EFI Strategic Plan (SP) 2026 Update

Table of Contents

Executive Summary 2
Background 2
Completed Projects 3
- DEC 3
- GOV 3
- GOV - continued 4
- SCI 4

COM: Create Collaborative Community 5
- Quick Wins 5
- Major Projects 6
- Fill Ins 7
- Luxuries 8

GOV: Develop Governance/Sustainability 8
- Quick Wins 9
- Major Projects 10
- Fill Ins 10
- Luxuries 11

DEI: Centering DEIJ (who, what, how) 12
- Quick Wins 12
- Major Projects 12
- Fill Ins 13
- Luxuries 14

SCI: Transform the Science 15
- Quick Wins 15
- Major Projects 16
- Fill Ins 17
- Luxuries 17

DEC: Improve Decisions 19
- Quick Wins 19
- Major Projects 19
- Fill Ins 20
- Luxuries 21

Executive Summary

The Strategic Plan helps set priorities for EFI leadership (e.g., Steering Committee (SC), Steering Committee Chair and Co-chair, and the Community Manager), so we can be proactive rather than reactive in our approach to decision making and the allocation of resources (time, people, money) over the near- and medium-term.

This effort builds on an initial strategic planning (SP) effort released in 2022. While subsequent SC have revisited the plan annually, there has been sufficient change since the initial effort that the current SC felt it was worth formally documenting an SP update. During two extended virtual calls, the SC ranked projects across the five themes from the 2022 plan, provided recommendations on how to proceed, identified projects to add or remove from the SP, set timelines, identified the resources needed, and designated project champions. In addition to providing a high-level update to the SP priorities, the SC's goal was to identify 1-3 high-level projects for the 2026-2027 SC cohort to work on until the end of their term in March 2027.

The projects identified as priorities for the 2026-2027 SC cohort are: Communications & Outreach (incl. Social Media and Market Research); Education; and Hosting the Annual Conference.

The SC is committed to continuing to provide support for the hosts of the annual conferences, but given the experience and resources available for the Conference, the group is planning to focus more time on efforts related to communications, opportunities for ecological forecasting education, and market research into the current supply and demand of ecological forecasts

Background

The original Strategic Plan was first released in March 2022 and identified 5 core themes cutting across proposed EFI activities:

- COM: Create Collaborative Community
- GOV: Develop Governance/Sustainability
- DEI: Centering DEIJ (who, what, how)
- SCI: Transform the Science
- DEC: Improve Decisions

Within each of these themes, the SC evaluated ~40 project ideas, most of which date back to the original SP plan, with 6 added subsequently. These span a wide range of project maturity levels, from those close to done to those ongoing, in their early phases, or newly proposed. For each project idea, the SC generated an Importance/Difficulty ranking using the following procedure:

- Each SC member ranked each project using a Likert scale along three dimensions: (a) **Importance**: how critical is it that EFI work on this; (b) **Difficulty**: how hard will this be

given time, personnel, and financial constraints; and (c) **Personal Involvement:** how invested are they personally in championing this project.

- The combination of Importance and Difficulty defines a bivariate space that can be divided into four quadrants (which were visualized for each of the five themes, see the plots for each theme below):
    a. Quick wins - high importance, low difficulty
    b. Major Projects - high importance, high difficulty
    c. Fill-ins - low importance, low difficulty
    d. Backburner - low importance, high difficulty
- Importance/Difficulty rankings were visualized using bivariate plots. Dashed vertical and horizontal lines represent the mean difficulty and mean importance for each theme, and the size of the dots reflects people's personal interest in the SC. Larger dots mean the group collectively ranked it as a higher personal interest. Each project below has an abbreviated label used for the Importance/Difficulty plots.
- The SC reviewed the Importance/Difficulty plots to make final decisions about plans for each project for that year
- The projects marked “Complete” during the review are not included in the ranking or Importance/Difficulty plots.

Completed Projects

List of the completed projects identified in previous Strategic Plans Reviews

DEC

External Advisory Committee (EAC)

- Original Charge: As EFI continues to grow, we would benefit from the perspective and advice of people in high level leadership positions in many different sectors (agency, industry, NGO, societies) who have experience managing and growing organizations.
- Conclusion: The SC convened an EAC in 2023 as part of a SP thrust around EFI’s long term fiscal, legal, and organizational sustainability. The EAC met multiple times over the year and provided written and verbal advice to the SC. The SC used the advice from the EAC to apply for fiscal sponsorship

GOV

Nonprofit

- Original Charge: EFI should research whether we want to incorporate and what legal form of organization we want to be. Would make our status clearer to members and partners and would make it easier for EFI to manage its own finances (e.g., annual meeting registration fees).
- Conclusion: From EAC input, concluded that we do not want to be our own non-profit but be fiscally sponsored by a non-profit

GOV - continued

Long Term Sustainability Plan

- Original Charge: Develop a long-term sustainability plan that includes approaches to financial support, staff growth, and paid leadership.
- Conclusion: As of early 2026, EFI is fiscally sponsored by Ecologistics!

SCI

Community Standards

- Original Charge: Community standards for providing or archiving forecasts and metadata emerged as a top priority at the 2019 conference as a way to bring the community together and accelerate shared cyberinfrastructure.
- Conclusion: The Theory and CI/Methods working groups both had discussions about the Standards before being spun off as its own working group to support the launch of the RCN's NEON Forecasting Challenge, where it has played a key role in enabling the development of shared, scalable cyberinfrastructure for the Challenge. The Community Standards working group entered a dormant / backburner state after publishing the suggested standards for ecological forecast output files and metadata: Dietze, M.C., R.Q. Thomas, J. Peters, C. Boettiger, G. Koren, A.N. Shiklomanov, and J. Ashander. 2023. A Community Convention for Ecological Forecasting: Output Files and Metadata Version 1.0. Ecosphere 14 (11): e4686. https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.4686.

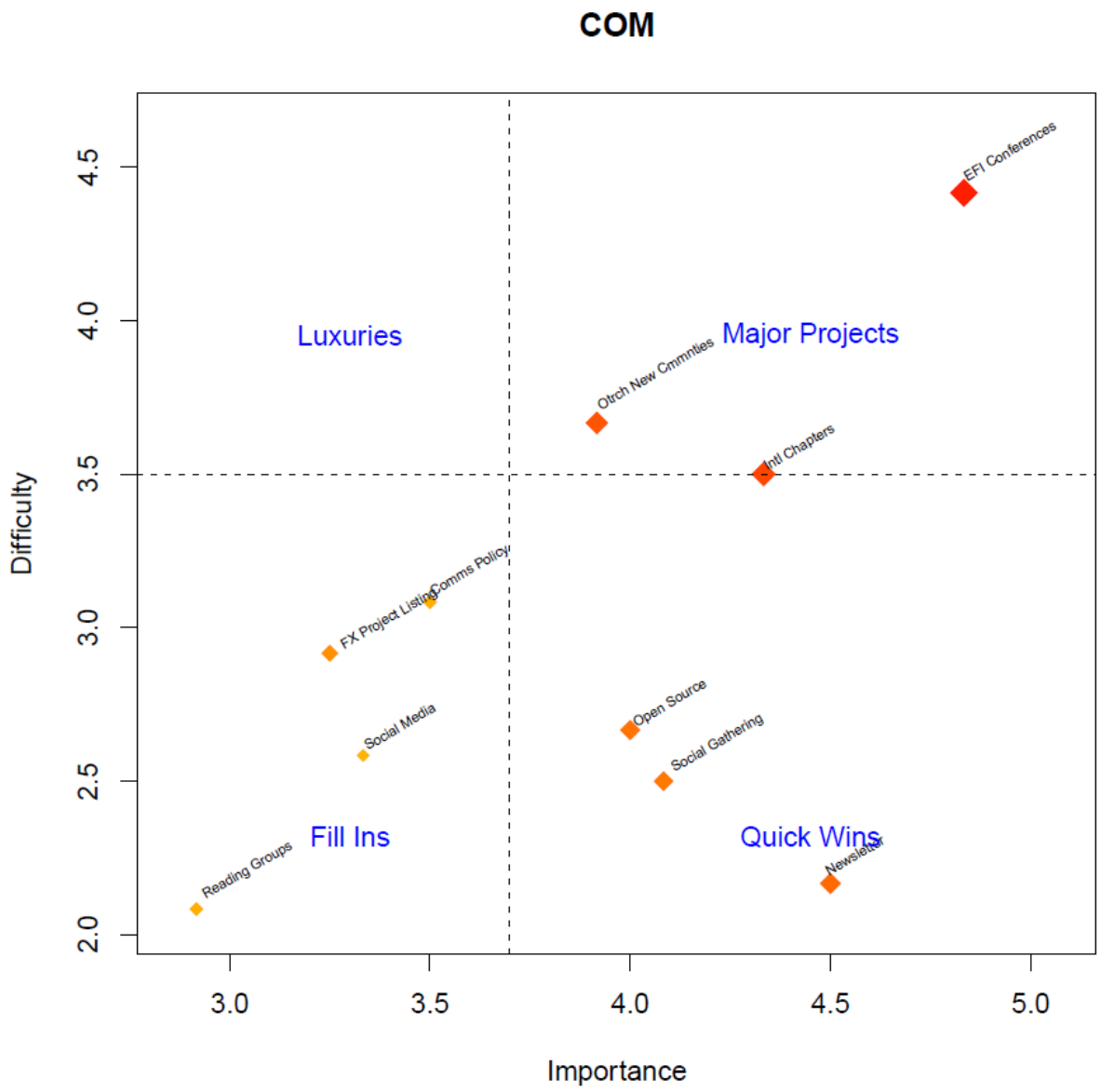
Scoring and visualization Shiny app

- Quinn Thomas (Virginia Tech) and Carl Boettiger (University of California, Berkeley) developed an interactive forecast visualization app for the RCN NEON Forecasting Challenge that leverages the EFI Standards to work across all five forecast areas.
- NEON Forecast Challenge dashboard is operational: https://projects.ecoforecast.org/neon4cast-ci/
- The dashboard format has been used for other forecasting challenges

Task Views

- The Cyberinfrastructure and Methods working group has assembled technical "task views" summarizing the tools available for different parts of the forecast cycle.
- Three of the four proposed Task Views have been created. At this time, creating the fourth Task View on Data Ingest, Cleaning, and Management is not a priority of the CI/Methods working group

COM: Create Collaborative Community



Quick Wins

1. Newsletter (Newsletter)
   Status: Ongoing
   a. The EFI newsletter is currently sent out every 1-2 months to a subscriber base of >1,300 people (as of May 2026), which has been steadily growing. 58 Issues have been sent out (as of May 2026).
   Opening rates are 50-70%, and bounce rates are around 17% as of Issue 58 (many defunct emails were removed in May, so the bounce rate should decrease). The newsletter is the central place where information is shared about

what EFI has been doing recently and has planned for the future. The newsletter is managed by the EFI Community Manager, who reaches out to others as needed for content. In terms of resources, it typically requires 2-3 days of labor per newsletter, plus the annual cost of the email marketing software to create and send the newsletter (currently Constant Contact).

2. Informal/Social Gatherings (Social Gathering)
   Status: Ongoing
   a. EFI organizes informal/social gatherings at a number of international society conferences each year, including the Ecological Societies of America and Australia (ESA), the American Geophysical Union (AGU), and the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO).

3. Open Source Distribution (Open Source)
   Status: Ongoing
   a. The eco4cast GitHub repository has 68 repositories. Many of them are associated with the NEON Forecasting Challenge, with additional repositories for the standards, technical webinars, workshops, Task Views, EFI Conference website.
   b. Five open educational resources are on QUBES

Major Projects

4. Social & Electronic Media (Social Media)
   Status: Ongoing.
   a. Share information about and resources from EFI activities with the broader community
   b. BlueSky (293 followers), LinkedIn (71 followers), YouTube channel (3,807 subscribers), and the blog (114 posts),
   c. Twitter (2,009 subscribers; account is still open, but no posts since Aug 20, 2025)

5. International Chapters (Intl Chapters)
   Status: Ongoing
   a. Building on the first Canadian EFI chapter as a model, EFI uses Chapters to build the EFI community around the world. EFI currently supports five international chapters (Oceania, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Canada), each of which organizes a range of projects, activities, and events.
   b. This project focuses on both the support of the existing chapters and efforts to launch additional chapters (e.g., there is a notable lack of EFI chapters in Latin America)

6. EFI Conferences (EFI Conferences)
   Status: Ongoing

a. Based on the successes of the 2016 and 2018 workshops, the 2019 in-person conference, and the 2020 virtual EFI conference, the Steering Committee viewed the continuation of these larger community meetings to be a high priority item for building and supporting the ecological forecasting community. The aim is to hold larger conferences (>100 people) either annually or every other year.
b. Conferences are planned through 2029.
    i. 2016: Ecological Forecasting workshop, Ft Collins, Colorado
    ii. 2018: Ecological Knowledge and Prediction workshop, Tucson, AZ
    iii. 2019: Inaugural EFI Conference, Washington, DC
    iv. 2020: EFI virtual conference
    v. 2021: EFI workshops (Inclusive Pedagogy Workshop, Educational Materials, Early Career)
    vi. 2022: EFI virtual conference
    vii. 2023: EFI Unconference at NEON Headquarters in Boulder, Colorado
    viii. 2024: EFI Conference at the Finnish Meteorological Institute in Helsinki, Finland
    ix. 2025: EFI Conference at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia
    x. 2026: EFI Conference in Toronto, Ontario
    xi. 2027: EFI Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota
    xii. 2028: EFI Conference in Aarhus, Denmark
    xiii. 2029: EFI Conference in Washington, D.C.
c. The goal is to have the leadership and location for each conference decided 2+ years in advance

7. Outreach to communities that are not currently connected to EFI (Otrch New Cmmnties)
   Status: Ongoing
    a. Outreach to research communities working on forecasting but currently not participating in EFI (fisheries, agriculture, biosecurity). Assist groups not currently engaged in forecasting, and in particular those traditionally underrepresented in STEM, to the point that they are able to create their own forecasts.
    b. The new Coastal and Marine working group, launched in late 2025, is a way to connect with ecological forecasters studying in these ecosystems

Fill Ins

8. Reading Groups (Reading Groups)
   Status: Ongoing
    a. EFI has run several virtual distributed book clubs, most of which were led by the DEI working group.
        i. Spatio-Temporal Statistics with R (2020),
        ii. The Years That Matter Most: How College Makes or Breaks Us (2020),
        iii. Caste: The Origins of our Discontents (2020/2021),
        iv. Braiding Sweetgrass (2021),
        v. Weapons of Math Destruction (2022),

vi. 97 Things About Ethics Everyone in Data Science Should Know (2023),
vii. Stolen (2024),
viii. Data Feminism (2025),
ix. Elbows Up! (2026)

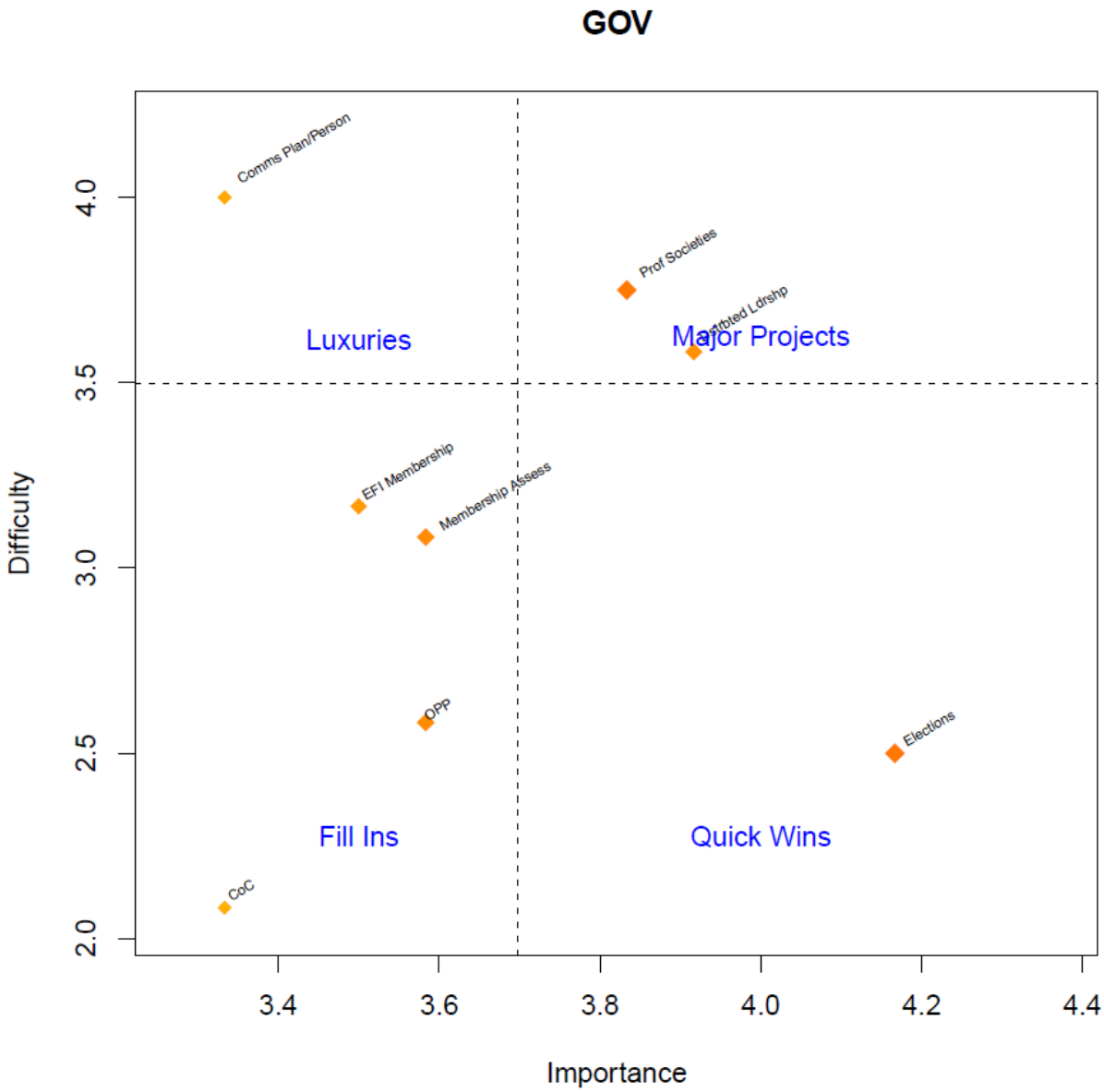
9. Communications Policy (Comms Policy)
   Status: Not Started
   a. Generate an internal communication policy that conveys the cultural intent of EFI to avoid having one person's views come through the communications/social media, but provides guidance from an EFI viewpoint

10. Compiling Examples of Forecasting Projects (FX Project Listing)
    Status: Backburnered
    a. EFI currently has a webpage of forecasting projects. It follows an "opt in" model (people have to fill out a form to have their project added). We are not actively working on growing the listing, and it has not been updated in a number of years, other than to remove defunct projects that no longer have an active link.
    b. EEFI has been more active in compiling forecasting projects during 2025-2026

Luxuries

11. There are no luxuries in the COM theme

GOV: Develop Governance/Sustainability



Quick Wins

1. Elections (Elections)
   Status: Ongoing
   a. We have held six community elections for the EFI Steering Committee members starting on March 15, 2021.

Major Projects

2. Dedicated Communications Plan/Person (Comms Plan/Person)
   Status: Not Started.
   This had originally been ranked as a Luxury, but the Steering Committee decided to move it to a Major Project since it overlapped with the Social & Electronic Media (Social Media) project in the Create a Collaborative Community (COM) theme.
   a. Develop a plan for how EFI communicates with different communities, including designating an individual or a Communications committee to manage EFI's social media, web content, and communications (currently falls to the Community Manager). We don't have the funds to hire someone at this point, but this is something to explore

3. Connecting with Professional Societies (Prof Societies)
   Status: Ongoing
   a. This task involves additional strategic planning regarding how much we want to be involved with professional societies, which ones, and how. EFI has partnered with ESA on multiple occasions to launch an Ecological Forecasting Award, run a webinar series on statistical methods, organize an oral session on Traditional Ecological Knowledge in forecasting, and respond to a data-delivery proposal from NOAA. We've also done a lot behind the scenes to support AMS's Ecological Forecasting working group. These relationships have so far been opportunistic rather than strategically built towards larger shared goals (e.g., curriculum change, advocacy, outreach, professional certification).

4. Distributed Leadership (Dstrbted Ldrshp)
   Status: Backburnered
   a. To grow as a community and organization, EFI needs to actively delegate tasks, distribute leadership across the organization, and cultivate new leaders. This is part of our broader set of values that emphasizes open, clear, and consistent communication with EFI membership about what EFI is doing and where it is going.
   b. Kira Sullivan-Wiley (PEW Charitable Trusts; former SC member) was working to recruit individuals for this committee, but needs input on how to prioritize activities. Since it has been a while since she has looked at this, we would need to see if this is still of interest to her

Fill Ins

5. Code of Conduct (CoC)
   Status: Fairly complete, but there are opportunities for updating
   a. The CoC was created, ratified, and made public on June 2, 2021.
   b. Next steps from the SP: EFI still needs to decide whether to form a committee to handle reporting. Currently, meeting hosts are listed as contacts. The

Community Manager receives email notifications if someone submits a CoC report, which would be shared with the SC Chair and the SC as needed. To date, there have not been any reports.

6. Operating Principles and Procedures (OPP)
   Status: Living Doc that can be updated as needed
   a. Version 0.3 of the OPP is available.
   b. The OPP was updated in 2025 to add Section 6 for the International Chapters
   c. Previous plans said: EFI's Steering Committee should form a governance subcommittee that will steadily work through these sections as part of our continued strategic planning.

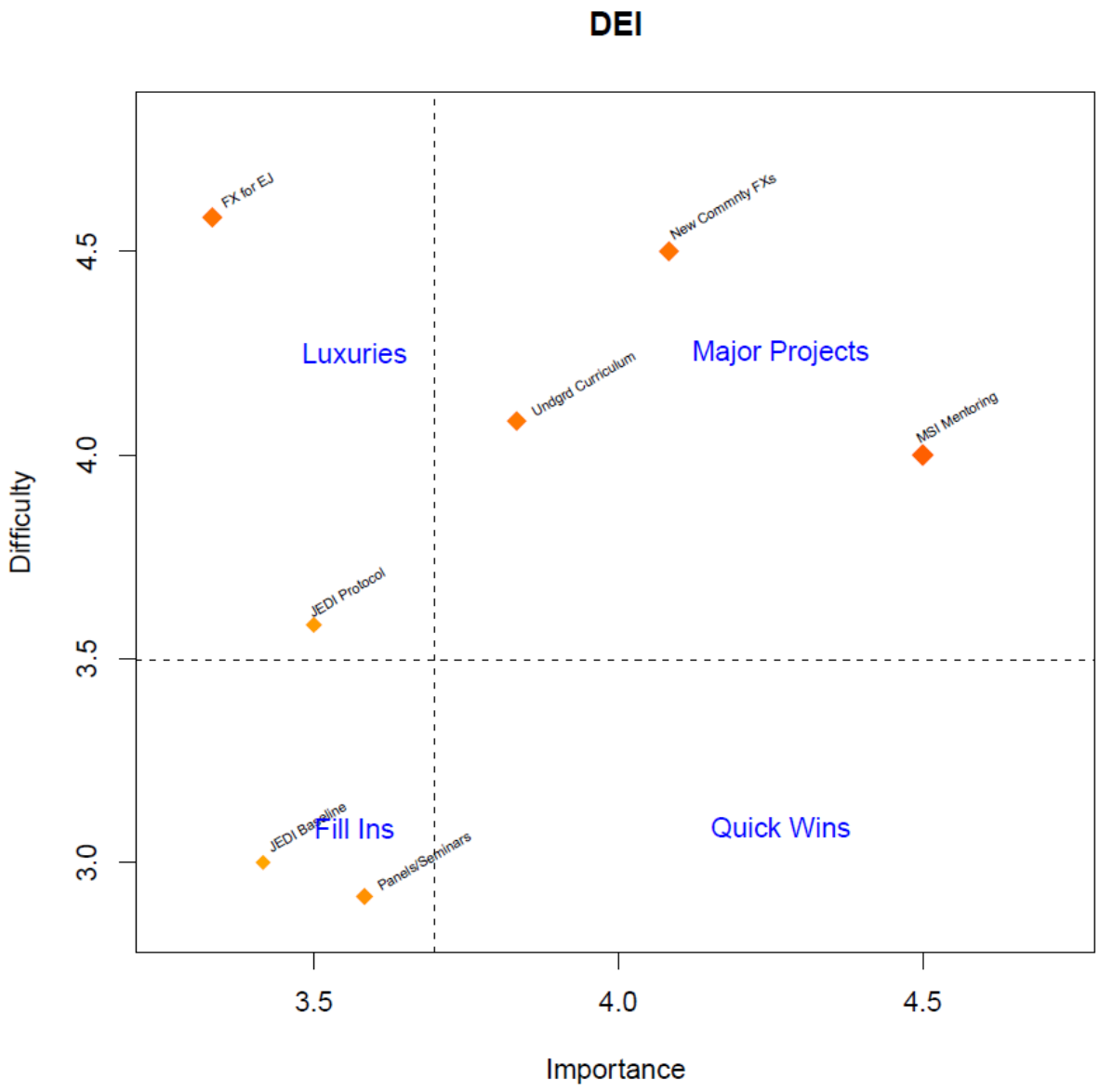
7. EFI Membership Assessments/Surveys (Membership Assess)
   Status: Started
   a. Routine surveys help ensure EFI leadership stays in touch with the general members about needs, wants, and priorities of the community and could track these through time.
   b. The annual virtual community calls and the annual in-person EFI conferences provide opportunities to gather informal feedback from the community. Held the first community call in February 2026. Shared community updates at the 2024 and 2025 EFI conferences
   c. Twice annual calls with the SC and International Chapter leads are another way the SC is getting feedback
   d. Currently, there is no survey system in place to get feedback from the community

8. Define what EFI membership means and identify modes of participation in EFI (EFI Membership)
   Status: New project added in 2025 and discussed by the 2025-2026 SC
   a. Discussions about this prompted the new process of members getting reduced rates for the EFI Conference

Luxuries

9. There are no luxuries in the GOV theme

DEI: Centering DEIJ (who, what, how)



Quick Wins

1. There are no quick wins in the DEI theme

Major Projects

2. MSI Student Mentoring (MSI Mentoring)
   Status: Ongoing

a. Systematic mentorship of undergraduate students from Minority serving institutions (Hispanic, Tribal, Black) from mentored basics (i.e., videos with contact for questions) through an undergraduate research project, through grad school/workforce placement, and beyond
b. The announcement in the EFI newsletters and EFI website homepage to recruit mentoring activities during Aug/Sept 2022 received limited input
c. Instead, have focused on connections through the Alfred P. Sloan grant activities, such as supporting mentorships for six students from the University of New Mexico, Gallup, and California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, who presented their work at the Geoscience Alliance 2025 conference and the EFI2026 Conference.

3. Undergraduate Curriculum (Undgrd Curriculum)
   Status: Ongoing
   a. Building on the resources the Education WG has already compiled and the activities developed through the NSF Research Coordination Network grant, Macrosystems EDDIE, and Alfred P. Sloan activities, develop a cohesive undergraduate curriculum (as opposed to stand-alone modules) that places predictive thinking front and center and explicitly includes forecasting.
   b. Instructor training could be a dedicated course
   c. NEON has seen value in the educational resources that EFI has invested in
   d. Provide a funnel into the EFI Student and Early Career Association

4. Engaging new communities to support their creation/use of forecasts (New Commnty FXs)
   Status: New project added in 2025. Not started
   a. Enabling forecasts to be created by groups currently not included in the ecological forecasting world. Supporting groups that are not currently engaged in ecoforecasting can create forecasts.

Fill Ins

5. JEDI Database Assessment of Members (JEDI Baseline)
   Status: Ongoing
   a. Develop a demographic database of EFI membership and event participants, and regularly analyze and report this data to track diversity efforts and outcomes.
   b. There is a tracking system in place that compiles membership demographic data without personally identifiable information. Dave Klinges (Rutgers University) shared the system at the EFI2025 Conference, and updates are shared in the twice yearly community updates

6. Panel or seminar presentations (Panels/Seminar)
   Status: Ongoing
   a. See the list of webinars here: https://ecoforecast.org/workshops/webinars/

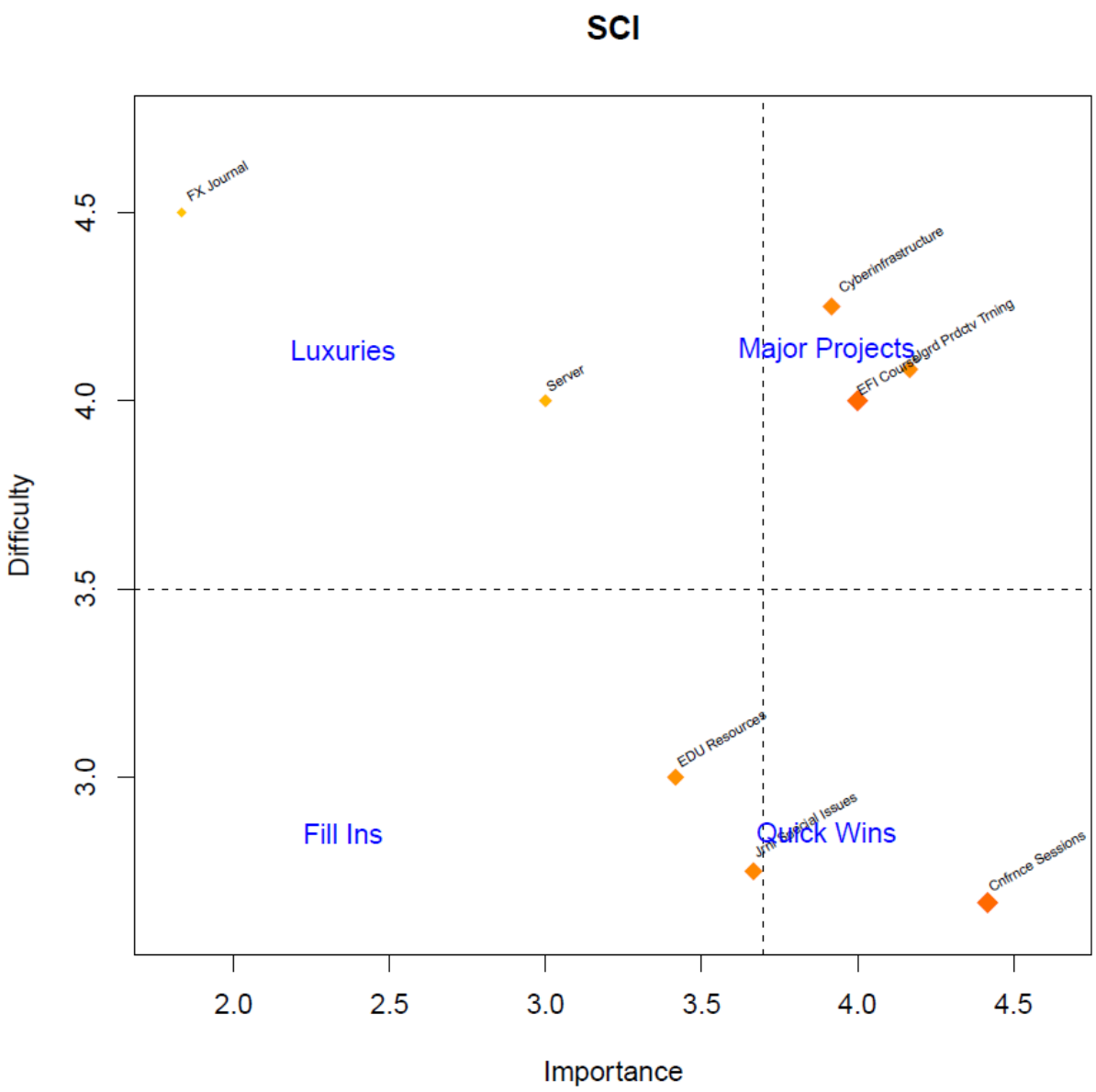
b. ESA-EFI hosted Stats seminar, European EFI seminar series, and Oceania seminar series, which have been ongoing.
c. Translation & Actionable Science working group-led tutorials on connecting with forecast users and collaborators. https://ecoforecast.org/engaged-research-tutorials/
d. CI/Methods spatial forecast challenge tutorial presented at the EFI2025 Conference to make it available to the broader EFI community

Luxuries

7. JEDI Protocols (JEDI Protocol)
   Status: Not Started
   a. Develop protocols for centering and engaging communities in forecasting work.

8. Forecasts for environmental justice (FX for EJ)
   Status: New project added in 2025. Not started
   a. Forecasts could be valuable for supporting environmental justice work, such as predicting air/water quality in underserved areas, looking at ecosystem services, or mapping heat exposure. One strategy would be to launch a pilot or working group with direct community partnerships.

SCI: Transform the Science



Quick Wins

1. Host Sessions at Conferences (Cnfrnce Sessions)
   Status: Ongoing
   a. There have been 48 sessions hosted through July 2026. See the list on the conference webpage.

Major Projects

2. Cyberinfrastructure (Cyberinfrastructure)
   Status: Ongoing
   a. Pursue plans for long term sustainability of EFI cyberinfrastructure for forecasting challenges through additional grant-funded development. Prioritizing integration into existing systems (e.g. DataONE, GitHub) and standards (e.g. EML, schema.org/ESIP), sustainability, modular re-use, and open source.
      i. The EFI Forecasting Standards working group published the paper, Dietze et al. 2023. A Community Convention for Ecological Forecasting: Output Files and Metadata Version 1.0. Ecosphere 14 (11): e4686. https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.4686
      ii. The NEON Forecasting Challenge infrastructure has been used for at least seven additional forecasting challenges
         1. Spatial forecast challenge forecasting recovery following forest fires using MODIS LAI led by CI/Methods working group
         2. USGS Stream ChlA forecasts
         3. VERA - forecasts for 2 reservoirs in Virginia
         4. Shrubland density dynamics in Doñana National Park
         5. Boston University
            a. Tropical Disease (Brazil)
            b. Urban air quality (Boston)
            c. Marine Chl a (Gulf of Maine)
      iii. There is a goal to develop a Cyberinfrastructure Handbook that provides CI design principles and best practices, serving as a comprehensive guide suitable for both beginners and experienced forecasters.

3. Undergrad Training with a Predictive Focus (Ugrd Prdctv Trning)
   Status: Ongoing
   a. Develop new educational materials to shift undergraduate training toward a predictive focus. To a certain extent, existing EFI-adjacent activities (individual courses, the RCN NEON Forecasting Challenge, Project EDDIE, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation funding, etc) can begin to fill these gaps, but this will remain a persistent challenge until targeted resources become available. For this reason, EFI members have and should continue to seek resources and opportunities to fill these gaps.

4. EFI Course (EFI Course)
   Status: New project added in 2026.
   a. Develop a course for graduate students, postdocs, and early career level, based on previous short courses held by EFI, including the short course held at Boston University four times, and courses in Norway (2019), Canada (2023), and South Africa (2025). Following the last NEON Summit (2025), Mike Dietze (Boston University) proposed a distributed course, but progress has stalled.

Fill Ins

5. Compilation of Educational Resources (EDU Resources)
   Status: Fairly complete, but there are opportunities for updating
   a. The EFI Education working group identified a need to identify and organize the suite of educational resources already available to the community around ecological forecasting to serve as a community resource and to help prioritize gap-filling activities.
   b. Resources were compiled in 2023 and made available on the EFI website as a publication, and in QUBES
      i. Willson, A.M., Gallo, H., Peters, J.A., Abeyta, A., Bueno Watts, N., Carey, C.C., Moore, T.N., Smies, G., Thomas, R.Q., Woelmer, W.M. and McLachlan, J.S. 2023. Assessing opportunities and inequities in undergraduate ecological forecasting education. Ecology and Evolution 13, e10001. https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.10001
   c. Additional resources should continue to be added to the list started in 2023 as they are found and/or created
   d. The EFI Education and DEI working groups are following up on the "EFI University for Everyone" working group at the EFI2025 Conference by assessing educational resources for their accessibility and use for personal, independent, formal in-class, and informal group learning. A goal of this assessment is to start providing recommendations for forecasting curriculum
   e. These activities also provide input for the MSI Student Mentoring and Undergraduate Training Modules Major Projects.

6. Support Forecasting-related Journal Special Issues (Jrnl Special Issues)
   Status: Ongoing
   a. Special issues promote the work being done in the field of ecological forecasting
   b. In progress:
      i. AGU/ESA Joint Special Issue - Ecological Forecasting in the Earth System
   c. Special issues that are complete:
      i. Methods in Ecology and Evolution - Methods in Ecological Forecasting
      ii. MDPI Forecasting - Near-Term Ecological Forecasting
      iii. Meteorological Application & Climate Resilience and Sustainability Joint Special Issue - For a future informed by science at the climate-ecology interface

Luxuries

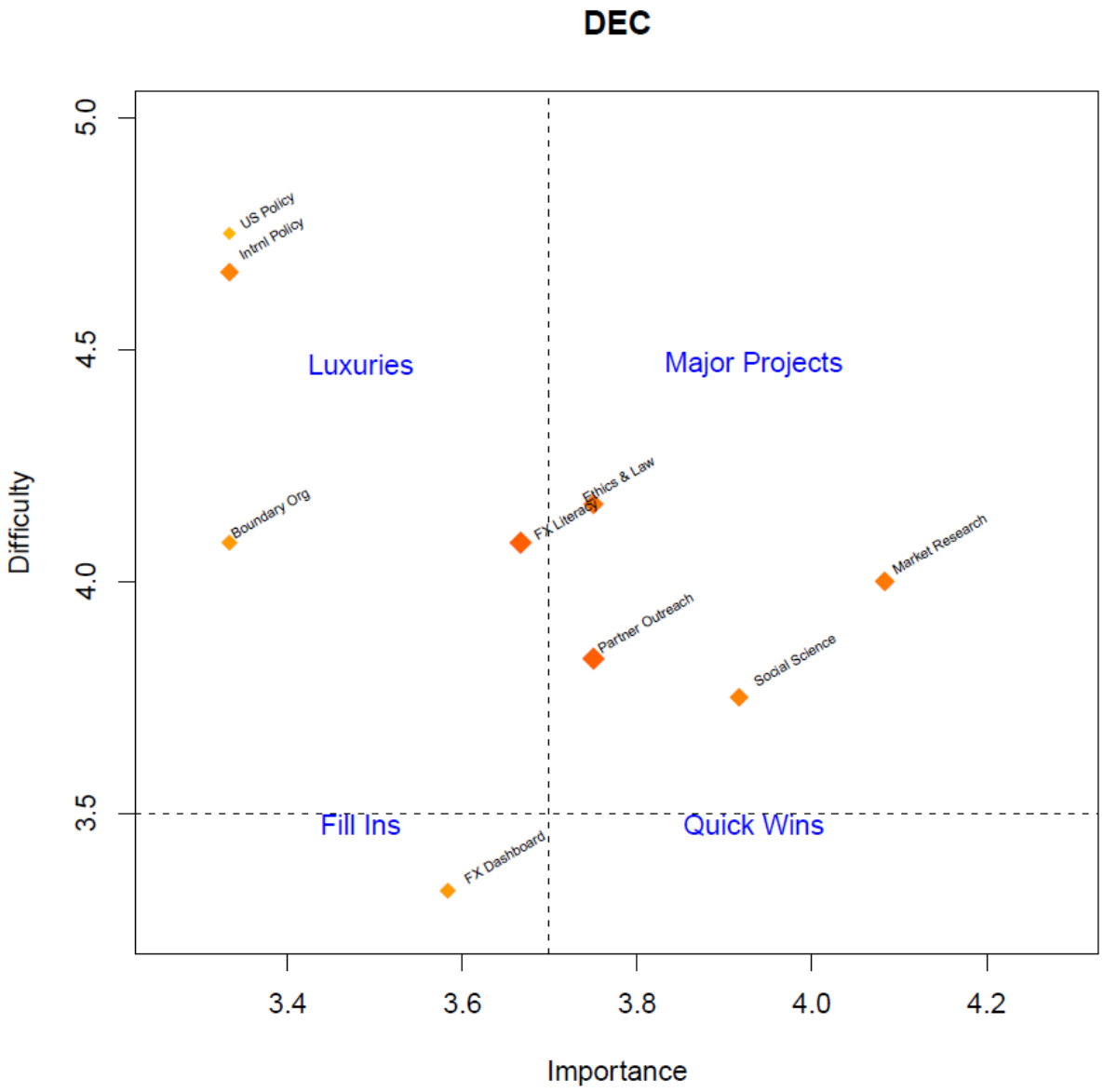
7. Server (Server)
   Status: Ongoing
   a. Building on the Cyberinfrastructure already developed for the RCN NEON Forecasting Challenge, stand up a computer server to act as a clearinghouse for ecological forecasts. This serves a need identified by the Standards working group for a place where automated forecasts could be pushed to in the short

term, and redistributed in a standard format and API. Importantly, this would not be a long-term archive, but rather forecasts could be bundled here and submitted to archives under periodic releases (e.g., annual)

b. Quinn Thomas (Virginia Tech) and Carl Boettiger (University of California, Berkeley) have set up a Spatiotemporal Assets Catalog (STAC) describing forecasts and scores for the challenges that follow the NEON Forecasting Challenge infrastructure

8. Stand up an Ecological Forecasting Journal (FX Journal)
   Status: Not Started
   a. Develop an ecological forecasting scientific journal

DEC: Improve Decisions



Quick Wins

1. There are no Quick Wins in the DEC theme

Major Projects

2. Ethics & Law (Ethics & Law)
   Status: Ongoing as interests arise

a. Work to formalize forecast ethics & better understand forecast legal status. For example, EFI might host a joint workshop/symposium with ESA, AGU, and AMS. Any guidelines developed would need to be generated through an inclusive approach.
b. Two ethics-related projects from the past few years:
    i. Lewis, et al. 2023. Ethics in ecological forecasting: four case-based teaching modules. Teaching Issues and Experiments in Ecology, Vol. 19: Practice #13. https://tiee.esa.org/vol/v19/issues/case_studies/lewis/abstract.html
    ii. The short-term Ethics working group was created in 2025 in response to a request for input from the community. The working group developed a document with examples of ethical dilemmas and recommendations. Feedback from the SC will be incorporated, and then the document will be shared with the EFI community with plans to further develop it into a manuscript.

3. Expand connections with Social Science (Social Science)
   Status: Ongoing
    a. Increase the number of social scientists in EFI
        i. Social Science and Ecoforecasting Award (2024,2025) - experiment by the Translation Working Group to make connections to social scientists.

4. Partner Outreach (Partner Outreach)
   Status: Ongoing as interests arise
    a. EFI is decent at academic and agency outreach, but is less developed for industry and NGO outreach. DEI would be a key part of all outreach activities.
    b. There are 8 partner organizations listed on EFI's website so far. No new organizations have been added in over three years.
    c. Seems like there is overlap between Partner Outreach and Boundary Organization

5. Market research (Market Research)
   Status: New project added in 2026
    a. Better understand the current supply and demand of ecological forecasts, the consumer needs, the potential for private finance, and the companies already operating in this space.
    b. Jason McLachlan (University of Notre Dame) is exploring potential connections to help with this.

Fill Ins

6. Dashboard of Forecasts (FX Dashboard)
   Status: Ongoing
    a. Have a dashboard of forecasts that people can always go to. This could be built

on the Server idea above, or could be an upgrade to our existing forecast project listing.
   b. This is covered by both the STAC and the NEON Challenge dashboard, which has been applied to other forecasting challenges

Luxuries

7. US Policy & Federal Agencies (US Policy)
   Status: Ongoing
   a. This has been on hold during the current US federal administration. But prior to that, there had been a series of round table discussions led by EFI with multiple agency participants. The EFI Cyberinfrastructure Workshop, led by Jake Zwart (USGS) and co-hosted by EFI and NERACOOS at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in April 2024, came out of those discussions. See this Qurato website https://projects.ecoforecast.org/efi-ci-workshop-2024/ with a summary of the workshop materials and recommendations.
   b. Plans are being discussed to potentially host 1 or 2 workshops to 1) complete a Cyberinfrastructure handbook started at the 2024 workshop and 2) convene government agencies to consider challenges and opportunities in transitioning ecological forecasts from research to products and projects beneficial to society as a whole, with a focus on advancing R2X pathways.

8. International Policy Advocacy (Intrnl Policy)
   Status: Ongoing
   a. Mirrors the “US Policy,” but extends the need for advocacy beyond the US.
   b. 2024 publication that highlights the global demand for ecological forecasts: Dietze et al. “Near-term Ecological Forecasting for Climate Change Action” Nature Climate Change. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-024-02182-0
   c. International chapters may provide more opportunities for this activity

9. Boundary Organization (Boundary Org)
   Status: Not started
   a. Boundary organizations are those that facilitate collaboration and communication among research disciplines and between scientific and non-scientific (e.g. policy) communities. Becoming a boundary organization will help EFI connect people creating forecasts with those who want to use forecasts to guide their work. Doing so would bring some of the matchmaking that normally happens within small personal networks into the open and could help increase DEI within EFI. Right now, if you're not already connected to a group that does the forecasting, it's hard to know who to ask or where to start with getting something going.
   b. The Translation Working Group has a list of funding sources for co-producing actionable science, but nothing has been added recently

10. Forecast literacy campaign(s) (FX Literacy)
    Status: New project added in 2025. Not started
    a. If we want forecasts to be truly useful, we need to build more trust and understanding outside of academia—especially with policymakers, community groups, and the public.
    b. We could create some public-friendly materials (infographics, short videos, school programs, games) to explain uncertainty, how forecasts are used, and their limits.