

July 25, 2019 Decision Science Working Group Call

AGENDA

1. Introductions (name, where you sit, what your link or interest is to social science/ decision science in the EFI context—why you're here)
 - Kira - postdoc at BU. Works on decision science but in a slightly different way than Melissa
 - Jaime - postdoc at RFF. Population biology background. Environmental perturbations. At RFF incorporating human decisions/affects/perturbation on population models. Things that humans could control. In forecasting - thinking about human decision making.
 - Jaime/Kira to talk later - Kira working with person looking at ecosystem services. Working to help integrate human decision into the model. Would like to pick Jaime's brain about this.
 - Jody - help with EFI, RCN logistics, also works on Paleon

1. Overview of what we're trying to do (where this group arose from)
 - a. After EFI conference, sense that Soc Sci was a bit tangential/ like an add-on
 - i. Conversations with Melissa Kenney
 - ii. Built on it in first DM meeting
 - b. Notes: Understanding that Soc Sci is important to EFI, but less clear about how to integrate.
 - c. Blog post is a good way to show **how/where Soc Sci fits into forecast process**
 - d. Treat forecasts as boundary objects. Everyone (CI, Partners, etc) has something to say about the object of the forecast.
 - i. Boundary object - a thing, in this case, a forecast. It is owned by multiple parties. It creates a boundary between different disciplines. Not completely embedded in ecology realm. For example, Soc Sci doesn't need to go through ecology to get to the forecast.
 - ii. Boundary organizations - connect disciplines. Example - NPN
 - iii. Forecast should be more owned/integrated with other disciplines, not just the ecologists.
 - e. Use blog to remind people/let people know where Soc Sci fits into the initiative
 - f. Forecast process of saying something like size of dead zone in Gulf this summer. Then need to define if that forecast is what you want/if stakeholders need.
 - g. Engage with people who know about decisions during the process of designing forecasts.
 - h. Talk about both longer scale - what should be forecasted and who should it be for. And scale of what do we expect will happen - the forecast.
 - i. Another thing to add - if you have forecast that requires what humans do (decision makers in watershed) this is different then forecasting something like water levels. Time scale issues and whether there is human stakeholders. Do we need to account how farmers act this spring into the forecast.

- j. Scale we define/use forecast and scale at which forecast is happening. Sometimes human responses to their environment/weather will need to be incorporated into the forecast.
 - k. Talk about the processes. Process that does or does not use social science and give overview.
 - l. Also there is the process of uptake/delivering. A lot of the ecological forecasters come at it from this point. Providing the forecast to the users at the end - translating, presenting, formatting to make it useful for partners.
 - m. Partners group - we have partners, how do we influence their decisions
 - n. 3 processes - 1) design forecast, 2) doing the forecast, 3) marketing/providing forecast
2. Things to Accomplish:
- a. Objective of the blog post: **how/where Soc Sci fits into forecasting**
 - i. **Audience: EFI members (especially ecologists). What about talking to Social Scientists to get involved? Yes**
 1. Kira - mainly had been thinking ecologists. Internal education
 2. But would be good as an advertising tools for Soc Scientist. External recruitment
 3. Could get both of these in by using an early paragraph describing what we are doing - "if soc sci - here's how we can see you fit in", "if you are an eco forecaster - here are things to think about in regards to decision science". Make it clear in the intro paragraph.
 4. Jaime to get input from an economic point of view from RFF colleagues
 5. Start from ground up and be concise and can be beneficial to both audiences. Definition of eco fx doesn't incorporate soc sci concerns.
 6. Intro - fiddle with the most. Try a couple of formats. See to what extent we need to describe eco fxing
 7. When speaking to decision science - think about the Assumption of relevance of fxing for the soc sci. Vs from the ecologist side that the decision science is relevant.
 8. Scale up from a myopic forecast that talks about inputs/outputs and then moving to why are you doing the forecast and what is it for.
 9. The forecast is an inherently social context. It is created with human inputs and needs people to make different management decisions from it.
 10. There are a range of forecasts. Some will be useful for things that directly affect humans/stakeholders while others do not
 - b. Things that need to be included to achieve that goal (sections/ themes):
 - i. Types of forecasts (could refer to the technical readiness stuff?)
 1. academic/basic science of forecasting

- 2. operational
- ii. Parts of a forecast cycle
 - 1. Forecast development/design (yes, WHY?)
 - 2. Forecast production (yes, depending on time scale)
 - 3. Forecast uptake/use (yes, WHY?)
- iii. Do we need a figure for (ii)?
- c. How to organize it
 - i. By discipline? Decision science, Economics, but don't want to leave out disciplines and not sure if we can cover all disciplines
 - ii. By component in the forecast cycle?
- d. Who will write which parts
 - i. Kira/Jaime - develop text about forecasting cycle and then send it out to have folks scaffold on to and write about each section of the cycle and how their disciplines can speak to the different areas of the cycle.
 - ii. Provide a description of the parts of the cycle and the activities involved at each time. Then have people write free form text/structured into the cycle that says how discipline X's disciplinary knowledge will feed into each steps.
 - iii. Develop prompting text to elicit feedback
- e. Timeline
 - i. Kira to be point. Start drafting the cycle to get feedback. Jaime to help iterate on that early on.
 - ii. Kira on vacation tomorrow for a couple of weeks. Will mock something up by the end of tomorrow. Jaime to provide feedback by the time Kira gets back. Then decide how to move forward - either schedule another call or be ready to send out
 - iii. Unless others who are not on the call have other ideas, we'll go forward with this idea.