

IRST Meeting – 8 November 2024 | Meeting Notes

IRST members present included Kelly Burnett, Ellen Bishop, Rebecca Flitcroft, and Jessica Homyack. IRST member Jeff Light joined the latter portion of the meeting. INR staff present included Lisa Gaines, Sean Gordon, and Lisa DeBruyckere. Oregon Department of Forestry member Terry Frueh was present. There were no additional listen-only attendees that participated in the meeting. The meeting began at 9:00am.

IRST Member Updates

There were no member updates.

Eastern Oregon Steep Slopes Package – Status of Literature Search and Decision Research Proposal Structure

IRST member Flitcroft shared what she learned from contacting U.S. Forest Service Eastern Oregon districts (Fremont-Winema, Mt. Hood, Gifford Pinchot, and Malheur) to obtain information about research conducted on landslides. Much of what exists is related to wildfire. One Regional Watershed Manager noted that geomorphic and gradient-based processes on the east and west side of the state are similar. IRST member Bishop reviewed the DOGAMI website and spoke with geologists in Eastern Oregon. Search terms suggested as a result of these contacts and discussions include, “slop stability,” “soil bulking,” “geologic mapping,” “geologic mapped landslides,” and combinations of terms – “wildfire” with “debris flow,” and “landslides” with “geologic map.” Members discussed citing the DOGAMI map in the literature review, noting what it contains as well as its limitations.

IRST members discussed the draft scoping proposal structure and suggested numerous amendments.

- **Action item:** Bishop will send Gordon some additional search terms related to slope aspect, management practices, logging, precipitation, storm events, and others.
- **Action item:** IRST members will send Gordon the short list of relevant papers to summarize in the literature review, then IRST will summarize the literature, incorporating the DOGAMI database, and including the database strengths and weaknesses. Gordon will include the new search terms introduced at this meeting.
- **Decision item:** IRST members present unanimously voted to approve the scoping proposal structure, with amendments discussed during the meeting.

Roads Package

Frueh reported to the IRST on the request to Oregon Department of Forestry road rules staff to identify and summarize key hydrological connectivity parameters in rule to inform the literature review.

- **Action item:** INR will share online and with IRST members the draft document of road rules clarification as well as an Oregon Forest Resources Institute illustrated guide on Roads and Water Crossings.
- **Decision item:** IRST members unanimously voted to delay submission of roads package to AMPC to 1 March 2025.
 - **Action item:** INR will draft an email for Kelly to send to Terry to send to AMPC to delay submission of roads package to AMPC to 1 March 2025.

Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC)

IRST members discussed the guidance received by the OGEC relative to approaches the IRST can use to enhance efficiency while meeting the intent of Oregon Public Meeting Law. Members discussed INR contacting its legal counsel to engage with OGEC and provide clarifications in legal terms, including clarifying that the IRST does not have the authority to make recommendations on policy and administration; modifying the approach INR/IRST uses to achieve goals by shifting responsibilities and recognizing INR as the lead, with IRST members as reviewers; redefining the term “meeting”; and/or interjecting into statute latitude when working on draft documents.

- **Action item:** INR will review in greater detail approaches the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team used to conduct their work.
- **Action item:** INR will contact its legal counsel and consider correspondence with OGEC to clarify role of IRST as “advisory” and “authority to make recommendations.”

Amphibian Field Trip

IRST members discussed the successful amphibian field trip with the AMPC, noting the selection of sites, the viewing of amphibians, the space in the agenda to engage in conversation, and the incorporation of on-the-ground forestry management and practices contributed significantly to field trip objectives and outcomes.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Other items

Action item: DeBruyckere will send a poll to IRST members to request their availability to participate in two potential additional convenings prior to December 18 to complete the work on the eastern slopes package.

The meeting adjourned at noon.