
SB 202: Task Force on Independent Scientific Review for Natural Resources



Oregon State University

Contact Information

Governor's Office

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Institute for Natural Resources

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Milestones

Spring 2016

Phase I: Evaluate and determine:

- if natural resources agencies, legislators and the public would benefit from independent scientific review
- if existing resources for conducting reviews are meeting the needs of natural resource agencies and other policymakers
- the mechanisms and structures being used in other states and at the federal level for independent science reviews in natural resources

If yes, then move to the next phase milestones.

Summer 2016

Phase II: Recommend:

- the entity or entities best situated to coordinate or conduct independent science reviews
 - the need for legislative authority
 - the structure and function of the review process
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15 September 2016

At the latest, final report delivered to the Legislature.

Overview and Purpose

The Oregon legislature found in Senate Bill 202 that policy and program decisions made by natural resources agencies, boards and commissions can benefit from independent scientific review that: (a) reflects a balance of representation from various research sectors, academic and nonacademic, public and private; (b) is performed by distinguished scientists from a range of disciplines; and (c) is clearly communicated to the public and state and local officials.

Senate Bill 202 establishes the Task Force on Independent Scientific Review for Natural Resources to “evaluate and assess the need for independent scientific reviews in Oregon and make appropriate recommendations” to the Governor and appropriate Legislative committees no later than September 15, 2016.

Task Force

Members of the task force shall be appointed by the Governor in consultation with the Vice Presidents of Research, or their designees, at Oregon State University, the University of Oregon, and Portland State University.

Task force members shall include members from the forestry, agriculture, manufacturing, conservation, academic and research sectors, and representatives of the three universities. At least one member shall have previously served on the Independent Multidisciplinary Science, Team, or on another state or federal scientific review body such as the National Academy of Sciences. The task force shall have its first meeting on or before January 1, 2016.

Task Force Staffing

Senate Bill 202 directed the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University to provide staff support to the task force.

Phases and Goals

The task force's work is conducted in two consecutive phases. *Phase I* (goal 1) and *Phase II* (goals 2-4). The scope of *Phase II* depends on the results of the first phase.

Phase I

Goal 1: Assess the need (and capacity) for independent scientific review for natural resources in Oregon.

Phase II

Goal 2: If the task force determines that there is a need for independent scientific review in Oregon, it shall make recommendations on one or more entities that are best situated to conduct or coordinate independent scientific review.

Goal 3: Make recommendations on whether the entity or entities identified would need legislative authority to act as independent scientific review bodies for Oregon.

Goal 4: Make recommendations regarding the structure, function and processes of the scientific review entity or entities and the process for conducting reviews. Senate Bill 202 requires the task force to consider a number of questions in forming its recommendations.

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Task Force Members

Allison Aldous

Freshwater Scientist
The Nature Conservancy

Jennifer Allen

Director of the Institute for Sustainable Solutions and
Associate Professor of Public Administration
College of Urban & Public Affairs
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Barbara Bond (co-Chair)

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Oregon State University

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College of Agricultural Sciences
Oregon State University Extension

Dan Edge

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Portland State University

Jason Younker

Assistant Vice President and
Advisor to the President on Sovereignty and
Government-to-Government Relations
University of Oregon

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Timeline (Draft)

Item	Timeline
Task Force	
Task force meetings (locations TBD)	Feb, Mar, May, and Jul
Phase 1	
Goal 1: Assess need and capacity for independent scientific review in Oregon.	January - June 2016
Objective 1.1: Evaluate whether natural resource agencies, legislators, and public would benefit from independent scientific reviews.	Jan – May/Jun
Objective 1.2: Evaluate whether existing state, federal, and academic resources for conducting reviews are meeting agency & policy maker needs.	Jan – Apr
Objective 1.3: Evaluate mechanisms and structures that are in place in other states and at federal level for natural resource policy science reviews.	Jan – Mar
If it is recommended to move forward, move on to Phase II (Goals 2-4); if not, write required legislative report.	
Phase 2	
Goal 2: Make recommendations on entity(ies) best situated to conduct or coordinate independent scientific review.	May – June 2016
Objective 2.1: Identify and review/assess the candidate existing scientific entities.	May - Jun
Objective 2.2: Make any recommendations regarding necessary changes to the entity, if a particular existing scientific entity is recommended.	May - Jun
Objective 2.3: Make recommendations regarding how to structure a new independent scientific entity, if developing a new independent scientific review entity is suggested.	Jun
Goal 3: Make recommendations on whether the entities identified would need legislative authority to act as independent scientific review bodies for Oregon.	June-July 2016
Goal 4: Make recommendations regarding the structure and function of the process to be used by the recommended entities in the course of independent scientific reviews.	June-July 2016
Submit report to the Legislature	on or before 15 September 2016