

IRST Meeting – 16 October 2024 | Meeting Notes

IRST members present included Kelly Burnett, Ellen Bishop, and Jeff Light. INR staff present included Lisa Gaines, Sean Gordon, and Lisa DeBruyckere. Oregon Department of Forestry members present included Terry Frueh and Emily Martin. There were 2 additional listen-only attendees that participated in the meeting. The meeting began at 9:00am.

AMPC-IRST Chair/Co-Chair Debrief

Kelly Burnett shared the agenda and outcomes of discussions with the AMPC Chair and Co-Chair at their meeting on 30 September 2024. This included:

- **Eastern Oregon steep slopes** - The suggestion for IRST to compile a preliminary scoping literature review on eastern Oregon steep slopes for AMPC review to inform a decision on whether a more complete review is needed, or if additional research or another approach is warranted.
- **Roads package** - It was determined there could be one overall literature review for the roads package, and the specific research questions could cite the areas with the overall literature review relevant to each question.
- **Amphibian field trip** - The upcoming October amphibian field trip will help to inform refinement of amphibian research questions by the AMPC for the IRST.
- **Work Plans** – Both committees will begin sharing 2025 work plans.

IRST Timeline and Tasks

INR presented a timeline and tasks associated with key roads and Eastern Oregon steep slopes packages, noting additional meetings (smaller work groups) may need to be scheduled between the next several IRST meetings. The purpose and focus of the literature reviews for each of the topics is to support the development of research proposals, which will inform the AMPC and Board of Forestry decisions about soliciting further research via requests for proposals. Research proposals will be developed for each topic, and will include a literature review, description of the research project requirements, a timeline, and an estimated budget for each year of the research. Key milestones include November 8, when IRST approves the research proposal structure, and December 18, when IRST members vote on research proposal content.

Research Topic: Eastern Oregon Steep Slopes

Sean G. shared the results of INR's preliminary literature search on Eastern Oregon steep slopes and presented three approaches for developing research/scoping proposals, including a) a literature review that focuses on existing research from eastern Oregon and similar environments as outlined in the AMPC research package; b) a literature review that focuses on what types of research designs might be used to answer the questions (drawing from the larger body of westside literature as well); and c) convening an expert panel of researchers to review the literature, answer the research questions, and identify research gaps.

There was discussion that it is not the role of the IRST to produce a literature review that provides sufficient information to support rulemaking decisions relative to Eastern Oregon steep slopes, rather the role is focused on compiling scientific information on the topic for the AMPC.

The goal of convening an expert panel would be to highlight literature that may exist that has not yet been published or is published in other formats (e.g., reports versus peer-reviewed journals). The IRST may revisit the concept of convening an expert panel in the future after the literature review is completed.

- **Action item:** The IRST would like Ellen B. to engage with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) and Kelly B. to engage with U.S. Forest Service districts in Eastern Oregon to help identify a list of search terms, where studies are being done, and the types of hillslope and other processes that contribute to shallow rapid slides or other potential aquatic/riparian impacts - obtain information about the availability of literature and the most appropriate search terms. This will inform identification of processes and key search terms, which will help inform how forest practices affect listed species and critical habitats.

Research Topic: Roads-Stream Connectivity

Sean G. presented the results of the preliminary roads literature search, and an example template that could be used to summarize relevant documents. IRST members discussed approaches to compiling the literature and suggested adding how relevant studies measured connectivity to the review template.

- **Action item:** Each IRST member will review 10 publications (and are welcome to add others) and compile information on each of the relevant publications using the template provided the reviews should focus on methods for assessing hydrologic connectivity and sediment delivery.
- **Action item:** Terry F. will ask Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) road rule experts to identify and summarize key hydrological connectivity parameters in rule.
- **Potential action item:** Consider asking ODF road rule experts to provide a half-hour presentation to the IRST on this topic.

Amphibian Field Trip

IRST members discussed the purpose of the field trip, which is intended to inform the types of amphibian research questions that will be developed by AMPC. It was noted that the distribution of the listed species in the Habitat Conservation Plan should be considered.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

The meeting adjourned at 11:58am.