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For 19 March 2026 IRST meeting

Options for Staggering Terms of Office

Problem Statement

The original five members of the Independent Research and Science Team (IRST) were appointed to four-year terms at the June 2023 Board of Forestry meeting. The two other IRST members were appointed by the Board of Forestry at their January 2025 meeting. To assist with succession planning and provide continuity, we recommend staggering the term of office end date for two or three of the original five IRST members.

Options

Option 1:

Vote to reduce the terms of office for two or three of the original five IRST members to three years (from an end date of June 2027 to an end date of June 2026). Then vote to reappoint each willing member for 4 years to June 2030.

Option 2:

Vote to increase the terms of office for two or three of the original five IRST members to five years (from an end date of June 2027 to an end date of June 2028). Then vote to reappoint each willing member for 4 years to June 2032.

Option 3:

Option 1 or 2 and, at a later time, vote to reduce Josh and Michael's terms by 6 months to end June 2028, then vote to reappoint each willing member. *With this option, all IRST member terms of office will start and end in June.*

Recommendation

Having checked with the AMPC Coordinator about the AMP rules, INR believes that **Option 1** is the best choice to create three groups of IRST member positions to cycle through (1) reappointment, if the member's term is ending and they are willing to continue to serve; or, (2) recruitment, if they do not want to renew or there is not at least a two-thirds vote of the rest of the IRST to reappoint.

Option 3 can be considered at this or a future IRST meeting.