

Document 4b

For 12 February 2026 IRST meeting

Draft Steep Slopes RFP Announcement

Subject: Request for Proposals: Eastern Oregon Steep Slopes/Mass Wasting: Rapid Systematic Literature Review

Announcement Date: **[Insert Date]** **Proposals Due:** **[Insert Date]**, 2026 before 11:59pm PT

The **Institute for Natural Resources (INR)** at Oregon State University, acting on behalf of the **Independent Research and Science Team (IRST)**, invites proposals for a contract to conduct a **Rapid Systematic Literature Review**. This project will support the Oregon Department of Forestry's Adaptive Management Program by evaluating the impact of hillslope processes on covered species in Eastern Oregon.

Program Objective

The Private Forest Accord Report identified scientific uncertainty regarding how Eastern Oregon's unique geologies and climates influence mass wasting processes compared to Western Oregon.

The objective of this solicitation is to commission a rapid systematic review to synthesize existing evidence and identify knowledge gaps regarding:

1. **Primary Focus:** The impact of **upslope initiated shallow rapid slides** on Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) species and how timber harvesting may impact these processes in Eastern Oregon.
2. **Secondary Focus:** Whether other hillslope processes affecting covered species are changed by forest practices.

Scope of Work

The selected contractor will work with the IRST to develop a review protocol, conduct the review, analyze the evidence, and produce a final technical report. The review must follow **Collaboration for Environmental Evidence (CEE)** guidelines adapted for a rapid review process.

Key Deliverables include:

- A written review protocol.

- Data extraction tables and PRISMA flow diagrams.
- A comprehensive final report synthesizing the state of knowledge and evidence gaps.
- Participation in kickoff and after-action review meetings.

Award Information

- **Total Anticipated Funding:** Up to **\$80,000**.
- **Project Duration:** Approximately **X months**.
- **Number of Awards:** One contract is anticipated.

Eligibility

Proposals are welcomed from individuals, universities, non-profit research organizations, and for-profit entities with the demonstrated capacity and expertise to complete the deliverables.

How to Apply

Full proposals must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. PT on **[Insert Date]**, 2026. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

- **Download the full RFP:** <https://inr.oregonstate.edu/independent-science-team/grant-opportunities>
- **Submission via email to:** irst-contact@oregonstate.edu

Contact Information

For questions regarding the application process or funding policy, please contact: **Lisa Gaines**, INR Director Email: lisa.gaines@oregonstate.edu | Phone: (541) 737-1976

For technical inquiries regarding the research scope, please contact: **Sean Gordon**, INR Forest Landscapes Program Manager Email: sean.gordon@oregonstate.edu | Phone: (541) 725-6617

Frequently Asked Questions: Steep Slopes RFP

These will be put on the IRST Grant Opportunities webpage. Other questions asked by potential proposers and the responses will also be placed on the webpage, as indicated in the RFP.

1. What is the difference between a "Rapid Systematic Review" and a full systematic review in this context?

While this project follows **Collaboration for Environmental Evidence (CEE)** guidelines, it is "rapid" to fit an 8-month timeline. Methodological shortcuts include relying on a single reviewer for screening and extraction (rather than two independent reviewers), limiting the critical appraisal of study validity, and searching a reduced number of databases.

2. Which specific "covered species" must the literature review include?

The review focuses on the draft **Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)** species, specifically the amphibians and fish identified in Section 1.4 of the **Private Forest Accord (PFA) Report (2022)**.

3. Are road-related landslides included in the research scope?

No. Road impacts on shallow rapid slides were explicitly excluded from the primary and secondary focus questions. The review focuses on **upslope initiated** shallow rapid slides and how **timber harvesting** (rather than road construction/maintenance) impacts these processes.

4. What are the required technical deliverables for the search process?

The contractor must provide:

- A written **review protocol** including search strategy and eligibility criteria.
- A **PRISMA study flow diagram** and data extraction tables.
- A spreadsheet containing study variables such as **URL, DOI**, study description, and comparators.

5. How is the "Secondary Focus" of the review defined?

Beyond shallow rapid slides, the contractor must evaluate if other hillslope processes (excluding those unrelated to mass wasting) affecting covered species are changed by forest practices. This is intended to be a more limited focus than the primary research question.

6. Will I be required to compile empirical datasets?

No. The scope explicitly states there will be **no compilation of available empirical datasets**. The goal is to synthesize existing literature and identify gaps, not to create a database for future model calibration.

7. How much interaction is expected with the Independent Research and Science Team (IRST)?

Significant collaboration is required. This includes a **kickoff meeting**, regular (monthly or as needed) interactions, and a final **after-action review meeting**. The contractor also works directly with the IRST to develop the review protocol and search strategy.

8. Who are the primary audiences for the final technical report?

The report will be used to inform the **Adaptive Management Policy Committee (AMPC)**, the Oregon Board of Forestry, and various state and federal agencies (ODF, ODFW, NMFS, USFWS) to evaluate regulation, policy, and technical guidance.

9. Are there specific formatting requirements for the proposal narrative?

Yes. The narrative is limited to **10 pages** (excluding references and supplemental info), must be in 12-point font (Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri), and should be written to facilitate **blinded review** to maintain anonymity.

10. What is the maximum funding available and what are the indirect cost limits?

The total anticipated funding is up to **\$80,000**. For non-OSU PIs, the 26% indirect cost rate is only applied to the **first \$25,000** of the award.