1. *Program/Activity Name:*
   - **SIMNRE Working Group – NRCS Chair, Dr. Jeff Goebel**
     (Sample Inventory and Monitoring of Natural Resources and Environment)

2. *What are the specific federal programs this data supports?*
   - The Federal Government currently funds several national probability surveys to monitor the status and trends of terrestrial natural resources. These surveys are essential because complete enumeration is generally not feasible.
   - Within USDA, data coordination and integration efforts mainly include the National Resource Inventory (NRI), the Forest Inventory and Assessment (FIA), and various activities of the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS).
   - Data are used to assess environmental trending, predict production capabilities, and assist in long-term strategic planning and policy development for natural resources.

3. *Uses of Data: How does your data benefit customers and support agency missions?*
   - Statistically sampled natural resource data are used to determine environmental trending and in turn assist in long-term strategic planning and assessment for resource management.
   - Data provide status and trends for variety of natural resources health indicators such as loss of farmland and forestland to urban development, farmland health, wetlands and participation rates of specific government sponsored resource programs.
   - Data products are accessible via the Internet.

4. *Charter/Plan: Do you have a current charter or plan for collection? If so - please describe (include how recently the charter/plan was implemented and whether it is in need of update).*
   - Charter exists but is in need of review and possible update.
   - Merger with the Sustainable Forest Working Group was discussed in 2002 but not adopted.

5. *Metadata Status: Is metadata discoverable and served through the NSDI Clearinghouse? What percentage of this theme's data has metadata and is in a Clearinghouse node?*
   - The SIMNRE Working Group initially addressed the development of standards for natural resources inventory techniques and monitoring efforts rather than database development. Consequently there is no specific theme for which to generate metadata.
   - Metadata exists for datasets which exemplify SIMNRE such as the Forest Inventory Assessment program and the National Resources Inventory System; however they are not accessible through the NSDI Clearinghouse. Derivative thematic products are available from the Internet. http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/land/

6. *Standards: What is the status of this theme's data, process, transfer, and classification standards?*
   - Standards are in preliminary stage.
   - Process standards exist but vary slightly based on program. No formal discussion of process standard has been addressed within the membership.
   - Transfer standard will follow recognized data exchange protocols.

7. *Progress: List FY 2002/2003 activities/progress to date (quantify where possible).*
   - Activities during 2002and 2003 have focused on coordination of NRI and FIA in Minnesota. This work follows findings previously published by SIMNRE. Document entitled "Integrating Surveys of Natural Resources: The Oregon Demonstration Project."

- ➢ Coordination activities involve NRCS, U.S. Forest Service, Minnesota DNR and USGS – EDC.
- ➢ Investigated ways to strengthen Multi Resolution Land Characteristic Consortium Data (MRLC) with survey data.
- ➢ Initiated joint work with Sustainable Forests working Group and Vegetation Subcommittee regarding standardization of definitions/concepts for forest and rangeland.

8. *Policy: Do you have a formal agency policy in place for full and open access or data sharing? Are you able to fulfill this policy and provide public access with your current agency financial resources as allocated or are you in pursuit of collaborative federal partnerships to support data access?*
- ➢ Data access and information policies vary by program. In some cases raw data are not available due to privacy issues; however customers are provided tools to derive generalized data or are provided with the product requested.
- ➢ The group has addressed and will continue to address data access and privacy issues.

9. *Are there areas or issues regarding lead responsibilities for spatial data themes that require attention, or lessons-learned that you would like to share with others? Please describe.*
- ➢ We have none to report.