

# Finalized Research Questions for the research topic: Requirements of baseline and trend monitoring of road rules

These finalized research questions were approved by the AMPC at the June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 AMPC meeting.

## 1. Baseline Report.

- a. **AMPC original question.** What are the baseline levels of hydrologic connectivity of roads prior to the implementation of the Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA) road rules<sup>10</sup> effective Jan 1, 2024?

**IRST refined question.** What is the baseline status of hydrologic connectivity of roads prior to the implementation of the OFPA road rules effective Jan 1, 2024?

**AMPC response.** The AMPC agrees that the above question meets the original intent.

- b. **AMPC original question.** How do these levels vary based on landowner type and East/West region?

**IRST refined question.** How does the status of hydrologic connectivity differ based on landowner type and East/West region?

**AMPC response.** The AMPC agrees that the above question meets the original intent.

- c. **AMPC original question.** What other factors or variables within the regulatory framework of the FPA might be relevant?

**IRST comment and refined question options:** The original question posed is not a researchable question. Two suggested options for phrasing the topic as a researchable question, depending on the AMPC's intent with the original question:

- i. How does road surface type, geology, soils and other factors affect the status of hydrologic connectivity?
- ii. How do particular elements, such as undersized culverts or road location, in the regulatory framework contribute to hydrologic connectivity?

**AMPC response.** The AMPC reviewed the options above and recommends the question and note below.

How do particular elements of the regulatory framework (e.g. road location) or site characteristics (e.g. geology) contribute to hydrologic connectivity?

Note: The AMPC would like the IRST to identify the elements and characteristics to be included in the final research questions.

## 2. Trend Monitoring.

**AMPC original question.** What are the trends in these levels of hydrologic connectivity of roads over 5-year intervals? These trends should be assessed for the same variables in question 1.

**IRST refined question.** What are the trends in the status of hydrologic connectivity of roads over 5-year intervals? These trends should be assessed for the same variables in question 1.

**AMPC response.** The AMPC agrees that the above question meets the original intent.

### **3. Determination of Rule Effectiveness.**

**AMPC original question.** In the long term, to what extent are road rules associated with hydrologic disconnection effective at achieving biological goals and objectives?

**IRST refined question.** Within 25 years, to what extent are road rules associated with hydrologic disconnection effective at achieving biological goals and objectives?

**AMPC response.** The AMPC agrees that the above question meets the original intent.