

# Independent Research and Science Team: Conflict of Interest Statement and Disclosure for Reviewers and Technical Panelists

## Conflict of Interest Statement

May 27, 2025

1. As a reviewer or technical panelist, you have been asked to review proposals funded by the Oregon Department of Forestry's Adaptive Management Program through the Independent Research and Science Team (IRST). Your designation as a reviewer or panelist requires that you be aware of actual or potential conflicts of interest, promptly and openly disclose any conflicts of interest when reviewing proposals.
2. A conflict of interest exists when a reviewer's outside or private interests affect, or can be perceived to affect, their professional responsibilities and judgment in reviewing proposals. A conflict of interest increases the potential for bias; however, the mere existence of a conflict of interest does not necessarily indicate that an outside or private interest is unduly influencing the review. The prompt disclosure of a conflict of interest will help to protect the integrity of the IRST's request for proposal and review process and the respective reviewer, allow the IRST and the reviewer to appropriately manage the conflict of interest for as long as the conflict(s) exists, and avoid unnecessary or unmanageable conflicts.
3. If your designation as a reviewer gives you access to information not generally available to the public, you must not use that information for your personal benefit or make it available for the personal benefit of any other individual or organization. This is to be distinguished from the entirely appropriate general benefit of learning more about the Adaptive Management Program, the IRST, and the Institute for Natural Resources (INR) – the IRST's housing agency – or becoming better acquainted with the state of a given discipline.
4. INR and the IRST receive proposals in confidence and must protect the confidentiality of their contents. For this reason, you must not copy, quote or otherwise disclose or use material from any proposal you review.
5. Contact [Sean.Gordon@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Sean.Gordon@oregonstate.edu), if you have any questions about this policy, or are unsure if you have an actual or potential conflict of interest.

## Definition of conflict of interest

Oregon Government Ethics law defines two types of conflicts of interest ([ORS 244.020](#))

**Actual conflicts of interest (ORS 244.020(1)).** “‘Actual conflict of interest’ means any action or any decision or recommendation by a person acting in a capacity as a public official, the effect of which would be to the private pecuniary benefit or detriment of the person or the person’s relative or any business with which the person or a relative of the person is associated unless the pecuniary benefit or detriment arises out of circumstances described in subsection (13) of this section.”

**Potential conflicts of interest (ORS 244.020(13)).** “‘Potential conflict of interest’ means any action or any decision or recommendation by a person acting in a capacity as a public official, the effect of which

could be to the private pecuniary benefit or detriment of the person or the person's relative, or a business with which the person or the person's relative is associated, unless the pecuniary benefit or detriment arises out of the following:

- (a) An interest or membership in a particular business, industry, occupation or other class required by law as a prerequisite to the holding by the person of the office or position.
- (b) Any action in the person's official capacity which would affect to the same degree a class consisting of all inhabitants of the state, or a smaller class consisting of an industry, occupation or other group including one of which or in which the person, or the person's relative or business with which the person or the person's relative is associated, is a member or is engaged.
- (c) Membership in or membership on the board of directors of a nonprofit corporation that is tax-exempt under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code."

### Confidentiality of reviews and reviewer identities

OAR [629-603-0400](#) (4)d states, "The IRST shall not grant anonymity to authors, handling editors, or peer-reviewers before January 1, 2028. After January 1, 2028, the IRST may modify the anonymity requirements to peer reviewers by a substantial decision of the IRST." Therefore:

- The IRST will either list the names and affiliation of the reviewers on the IRST website, or disclose the name and affiliations, if asked.
- The reviews (scores, descriptions, comments, etc.) of a proposal will not be directly associated with the name and affiliation of the reviewer and will not be posted on the website.
- Verbatim copies of reviews, without the name and affiliation of the reviewer, will be sent to the principal investigator.

The Institute for Natural Resources cannot guarantee that it will not be forced to release the verbatim copies of the reviews, with the name and affiliation of the reviewer, under terms of the Freedom of Information Act or other laws.

# Conflict of Interest Disclosure

## General Information

Reviewer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Serving as a Reviewer or Technical Panelist for *(please specify the IRST work or RFP you have been asked to review)*: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe below any relationships, transactions, positions you hold (volunteer or otherwise), or circumstances that you believe could contribute to an actual or potential conflict of interest between the company and your personal interests, financial or otherwise that would hinder my governance duties:

- I have NO actual or potential conflict of interest to report
- I have an actual or potential conflict of interest to report *(Please provide details.)*

**Description of actual or potential conflict(s) of interest, if applicable.**

## Declaration

I hereby certify that the information provided above is true and complete to the best of my knowledge having made reasonable enquiries. I have received a copy of the IRST’s conflict of interest statement and had the chance to both read the policy and ask questions about it and agree to abide by it. I also understand that according to OAR [629-603-0400](#) (4)d, “The IRST shall not grant anonymity to authors, handling editors, or peer-reviewers before January 1, 2028”, and that my name and affiliation could be listed on the IRST website as a reviewer or disclosed, if asked, but will not be associated with any scores, descriptions, or comments I make to review a proposal or associated work.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_