monitoring approaches; review landscape plans for consistency with best available science; and synthesize the state of science, identifying key uncertainties, for policy makers, administrators, regulators, and stakeholders. Three examples highlight my experience in large, collaborative interdisciplinary projects. I was a member of the Forest Ecosystem Management and Assessment Team and continued in the role of science liaison to help translate the FEMAT Report through the NEPA process that resulted in the Northwest Forest Plan. I also led the aquatic component of the Coastal Landscape Analysis and Modeling Study, which developed and evaluated concepts and models to understand and analyze the aggregate ecological and socio-economic consequences of different forest policies across land ownership classes in western Oregon. And, finally, I provided science support for the conservation coalition in the Private Forest Accord and subsequent processes to amend regulations for the Oregon Forest Practices Act and develop a Habitat Conservation Plan.

I am also a trained and experienced mediator. My training includes 30 hours through the UO School of Law and 100 hours through the non-profit organization, Neighbor-to-Neighbor Mediation, in Salem, Oregon. I served on the Executive Board of the Center for Resolution, Vision, and Change, which was a non-profit organization that sought to foster ecological sustainability and economic health through dispute resolution, education, and community building. Skills gained in mediating disputes between community member, parties in small claims court, victims and juvenile offenders, and parents and their teenagers have benefited me in effectively collaborating and communicating in all other arenas.

Thank you for your consideration of my application to serve as a member of the IRST.

**Rebecca Flitcroft, Ph.D.**



*Collaborative working relationships* have been a cornerstone of my career in management settings with National Forest Systems partners in the development and implementation of monitoring designs, with private and non-profit partners such as watershed councils and landowners in the identification/evaluation/design of restoration projects, and with state partners particularly as it relates to conservation planning linked to patterns of fish habitat and fish population distribution. In each setting, a key consideration in effective collaborative engagement is the ability to listen to the needs and perspectives of partners and jointly consider

solutions and approaches. A specific example is participation on the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Upper Willamette Technical Review team where I have worked with a suite of individuals to evaluate proposed restoration projects. Through this work, I collaborated with partners to develop guidance documents for in-stream restoration monitoring for large-river restoration generally, and the Willamette in particular (<https://doi.org/10.3133/ofr20221037>).

My academic training and background is quite varied, (see educational experience in C.V.) which has given me a broad perspective when it comes to considering research questions, and I tend to naturally think across *different disciplines*. I have worked with a wide variety of academic partners through a diverse portfolio of different research projects, partnering with institutions in Oregon and western states, as well as the UK. I have a strong and long-term working relationship with the OSU Water Resources Graduate Program, where most of the students I have supervised are affiliated. I tend to be interested in the effect of disturbance processes (e.g., climate change, wildfires, anthropogenic effects) on the landscape-scale distribution and resilience of native aquatic biota, which leads me to pursue working relationships with a diverse cadre of experts from a variety of disciplines. Recently, I led a synthesis effort for floodplain restoration (commonly referred to as Stage 0), that brought together results from across Oregon, and from a diversity of disciplines, to describe effects on hydrology, geomorphology, and biota ([https://www.fs.usda.gov/pnw/pubs/journals/pnw\\_2022\\_flitcroft001.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/pnw/pubs/journals/pnw_2022_flitcroft001.pdf)).

In my role as a USFS scientist, I am often brought in to *evaluate and interpret the best available science* as it relates to specific management actions, or to understand how large-scale management actions are affecting aquatic conditions (such as the Northwest Forest Plan). I served as an external agency reviewer for the WA DNR Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Committee focusing on study design and review of a research program focused on the response of forest stands to riparian harvest conditions over time. Another example is an analysis I led of fish and habitat conditions related to forest stand management on the Tongass National Forest (the largest of the national forests at 16.7 million acres - [https://www.fs.usda.gov/pnw/pubs/pnw\\_gtr1009.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr1009.pdf)).

### **Jessica Homyack, Ph.D.**

As the Director of Environmental Research and Operational Support for Weyerhaeuser, I serve as the scientific advisor and research program lead supporting environmental stewardship and sustainability across 10+ million acres of managed lands in the United States. I manage a multi-disciplinary scientific program of 24 scientists and staff that include aquatic ecology, geology, wildlife biology, and forest hydrology experts who support policy and management decisions. Below, I provide additional detail about the alignment of my career experience and background with the desired competencies for the Independent Research and Science Team (IRST).

First, I value collaborative science and model a steady path to problem solving. I approach conflict by finding a common purpose, creating innovative solutions and engaging effectively with stakeholders. Two relevant examples of my engagement in collaborative forest science in the Pacific Northwest include my service on Oregon State University's Advisory Council for the Institute for Working Forest Landscapes and the Endowed Program in Forest Policy, both which



address priority research topics from diverse stakeholder groups. My extensive publication record speaks to my ability to effectively collaborate with researchers from academic, public, and private organizations.

Additionally, I have had six adjunct faculty positions, including two at Oregon State University. Committee roles provide direct contributions to graduate committees and link academic institutions to relevant applied outcomes for forest landowners. Through my director position with Weyerhaeuser, I am familiar with Washington's Adaptive Management Program and would bring that knowledge to the IRST to ensure success.

I have a long history of educational and professional experience in the intersection of forest management and environmental science. I received my post-secondary degrees from three land-grant universities with strong forestry programs, and my MS and PhD research specifically focused on the influence of forest management on conservation-oriented questions. As a scientific researcher, I have authored/co-authored >50 peer-reviewed publications ([Link](#)) and am an expert on topics of interest to the Adaptive Management Program, such as impacts of forest harvesting on amphibians, using eDNA to sample aquatic species, environmental impacts of tethered harvesting, and forest hydrology. I regularly work with people across environmental, silvicultural and biometrics backgrounds to lead large-scale multi-disciplinary projects. These include ongoing work to quantify the response and recovery of managed forest following wildfires, and broader risk assessments from the multi-faceted and complex effects of climate change on forest ecosystems.

Finally, evaluating and interpreting scientific proposals and results are a frequent part of my roles as an editor, peer-reviewer, contributor, and program administrator. Through advisory committees and reviews of internal or collaborative research proposals, I am well-versed in critically examining scientific proposals and results for appropriate scope and interpretations. As described above, I collaborate with universities, agencies, non-profits, and other organizations to achieve scientific excellence in the context of forest practices.

**Jeff Light, M.S.**



Jeff has a B.S. in biology from the University of Colorado, and a M.S. in Fisheries from the University of Washington. He has worked for more than 30 years studying salmonid ecology and related sciences that describe watershed structure and function and the ways land management, principally commercial forestry, can affect fish habitat and water quality.

### Experience working collaboratively

Throughout my career I have worked collaboratively with individuals representing a wide array of interests and organizations. I studied the high seas migration and distribution of salmon and steelhead alongside Canadian and Japanese scientists. For more than 12 years, as part of the Timber/Fish/Wildlife agreement, I worked with technical experts, resource managers, and policy representatives from the timber industry, Native American Tribes, environmental groups, and state natural resource agencies in Washington. Together we developed Watershed Analysis, a method of evaluating, anticipating, and avoiding potential cumulative effects of forest management. Since moving to Oregon, I have collaborated with researchers and administrators from Oregon State University, state and federal agencies, and industry scientists to study the effectiveness of forest practices on fish and water quality (e.g., the Watersheds Research Cooperative, OSU's Fish and Wildlife in Working Forests research program, the Institute for Working Forests, and the timber industry's National Council of Air and Stream Improvement's Forested Watershed Science Task Group). Beyond my professional life, I worked collaboratively with individuals in my community to complete numerous successful downtown improvement projects (as president of the Philomath Downtown Association).

### Examples of working with experts from different disciplines

By its nature, the understanding of salmonid ecology requires a working knowledge of, and collaboration with, a number of disciplines outside fish biology. For example, a technical analysis of forest management in the context of whole watersheds (i.e., Watershed Analysis) uses the combined talents of geologists, fluvial geomorphologists, forest hydrologists, soils scientists, riparian ecologists, and fish biologists. As the leader of two teams of watershed scientists, I was responsible for guiding, reviewing, interpreting, and presenting their work. Experience with non-scientific disciplines was also necessary and welcomed, for example foresters, road engineers, land managers, lawyers, and policy makers. My work on advisory boards also enabled me to work with a diverse array of disciplines, representing scientific and non-scientific, professional and lay perspectives.

### Experience Evaluating and Interpreting Science

The adequacy of rules and regulations governing management of private timberlands for the protection of fish and wildlife habitat and water quality is constantly scrutinized and challenged. To respond to these challenges, and to guide improvements to land management practices, it is vital to gather and interpret relevant scientific research results. Often it is also important to conduct research specifically to evaluate the effectiveness of existing or new practices. Consequently, careful evaluation and interpretation of science has been an essential feature of my work. I have developed and used this skill to test the effectiveness of forest practices in Washington (Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research program of the Timber/Fish/Wildlife agreement), and Oregon (Riparian Function and Stream Temperature [RIPSTREAM] study, Alesa Paired Watershed Study Revisited). I have used it to develop conservation commitments for Plum Creek Timber Company's Native Fish Habitat Conservation Plan, to evaluate proposed water quality rule changes for stream temperature in Washington and Oregon, and turbidity in Oregon. Most recently I interpreted science for development of forest practice rule changes in Oregon as part of the Private Forests Accord.