

CONTACT:

LoriAnne Barnett

520-621-1803

lorianne@usanpn.org

First White House Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science event highlights exemplary

University of Arizona-based program. WASHINGTON, District of Columbia (October

8, 2015) – “The benefits of citizen science and crowdsourcing are many. Citizen science and crowdsourcing enable research at large geographic scales and over long periods of time in ways that professional scientists working alone could not easily duplicate.”

These remarks were made by President Obama’s Science and Technology advisor John Holdren at the September 30 White House live-webcast forum, “Open Science and Innovation: Of the People, By the People, For the People.” The forum highlighted the professional and citizen science program *Nature’s Notebook* (www.nn.usanpn.org) of the US Geological Survey-sponsored USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN, www.usanpn.org), which is housed at the School of Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of Arizona. The forum, organized by the White House Office of Science Technology and Policy (OSTP) and the Domestic Policy Council, brought together stakeholders from local, state, Federal and Tribal governments, as well as various other researchers and representatives from the public and private sector.

The forum coincided with the release of the Federal Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science (CCS) Toolkit, with the purpose of helping Federal agencies design, carry out, and manage projects of this nature. The CCS Toolkit (www.crowdsourcing-toolkit.sites.usa.gov), developed in close collaboration between OSTP and the Federal CCS Community of Practice, is one component of the Open Innovation Toolkit, which includes a memo (www.usanpn.org/files/shared/files/holdren_citizen_science_memo_092915_0.pdf) from President Obama’s Science and Technology advisor John Holdren to the heads of executive departments and agencies. *Nature’s Notebook* was highlighted as a successful citizen science program that illustrates the benefits of enhancing scientific research, addressing societal needs, and providing hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) learning opportunities while increasing STEM literacy. *Nature’s Notebook* was also the first example highlighted by John Holdren in his plenary presentation during the White House forum. The USA-NPN will work with its various federal, state, and local partners to use the Toolkit to incorporate citizen science into their programs. For more information, contact info@usanpn.org.

###