

SB202

Independent Science Reviews for Natural Resources in the State of Oregon

Overview of Final Report

21 September 2016



INSTITUTE FOR
NATURAL RESOURCES

SB202 TASK FORCE ON INDEPENDENT SCIENCE
REVIEWS FOR NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE
STATE OF OREGON

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Senate Bill 202 established the Task Force to evaluate and assess the need for independent science reviews in Oregon and make appropriate recommendations to the Governor and the legislature.



Institute for Natural Resources
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

15 September 2016



Independent Science Reviews for
Natural Resources in the
State of Oregon

SB202 Task Force for Independent Science Reviews for Natural Resources
Institute for Natural Resources

FINAL REPORT
for the Oregon State Legislature
SB202 Task Force

15 September 2016

Charge of the Task Force

- Assess the need for independent science review in Oregon
- Recommend one or more entities
- Recommend if legislative authority is needed
- Recommend structure and function of the process to be used

Task Force Members

Allison Aldous, Freshwater Scientist, The Nature Conservancy

Jennifer Allen, Associate Professor, Hatfield School of Government PSU

Adell Amos, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, School of Law, UO

Barbara Bond, Professor Emeritus, College of Forestry, OSU

Tim Deboodt, Associate Professor, College of Agricultural Sciences, OSU Extension

Dan Edge, Associate Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences, OSU

Linda George, Professor, School of the Environment, PSU

Sara Gray, Senior Corporate Counsel, Precision Castparts

Michael Harte, Professor, College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, OS

Cassandra Moseley, Associate Vice President for Research, UO

Maryanne Reiter, Hydrologist, Weyerhaeuser

Mark Sytsma, Professor and Director Center for Lakes and Reservoirs, PSU

Jason Younker, Assistant Vice President and Advisor to the President on Sovereignty and Government-to-Government Relations, UO

Approach

- **Task Force structure**
Selection, representation, support
- **Process**
Meetings, framing the work
- **Information gathering methods**
Literature review, interviews/questionnaire
- **Outreach**
Promoting awareness, soliciting participation and input

Finding 1

Oregon's natural resources agencies, legislators, and the public **would benefit from ISR**. However, for an ISR to benefit the state the reviews need to be appropriately focused, and carried out in a deliberate, transparent manner consistent with the findings in this report. In short, **“how” a review is constructed and conducted is important to achieving the full potential benefit.**

Findings 2 & 3

Most single-agency science reviews can be met with existing state, federal, and academic resources, **but review practices and capacity for conducting reviews vary among agencies.**

There is a **need for independent science review of complex, multi-disciplinary issues in natural resources that span multiple agencies** and are relevant to stakeholders and lawmakers, as well as managers. Existing resources are not adequate for these types of reviews.

Finding 4

A black and white photograph showing the silhouettes of two people standing on a path, looking towards a mountain range in the distance. The scene is framed by dark, leafy branches on the left and right sides. The sky is overcast.

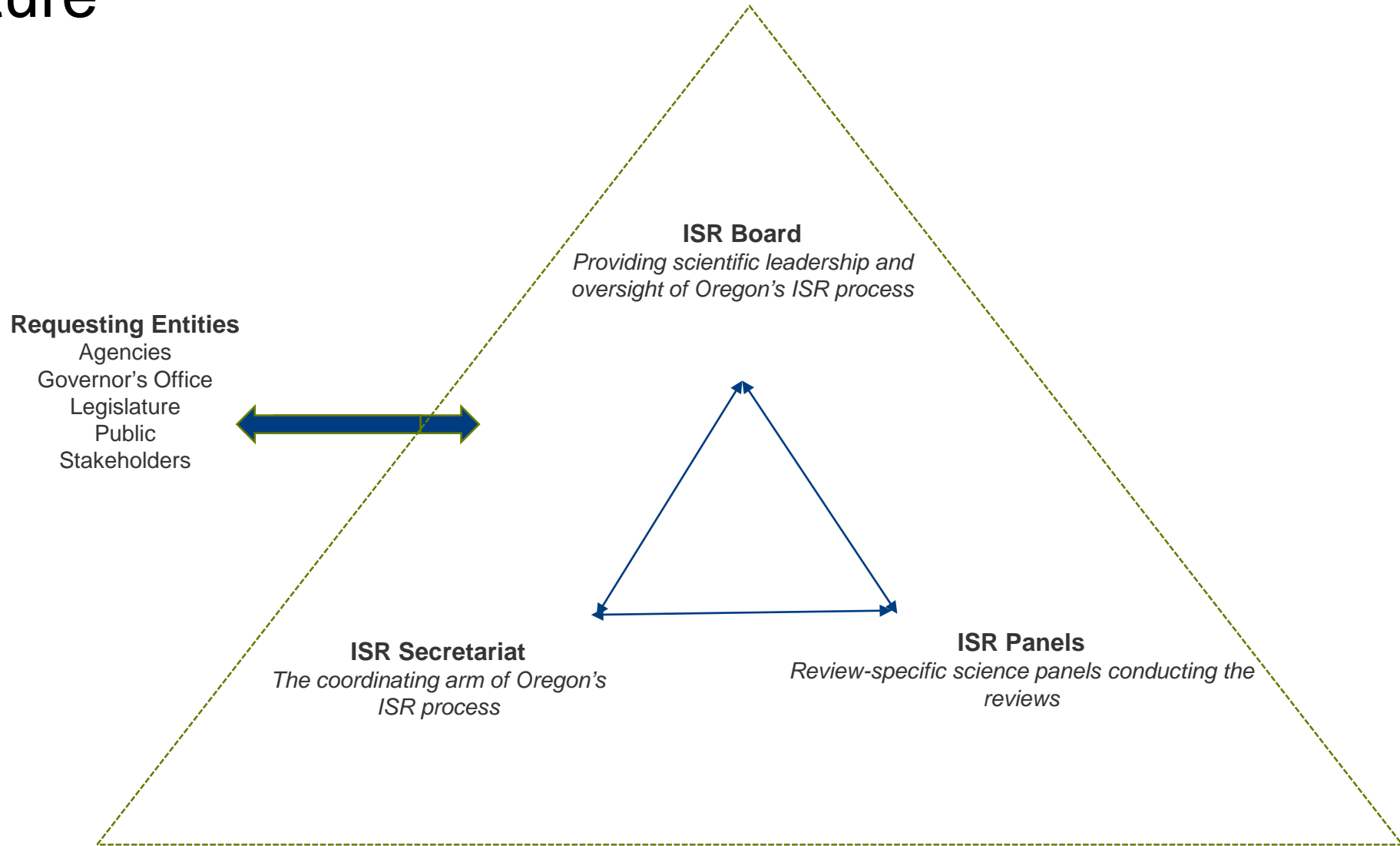
ISR mechanisms and structures that are being used for natural resources policy in other states and at the federal level **can inform a process** for ISRs in **Oregon**, but the state's need to reduce the potential risks of ISRs **requires a tailored approach that draws on lessons learned from other ISR structures.**

Recommendations 1 & 2

Create a robust, appropriately-resourced independent science review process for natural resources in Oregon that focuses on the most urgent need: complex, multi-disciplinary, and controversial issues.

Create a new entity, the Oregon ISR Board, and review-specific science panels that will be supported by an ISR Secretariat – the coordinating arm of the ISR that is hosted in an existing Oregon entity.

Structure

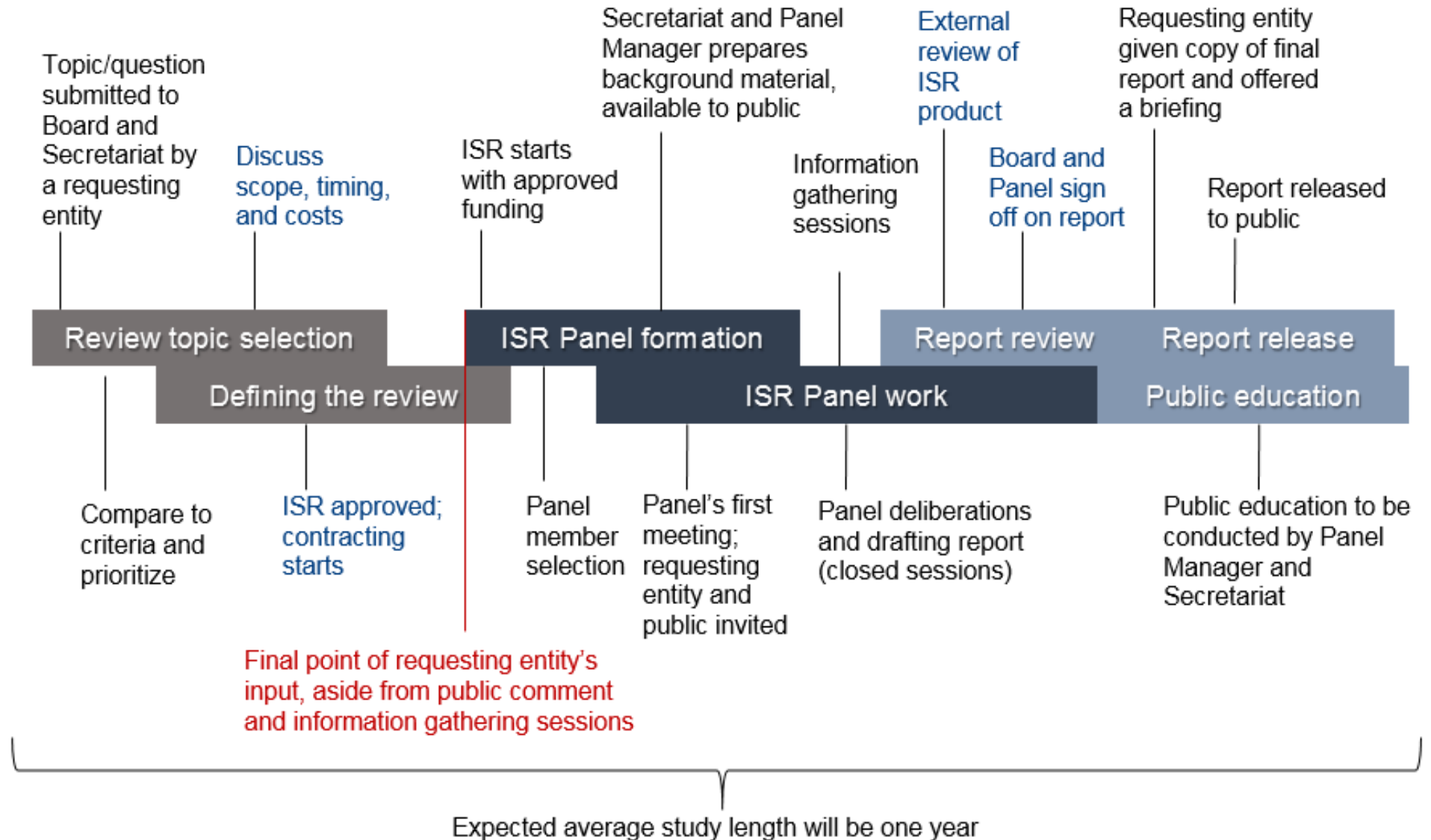


Recommendations 3 & 4

Oregon's independent science review process **should have legislative authority.**

Oregon's ISR process for natural resources should primarily focus on complex, multi-agency, interdisciplinary science issues that are of importance to the State of Oregon. We recommend a cost-effective, useful, and nimble structure that will require sufficient base funding from the State in order to ensure integrity, transparency and inclusiveness.

Process



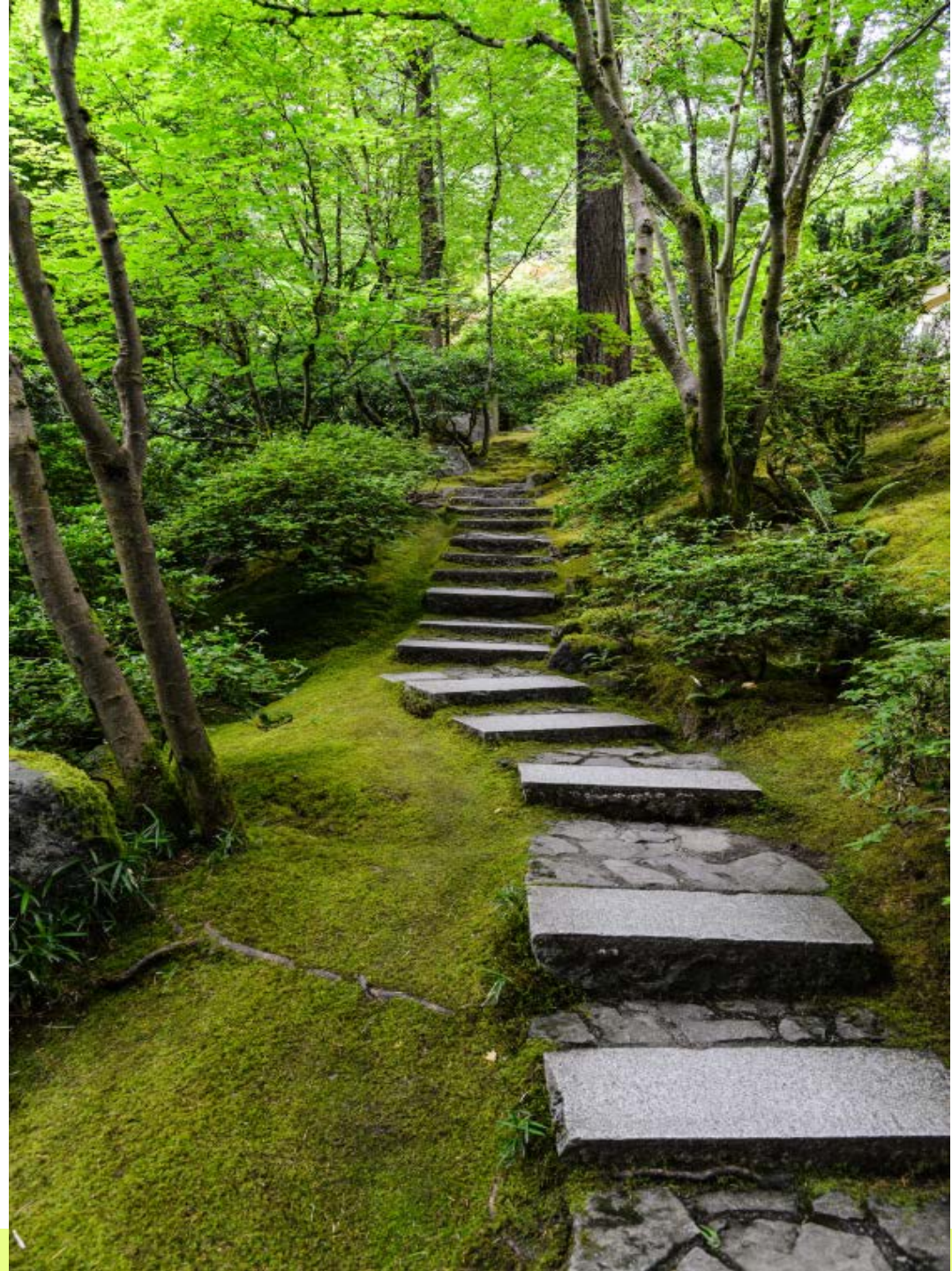
Oregon's ISR Products

Deploying ISRs at different stages of the policy development or rule-making process could necessitate using different ISR products or services at different points.

- Informal or formal consultations or roundtable discussions
- Formally researched and written reviews or consensus reports
- Workshops, conferences, or symposia
- White papers or knowledge syntheses
- Develop best practices for scientific review in natural resource management in conjunction with agencies

Principles

- Cost effectiveness
- Integrity
- Usefulness
- Flexibility
- Inclusiveness and transparency



Funding Oregon's ISR

Maintaining the capacity for ISRs by funding an ISR Secretariat

2.5 FTE (part-time Secretariat Director, full-time technical assistant, full-time program coordinator)

Funding the production of ISR reviews and reports

Panel Manager

Review-specific panelists

Key Points

Oregon Independent Science Review Process

- Rigor in question selection

Transdisciplinary issues, likelihood of “high impact”, regional or state-wide relevance, future-oriented

- Transparent process

- Sufficient funds are available to conduct review—not a “pay-to-play” system

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