



2018 Biodiversity and Ecological Forecasting Team Meeting  
Embassy Suites by Hilton, Washington DC Convention Center



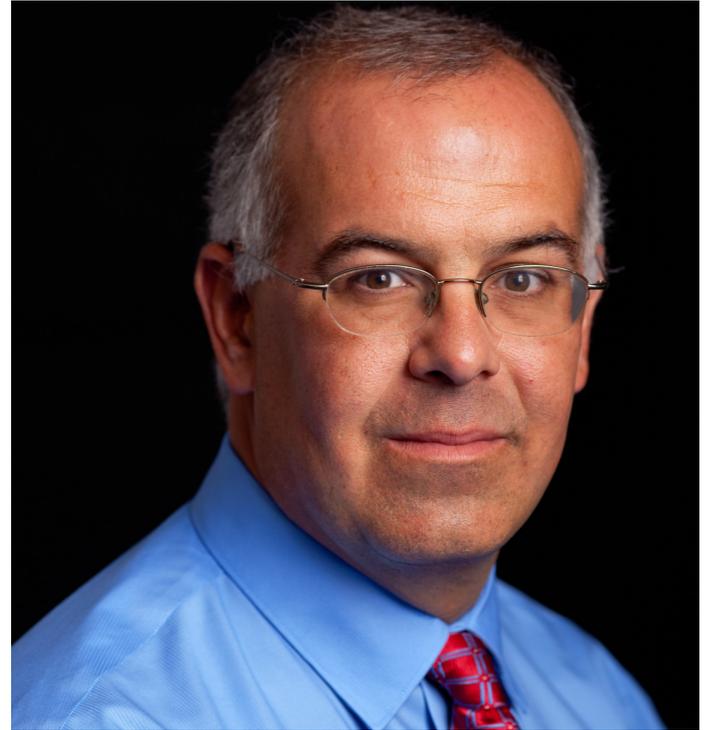
# Why Are We Doing This? How Are We Doing This?

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# Commitment

- We all need a sense of purpose, a commitment, to something(s).
- By commitment, we mean a promise to something outside ourselves
- It provides the “why” we do something, even why we get out of bed in the morning.
- Commitments give us energy and the heart to keep going through life’s ups and downs. Knowing “why” we’re doing something enables us to handle setbacks.
- Our commitments give life meaning and sustain us. Ultimately, they form our character.
- Brooks outlines 4 commitments: *family, vocation, faith/philosophy, community*
- What are we called to do? What are we committed to?



**David Brooks**

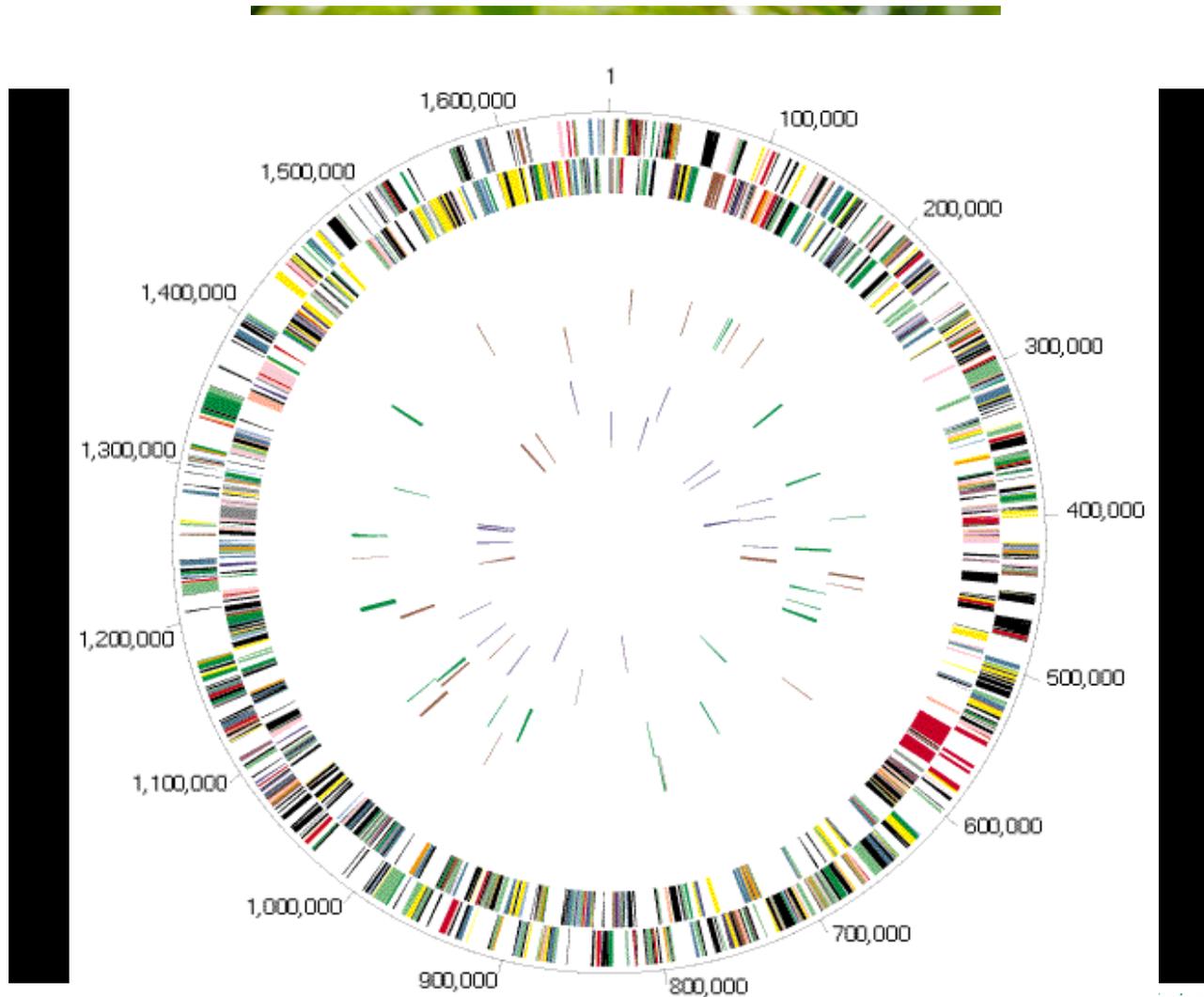
(Source: <http://news.unca.edu/articles/new-york-times-columnist-david-brooks>)

# What Is Our Commitment?

- Understanding and Saving Life on Earth
  - Biological Diversity Program
  - Ecological Forecasting Program

# What Is Our Perspective?

- Global to Local



(Tomb et al. in *Nature* **388**, 539–547 (07 August 1997))

*uring*)

# What Are Our Tools?

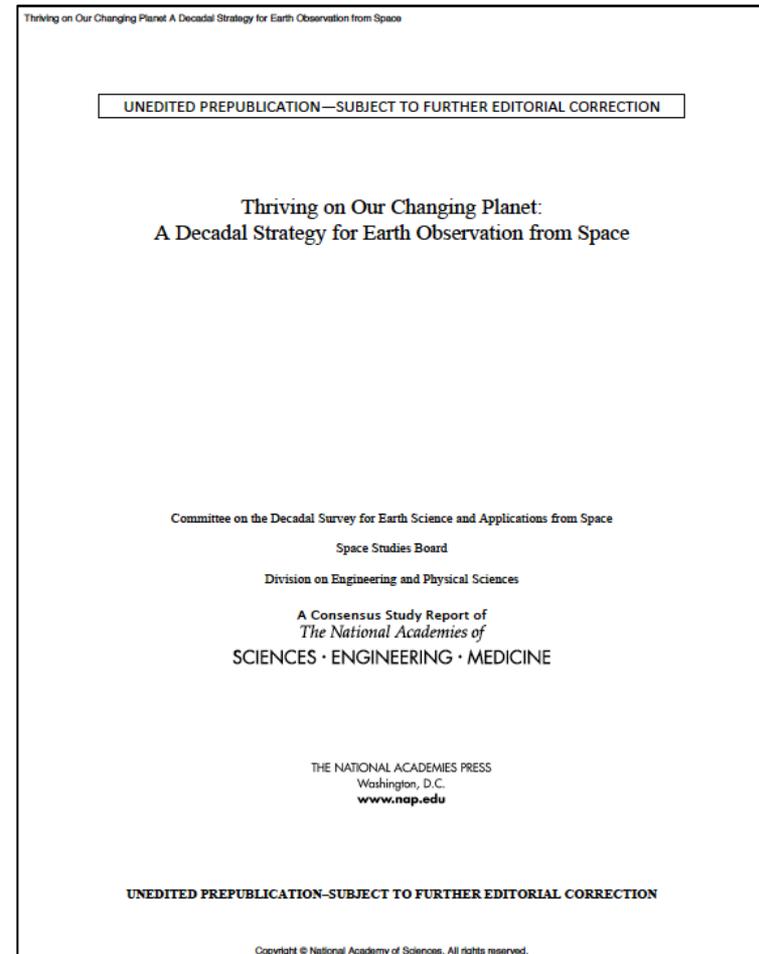
Observations-Models-Data Management-High Performance Computing-Machine Learning



Courtesy: SUNY Stony Brook/Heather Lynch and Team

# What Is Our Plan?

- Decadal Survey
- Advanced Planning



**Thank You**