December 16, 2019 Social Science Working Group Call

Attendees: Kira Sullivan-Wiley, Jaime Ashander, Ritvik Sahajpal, Deepak Ray, Jody Peters

Agenda/Notes:

1. Kira and Jaime's blog post is out!
   https://ecoforecast.org/social-sciences-in-ecological-forecasting/
   - This is the 1st post in a series
   - Other post ideas:
     - Kathy Gerst - text about forecast visualization tool at NPN. Original visualization and how it changed and why it was changed. Iterative process design
     - Mike Gerst - Mike recently had a paper come out with Melissa on how people understand climate data. Mike provided text about expert opinion gets incorporated into forecasts. Expert bias.
     - Jaime Ashander - how forecasts may or may not predict human behavior
     - Other ideas are welcome. People should feel free to introduce a subfield that would be of interest to a wider EFI audience. This doesn't need to be done right away.
     - Timeline for text we already have. Start conversations/reminders to people who already have text drafted. Shoot for next post to come out in January and then perhaps monthly after that.

2. Scope of Work (who we are, why we're doing this)
   - Vote on updated text
   - Action items - ongoing work
     - Working Statement. Revisit text on Working Group webpage once we get the first Introduction blog post up.
     - This was discussed on the last call in connection with revisions to the Scope of Work. We could have a post that gives examples of different types of forecasts and different types of social science and where different types of social sciences can be used for different types of forecasts. **Potential future blog post that gives examples of how different social science subdisciplines can address different types of forecasts. See the following bullet point text that had been in the SOW, but the group decided to remove to keep the SOW at a broad level.**

- First is a 'description of nature' forecast such as weather, which is simply provided as information and places a burden on the user to apply it to a decision. Second is a 'user integrated' forecast that usually involves scenario development associated with the decision and the forecast provides the decision maker with specific options/recommendations. This seems like a key division both for application and development of a forecast.
  - Have a comment period. Give comments by X date. Then if there is nothing earth-shattering in comments, then have an electronic doodle poll.
  - Timeline
  - Kira addressed/resolved all comments except for the ones Jody was on and Jody resolved those additional comments
  - Give people at least a week to provide comments.
  - Jody to send out Electronic approval doc when she sets up the Jan meeting
  - Jody to send out poll to find times to meet next semester.
  - Kira will add a note to the Purpose section of the SOW that let's people know that that section. Jody to include this information in the follow-up email to the group.