

CHARTER
of the
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND SUSTAINABILITY
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

A. Official Designation

The Subcommittee on Ecological Systems (SES) is hereby reestablished by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability (CENRS).

B. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the SES is to facilitate understanding of, and innovative management solutions for, sustaining resilient and productive terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and the services they provide to society. The SES will accomplish this by fostering interagency coordination of research and development (R&D), demonstration, and monitoring programs and projects.

C. Functions

1. Identify and prioritize scientific research and monitoring needs related to: biological diversity; the structure, function, resilience, and vulnerability of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems; interrelationships between the human and natural elements of systems; and natural resource occurrence, productivity, and management options;
2. Develop multi-agency research strategies on ecological systems, emphasizing natural resource sustainability, ecosystem service valuation, innovative management options, and information technologies;
3. Identify and support innovative interagency demonstrations and pilot projects to foster rapid translation of research findings into natural resource management benefits to the public and private sector;
4. Provide a vehicle for interagency communication on activities related to ecological systems;
5. As requested by the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, consider policy topics related to natural resources and ecological systems.

Consistent with SES endorsement, the SES Co-chairs will recommend strategies on R&D and policy issues relating to ecological systems to the CENRS and the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, for approval.

D. Membership and Structure

The following NSTC departments and agencies are represented on the SES:

Department of Agriculture (Co-Chair);
Department of Commerce;
Department of Defense;
Department of Energy;
Department of Health and Human Services;
Department of the Interior (Co-Chair);
Department of State;
Environmental Protection Agency;
National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
National Science Foundation; and
Smithsonian Institution.

The following components of the Executive Office of the President are also represented on the SES:

Council on Environmental Quality;
Office of Management and Budget; and
Office of Science and Technology Policy (Co-Chair).

Cooperating departments and agencies may include such other Executive branch organizations, departments, and agencies as the SES Co-chairs may, from time to time, designate. The SES will also strive to enhance the Federal research and development enterprise by embracing diversity, recognizing that inclusion of a broad range of backgrounds and perspectives is critical to achieving robust intellectual dialogue.

E. Private-Sector Interface

The SES may consult with the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) to secure appropriate private-sector advice and will recommend to the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability and/or the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology the nature of additional private-sector¹ advice needed to accomplish its mission. The SES may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

F. Termination

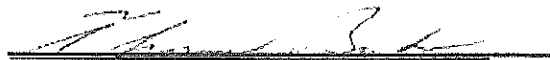
Unless renewed by the Co-chairs of the CENRS prior to its expiration, the SES shall terminate no later than June 30, 2017.

¹ The Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., as amended, does not explicitly define "private sector," but the phrase is generally understood to include individuals or entities outside the Federal government such as, but not limited to, the following: non-Federal sources, academia, State, local or Tribal governments, individual citizens, the public, non-governmental organizations, industry associations, and international bodies.

G. Determination

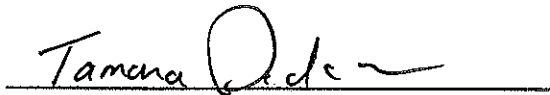
I hereby determine that reestablishment of the Subcommittee on Ecological Systems is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:



Thomas Burke
Co-chair of the CENRS, and
Deputy Assistant Administrator for Research and Development and
Science Advisor
Environmental Protection Agency

7/6/16
Date



Tamara Dickinson
Co-chair of the CENRS, and
Principal Assistant Director for Environment and Energy
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President

7/25/16
Date



Kathryn Sullivan
Co-chair of the CENRS, and
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and
Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Department of Commerce

JUL 12 2016
Date

