

## September 5, 2019 Decision Science Working Group Call Agenda

### Summary of the Call for the Newsletter:

The Decision Science Working Group met on September 5 with 6 participants. The call focused on two main topics, an upcoming blog post and developing a Terms of Reference for the group. The blog post will highlight how decision science is useful for forecasting for folks within EFI to think about as well as to provide an advertisement to social scientists about EFI and forecasting in general in an effort to encourage collaboration. The goal is for this to come out within the next month or so. The group has discussed short and long term goals which will be included in the Term of Reference, but in large part this document will be used to define the role of this group within EFI and what the group wants to accomplish not only in providing input for making effective decision-ready forecasts, but also how social scientists working in forecasting can gain insights that move that field forward.

1. Introductions / record attendance
  - Kathy Gerst. USA NPN and U. AZ. Does alot of work with stakeholder needs. Also in Partners group
  - Mike Dietze - BU. Lead of EFI
  - Kira Sullivan-Wiley - BU postdoc at Pardee. Human-environment interactions and how they are influenced by interventions. In Partner group
  - Jaime Ashander - Resources For the Future (RFF). Postdoc. Human decisions and economic theory in ecological models and humans interacting with nature.
  - Mike Gerst - UMD. Research faculty. Climate modeling group. Work on decision science/social science with that group. Understand how people interact/use forecasts
  - Jody Peters - ND. Help coordinate EFI
2. Update on the blog post (Kira and Jaime)
  - Outline is in the Decision Support Working Group folder here:  
LINK REMOVED
  - Asking people to contribute to post to 1) reach out to people in EFI and 2) reach folks who are social scientists/working in the field to advertise EFI
  - Introduce forecasting cycle fig from PNAS paper and themes that touch on that cycle
  - Collect stories/example that will connect with the themes/parts of the cycle
  - Want different case studies for different aspects of forecasting cycle. Show where social science can come.

- Social science is easy to recognize in Phase 3 in Dissemination and Adaptive Management. But social science can inform other places.
  - Kathy - could add an example from NPN in the Refinement and Implementation box - where end users change the product to meet their needs better. E.g., showing how NPN maps have evolved with input from end-users that Kathy showed at EFI2019
  - Mike G. - Looking at the Design phase, add: “What implications does it have for the role of expert judgment in the design phase?”
    - Where are the forecasters and users in the figure? Where are the people?
    - Mike can send paragraph or two about this
  - Kira will sign Melissa up to say something about uncertainty/the last phase
  - Jaime will forward this to Kailin and Yusuke to see if they have economic thoughts to add for these phases.
  - Kira and Jaime will work on the text, so contributors don't need to feel like their text needs to be super polished at this point.
  - Not planning to be comprehensive for this. Just want to give some examples.
  - Want to get this out by the end of the month or early next month
3. Update on “technical readiness standards” (Rich and Jaime as POCs)
    - No progress on this yet. Jaime hasn't heard from Rich.
  4. Update on “uncertainty” discussion in Theory group (Carl as POC).
    - Carl not on the call.
  5. Terms of reference for the group (start this discussion, time permitting):
    - Scope of work
      - On the July call we talked about short and long term goals, but we should also think about “who are we”
      - Want to distinguish how this group is different from Partners group
      - What do we want the group to accomplish and the role of this group in EFI
        - Solidify the role of social science in forecasting
        - Building best practices for engaging with teams-- the partners group is more about bringing people together; here we can talk more about the process for producing a decision-ready product
        - Guidelines/Best practices? Or ongoing discussion to participate and learn from
        - Identify key social science questions in eco forecasting. Decision is about social science. What are the frontiers? How can this group push those frontiers? Where can eco forecasting tell us new things about Decision Science that can be unique contributions more broadly.

- Don't just have this group service the ecologists, but build up the Social Science
  - Blog post is good example of the contribution of social scientists to help with forecasting
  - But what are the questions the social scientists have in the ecological forecasting process and how can this make contributions to the social science field
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- Short-term goals
  - Blog post
  - Can we articulate the goal we are trying to accomplish in the next few months? Who need to be part of the discussion/actions to help us get there?
  - Broad review/concept paper accessible to ecologists that show how decision science can be used. The Mikes will continue to push Melissa on this.
    - This is different from building out the blog post. (How does social science fit into forecasting cycle). For review paper step back from forecasting - focus on more broadly - what is decision science for ecologists?
    - Most ecologists are unaware of the decision science lit (some of which has won Nobel prizes)
  - Have the upcoming blog post that shows how different areas of social science can influence forecasting. Then have another blog post (or other product) that goes over what is important for social scientists - two-way street that Mike Gerst identified in EFI2019 talk. E.g. "Here's why an economist should study eco forecasting"
- Medium-term goals
  - What do we hope to accomplish in the next year or two? What steps should we pursue to get there?
  - Review paper on the basics of decision science for ecologists
- Longer-term goals
  - What do we hope to accomplish in the next year or two? What steps should we pursue to get there?
- 6. Leave with a plan for a next call (should we make it a regular meeting?) and hopefully some discrete, assigned next steps
  - Action items:
    - Reaching out to finish blog post.
      - Jaime to reach out to RFF colleagues, contributions from Mike G., Kathy, and Melissa
    - Terms of Reference
      - Kira to talk to Melissa to mock up something for review
    - Agenda for next time - review/primer paper that Mike Dietze brought up

- Poll for next meeting and see if that will work for a re-occurring time
  - Kira to send around a time
- Want to rotate meeting moderators. Volunteer for next month? Jamie
- Add to agenda for next call. RCN has first meeting May/June 2020. Are there specific things we want to get done/present at that meeting?
- Technical readiness standards?
  - Possible standards spin-off