November 18, 2019 Decision Science Working Group Call

Attendees: Jaime Ashander, Kira Sullivan-Wiley, Nat Springer, Mike Dietze, Melissa Kenney, Deepak Ray, Chris

Agenda/Notes:

1. Welcome to the New folks:
   - Nat Springer - IonE at U of MN. The background is in economics macroscale modeling. Geography and connecting supply chains, forward modeling, forward futures and connections with the natural world
   - Deepak Ray- U of MN. Background atmospheric science. Land-atmospheric interactions. Last 10 years has focused on Big data sets on Ag and food security
   - Chris Jones - NC State. Works with USDA to decide when/where and which technique to control invasive pests and pathogens. An iterative process where USDA sample, Chris gets data and has forecast and then USDA can look at management options and think about which management options worked best in the past
2. Blog update - from Kira and Jaime
   - Topic: Social dimension in the process of ecological forecasting.Where decision science fits into the forecasting process and can help forecasts
   - Planning to break it up into a series of posts. 1) Introduction - where the social science is happening and outline subsequent posts, 2) Subsequent posts
   - Goal is to have finalized version of post ready to go before Thanksgiving. Then subsequent posts could come out every 2 weeks (but could be longer in between posts)
   - If others have ideas or want to contribute to the subsequent posts after the Introduction, they are more than welcome. Not a large commitment. 500 words or less
3. Terms of Reference ("scope of work", who we are, why we're doing this)
   - Working group has been called "Decision Science", but that "Social Science" may be more accurate for what the group is actually doing and reflects the text in the Scope of Work.
     - Social Science does reflect the diversity of the groups involved where Decision Science is a subfield
     - Social Science is more inclusive.

- - - Will now call the group the Social Science Working Group. In text of SOW add more details about the other subdisciplines of Social Science involved
  - ○ Ongoing Work section
    - ■ Create Working Statement that will replace the Decision Science text on the Working Group text on the website here: https://ecoforecast.org/cross-cutting-themes/
    - ■ What is the best way to keep webpage text up to date? Don't want everyone to have full admin privileges to the website, but do want to make it easy for folks to update documents/text on the website that is out of date. Want to find a way to hand off text update
    - ■ Currently, Mike and Jody are website managers
    - ■ Documents for public consumption go on to webpage. Things people are working on actively go in the Google Drive. Scopes of work should be public.
    - ■ Kira suggests have a brief description on website that doesn't need to change too much and then link to more detailed/changeable documents
    - ■ Action item - ongoing work - Working Statement. Revisit text on Working Group webpage once we get the first Introduction blog post up.
    - ■ Type of forecasts text - We want to put things out that are widely understood and used not just used by specific user groups
      - ● Give a broad sense of what we are trying to do. Don't get too focused on the details that restricts understanding of what the group is doing
      - ● 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.
  - ○ Short Term Goals Section

- - - Log/database - list of resources. Mention it here, but don't give this group the responsibility to build/maintain this database. Say this will be done with the Partners Group
    - Kira will resolve/clean up the SOW and on next call will vote on it
4. Forecasting Standards Update from Jaime
    - Cross-group (Theory/CI) discussion of forecasting standards - metadata needs and outputs wanted. Next cal is Dec 3 at 1:30pm US eastern
    - Technical readiness. Basic research vs iteratively produced products used by the public.
5. Decision/Social Science and the RCN Forecasting Challenge
    - Are there things that would be useful to make sure is included in the forecasting challenge from both:
        - the partner/stakeholder and usefulness of the forecasts and
        - the forecasting output side of things to make the multi-model forecasts useful from a decision/social science analyses point of view