



Adaptive Management Program Committee

February 3, 2025

Attendance: Roll Call

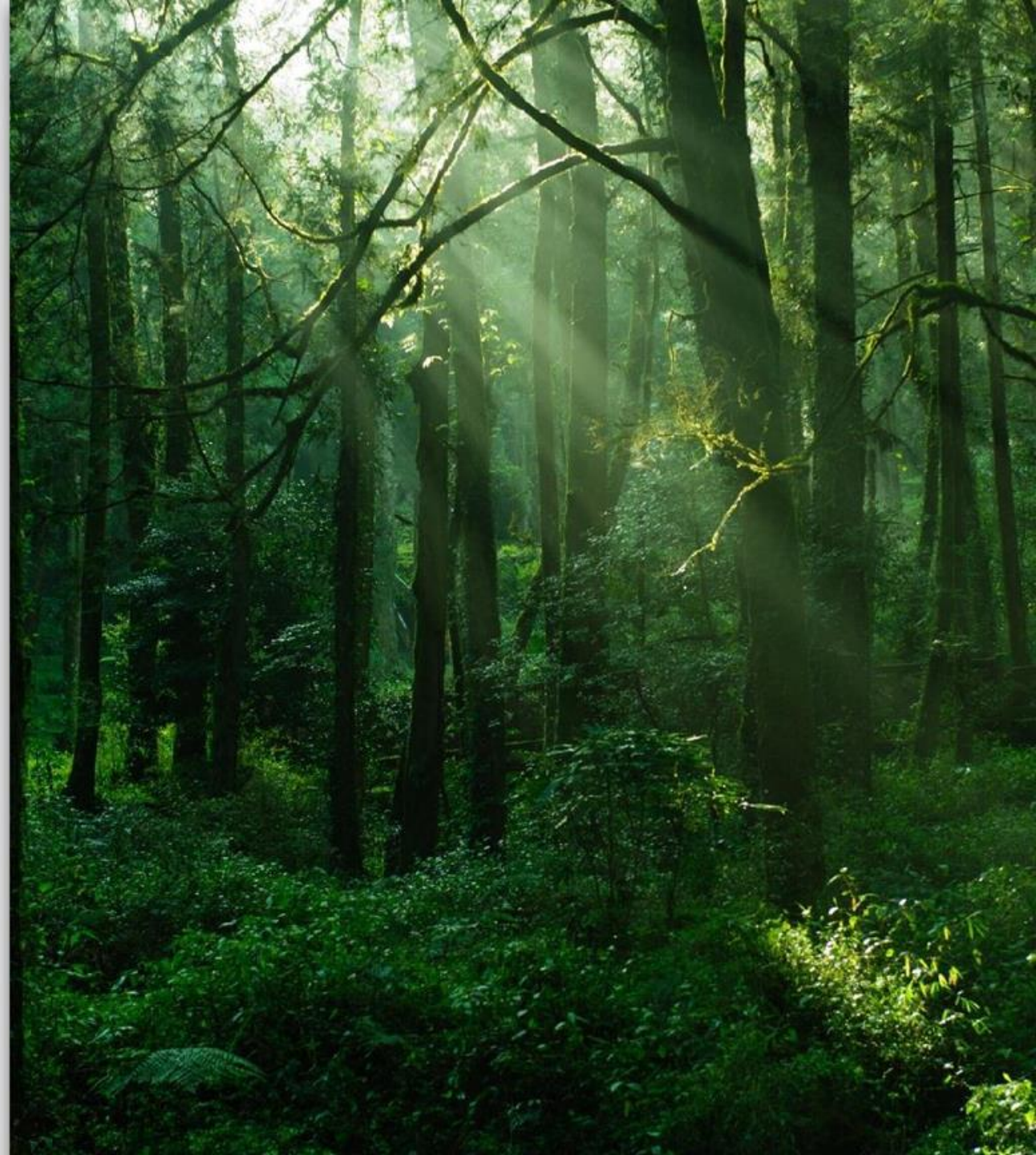
Please answer “Present (virtually or in person)”





Agenda

- **Roll call, updates, work group report outs, public comment, Exec Summary**
- **Amphibians research questions package**
- **E OR steep slopes scoping proposal from IRST**
- **AMPC Charter**



Housekeeping

- Meetings are public & recorded (instead of minutes), available online
- Please turn your camera on – it helps with discussion – also with “temperature read” (number of fingers)
- Please mute when not speaking





Public Comment



Executive Summary of previous meeting

- Accept?

What's ahead

April 7, 2025 – draft agenda:

- ***Finalize request for IRST help on Effectiveness Monitoring Strategy**
 - ***Respond to IRST feedback on Amphibians questions**
- * Substantial decisions**



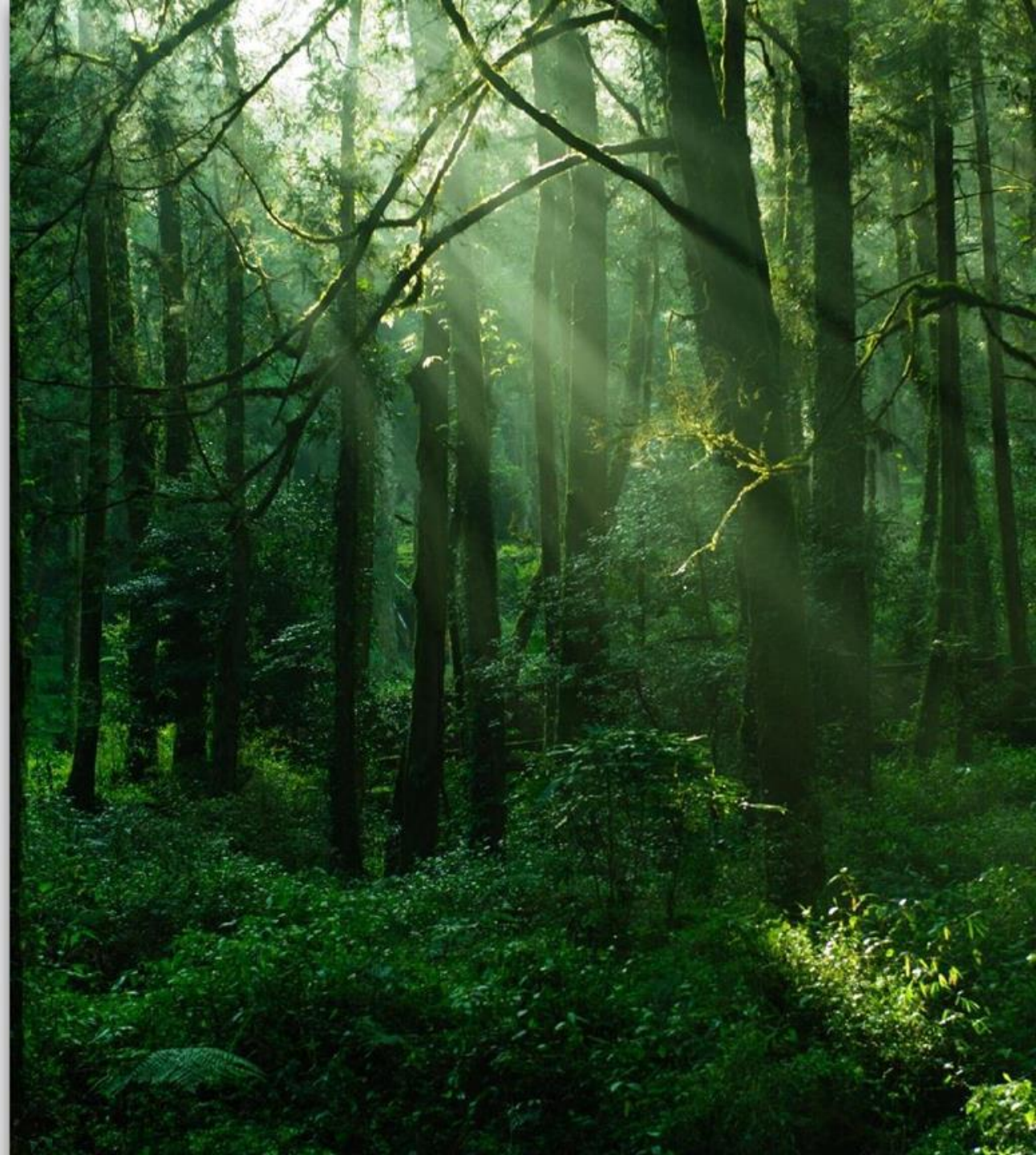


Updates

Work groups report out (later in meeting)

Jan. 2025 Board meeting:

- 1. Wendy Gerlach, Amanda Sullivan-Astor renewed**
- 2. New IRST nominees appointed**
- 3. AMP update**



2024

Q1

2025

Q2

Q3+



Roads

IRST scoping
proposal (est.
May 2025)

July 2025 Research Agenda

AMPC
finalize
research
agenda

AMPC research agenda: 7/15/25

E Oregon Steep Slopes

IRST scoping
proposal

July 2025 Research Agenda

Amphibians

AMPC votes
on questions
(Feb. 2025)

AMPC
responds to
IRST questions
(April 2025)

IRST scoping
proposal
(summer/fall
2025?)

Effectiveness Monitoring Strategy

AMPC votes on
help request (April
2025)

IRST analysis
(fall 2025?)

Discuss: Amphibians research questions package

Workgroup report



Discuss: Amphibians research questions package

Open question package document



Discuss: Amphibians research questions package

ORIGINAL -- Question 1. What is the distribution & geographic, temporal, and genetic demographics of the covered amphibian species?

Question 1. Including a robust a literature review: What is the distribution (both within watersheds and between watersheds, and throughout the state) and its & geographic seasonal changes, temporal, and genetic demographic demographics for each of the covered amphibian species (or, focus only on 2 torrent salamander species)? The question focuses on establishing a baseline for the species.



Discuss: Amphibians research questions package

Suggested Q1: What is the distribution, seasonal variability, and genetic demographics for each of the covered amphibian species? The intent of question 1 is to establish a baseline for each of the covered species.



Discuss: Amphibians research questions package

ORIGINAL -- Question 2. How does implementation of forest practices rules affect the habitat and the persistence of these covered amphibian populations with respect to biological goals and objectives (BGOs) specific to the covered amphibians? These BGOs are:

Goal 2: *Shade and watershed processes controlling stream temperature provide cool water compatible with the needs of the covered species.*

Objective 2.2 – *No-harvest RMAs maintain stream shade sufficient to support desired cool water temperatures for covered amphibians.*

Goal 3: *Stream network connectivity satisfies freshwater habitat needs for covered species.*

Objective 3.3 – *Timber harvest maintains stream-associated connectivity in riparian areas along non-fish streams sufficient to support covered amphibians.*

Goal 4: *Riparian areas function to support complex habitats for the covered species.*

Objective 4.4 – *Forest practices maintain stream-associated wetlands and stream-adjacent seep and spring habitat for amphibians*



Discuss: Amphibians research questions package

Question 2. This set of questions addresses the habitat and persistence of Columbia and Southern torrent salamanders over time and the landscape. Each question is connected to the associated goal and objective.

Question 2.1. How do rules for road crossings on fish-bearing streams impact Columbia and Southern torrent salamanders' habitat?

Goal 3: Stream network connectivity satisfies freshwater habitat needs for covered species.

Objective 3.1 – Road crossings on fish-bearing streams are passable by the covered fish species.



Discuss: Amphibians research questions package

SUGGESTED -- Q2: How do the rules under (OAR 629-625-####) related to road-stream crossings impact the habitat of Columbia and Southern torrent salamanders?

2.1: For the purposes of this question, “habitat” relates to the Biological Goals and Objectives (BGOs) included in [*the rules/HCP*].



Break



E Oregon steep slopes scoping proposal

A. Thoughts on scoping proposal

B. Addressing IRST's request for feedback



E Oregon steep slopes scoping proposal

Questions from IRST:

1. Was the format of the scoping proposal reader friendly? If not, how could we make it more useful and easier to follow?

2. Was the level of detail for this scoping proposal about right, too little, or too much in the:

- a. Executive summary?
- b. Introduction?
- c. Methods?
- d. Findings?
- e. Options?

If not, what changes in detail and/or use of technical language could improve overall understanding and utility of future scoping proposals?

3. How did the figures and tables add to or detract from understanding and presenting the document content, and would you welcome this approach, or a different approach, to displaying/conveying information in future documents?



E Oregon steep slopes scoping proposal

4. How would the AMPC characterize the overall length of the document (e.g., appropriate for the task, too brief, too lengthy)? If the response is anything but "appropriate for the task," please provide guidance about specific changes you would like to see or criteria you would like the INR/IRST to use to assess appropriate length of future documents.
5. Given the task of producing the scoping proposal and what was discovered during the initial scoping review, what could the IRST have added to the document to better meet the AMPC's need to make decisions about if and/or how to move forward with an RFP?
6. The IRST presented four options in the scoping proposal as a menu of opportunity for the AMPC to consider. Was this number of options about right, too few, too many for AMPC when considering next steps?



AMPC Charter

Open document



Wrap up

To do items



Next meeting: April 7, 2025

Draft agenda:

- ***Finalize request for IRST help on Effectiveness Monitoring Strategy**
 - ***Respond to IRST feedback on Amphibians questions**
- * Substantial decisions**



Thank you for your participation today



Extra slides



Amphibians: PFA Report excerpts

7.2 Goals

The goal of riparian management practices and other conservation measures described in this section is to protect and conserve stream and riparian habitats important for all life stages of [*listed amphibian species*].”



Amphibians: PFA Report excerpts

7.3.3 Conservation Measures to Support Protection of Stream-Dwelling Amphibians

Conservation measures [for]...stream-dwelling amphibians include riparian prescriptions that protect fish and non-fish-bearing streams... Additional protections for seeps, springs, and stream-associated wetlands are established ...

Additional conservation measures to conserve stream-dwelling amphibians include:

1. The Slope Retention Areas, Designated Debris-Flow Traversal Areas, and Stream Adjacent Failure prescriptions ...
2. The wetland protections, including the 2:1 replacement for filling or draining wetlands...
3. The updated culvert design standards ...
4. The reduction of fine sediment through the hydrologic disconnection of roadside conveyance systems from streams ...



Amphibians: PFA Report excerpts

7.3.4 Adaptive Management

Uncertainty exists around amphibian population characteristics, distribution, productivity, survival, and abundance. A robust effectiveness monitoring plan ... will be used to better understand the relationship between forest management and covered amphibian species. ...it is recommended that \$1.5 million be initially applied to research ... to better understand how riparian and unstable slope protections of at least the current and proposed rules for private forestland impact persistence of populations... The priority species for monitoring will be the Columbia and Southern torrent salamanders. With consideration to funding constraints and other priorities, this research could also include other species covered by the HCP. Additionally, it could include Cascade torrent salamanders, which are not covered by the HCP.”



Amphibians Research Question Categories from 8/26/24 meeting:

- Life history and general knowledge
- Demographics
- Effects of forest practices over time
- Research design
- Research process



Proposed covered species (25-year HCP)

- Columbia torrent salamander (*Rhyacotriton kezeri*)
- Southern torrent salamander (*Rhyacotriton variegatus*)
- Coastal giant salamander (*Dicamptodon tenebrosus*)
- Cope's giant salamander (*Dicamptodon copei*)
- Coastal tailed frog (*Ascaphu truei*)



[Columbia torrent salamander](#)



PFA Report, p. 120-121

7.3.4 Adaptive Management

Uncertainty exists around amphibian population characteristics, distribution, productivity, survival, and abundance. A robust effectiveness monitoring plan as part of an adaptive management program will be used to better understand the relationship between forest management and covered amphibian species. To support this program, it is recommended that \$1.5 million be initially applied to research through the first funding cycle of the adaptive management program to better understand how riparian and unstable slope protections of at least the current and proposed rules for private forestland impact persistence of populations. The Authors agree that the \$1.5 million will be used to fund an initial study and that ongoing research over appropriate intervals of time beyond this initial study will be necessary to understand research outcomes over long periods of time. The priority species for monitoring will be the **Columbia and Southern torrent salamanders**. With consideration to funding constraints and other priorities, this research could also include other species covered by the HCP. Additionally, it could include Cascade torrent salamanders, which are not covered by the HCP.

PFA Report, p. 120-121



Life history and general knowledge

Incorporating traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), cultural component for questions

What do we know now, but also – design research to understand distribution and prevalence? How does this compare across species and how do we determine which to focus research on?

Species are in the draft HCP. Why were they chosen? Could some (e.g. torrent salamanders) act as an indicator species for habitat health?

Ranking most to least sensitive, ranking those that are more mobile (stream, versus move movement upland)

What are the primary drivers / factors that influence abundance, within species diversity?

- **How can we prioritize species (within the HCP list)?**
- *Are they an indicator species of habitat health?*
- *Are they more sensitive to effects / changes in habitat?*
- *Are they more mobile?*
- **What do we already know about those species?**



Demographics

Distribution

Use of upland areas for movement/dispersal, particularly for the torrent salamanders (frequency, importance, areas used).

Amphibian use of disconnected seeps and springs (particularly for torrent salamanders). How connected are these habitats?

Genetic diversity

Movement / dispersal

Adaptive capacity

Extent of overlap or range occurrence on the East side. How often does this occur and is habitat use different?

Are physical conditions of stream and are the water quality conditions good for the amphibian species (e.g. impact of sediment on gill breathing)?

- What do we know and what **DON'T** we know about priority species?
- *Movement / dispersal?*
Adaptive capacity?
Distribution?



Effects of forest practices over time

What can we say about the effects of forest management on the species under the HCP? What do we not know, and how could those gaps be addressed (see HCP)?

Effectiveness of forested buffers

Effectiveness of ELZs

Efficacy for the BGOs

Some things (e.g. application of herbicides) were not included in the HCP. Should forest practices not covered by the HCP be included at a lower level of priority?

Impacts of land ownership and land use

Effectiveness of R-ELZs

Impacts of forestry on species over time

Interaction between climate change scenarios and forest practices



Research Design and Process

Timeframe for projects – short and long-term

The scope and time scale

Intentional about comparative sites

Incorporate lessons learned from other studies to determine what the most effective approach might be for producing clear results

Have more general research questions to allow for identification of research needs via literature review

IRST could identify specific research based on literature review findings

Literature review findings could also answer some research questions

- What are the different methods for data collection, and which are the most effective? Why are they different? Why might some results be considered controversial?

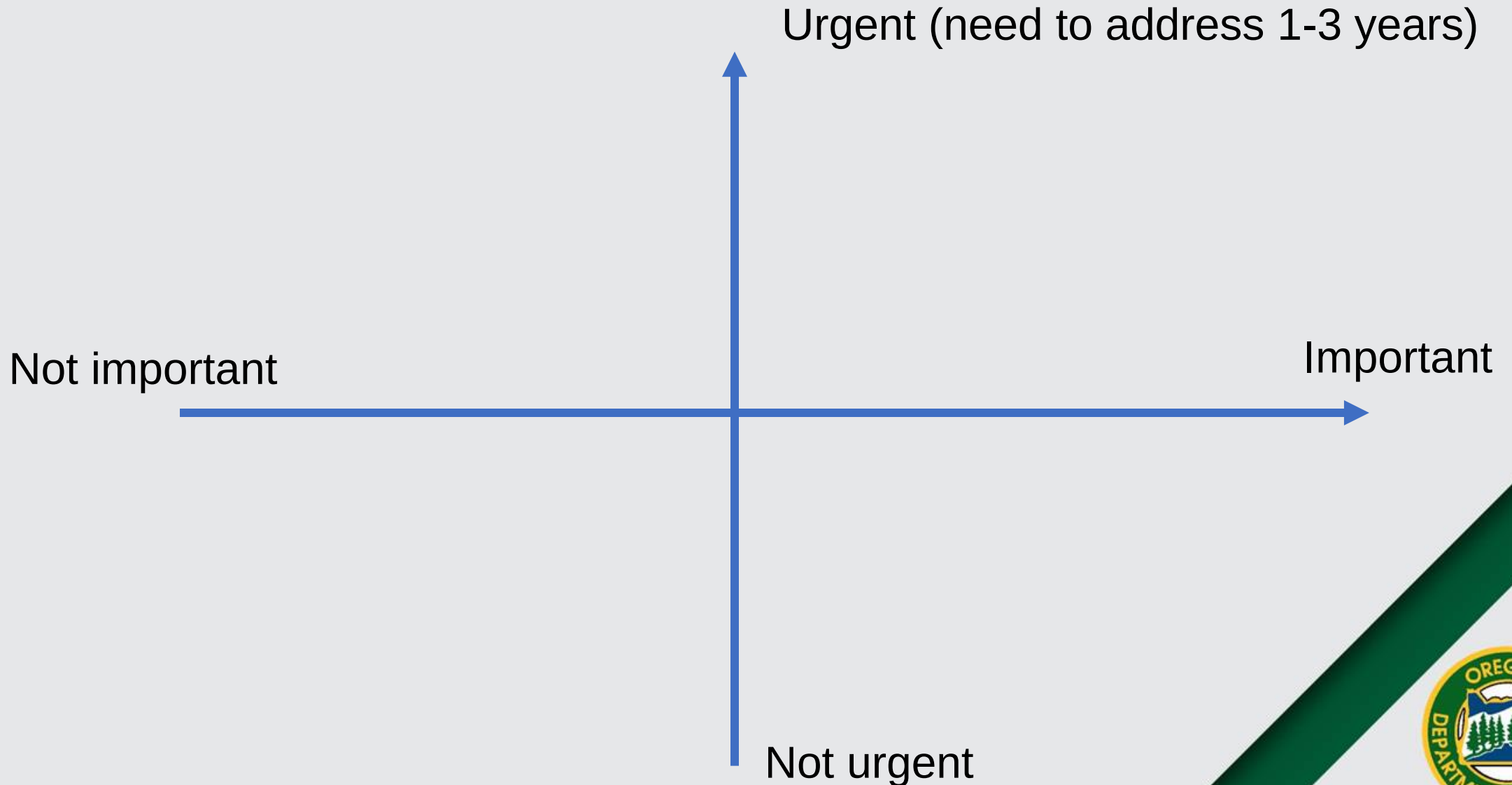


What could be addressed by IRST in the literature review?

- What do we already know about priority species?
- What don't we know?



Priorities to address?



Priorities to address?



Adaptive Management Process Steps

