

- LEAD AGENCY/BUREAU AND/OR SUBCOMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP REPORT (Agencies with Lead Responsibilities Assigned under the new Circular A-16 in Appendix E - <http://www.fgdc.gov/publications/a16final.html#appendix>) (Please provide a separate report for each activity for which you have the lead)

1. *Program/Activity Name:*

- **Spatial Climate Subcommittee – NRCS Chair, Dr Greg Johnson (until Dec. 31, 2004, see item #8 for new Chair info)**

2. *What are the specific federal programs this data supports?*

- Broad programmatic support in numerous agencies within USDA, DOC, DOD, DOI, and many state and local governments. This also includes programs administered by the USDA/CSREES through land-grant university extension and educational programs.
- Within USDA these spatial climate data sets support the National Resources Inventory (NRI), the Conservation Effects Assessment Program (CEAP), the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), National Cooperative Soil Survey Program (NCSS) and others.

3. *Uses of Data: How does your data benefit customers and support agency missions?*

- Used for assessing natural processes, such as soil erosion and wetlands determinations, and for mapping soils.
- Also used for analyzing the effectiveness of resource management options.
- Used by customers for assessing potential agricultural production, and for analyzing environmental trends.
- Primary use is for determining local climatology, natural resource assessments and supporting planning activities.

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).*

- Yes, no need for update.
- The Subcommittee was created in May 2000, and the charter was approved in October 2000.

5. *Performance Measures: Does your agency have performance measures for your data theme? If so, please list the measures and whether you achieved your goals.*

- Not specifically for spatial climate, though informally deadlines have been established for the creation of new decadal climate normals maps, specifically of precipitation and temperature. A goal was 2005 for these, and we are on target to achieve that.

6. *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?*

- Yes. Metadata have been developed for nearly all climatic themes presently available (mean monthly and annual precipitation and temperature, for example). Documentation efforts continue to cover themes lacking information. Metadata for official NRCS spatial climate layers are available from: www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/climate/prism.html
- The exact percentage cannot be provided since multiple themes exist under the general category of spatial climate, however it is likely that 90% or more has readily available metadata. A simple query to the Clearinghouse results in thousands of data listings related to climate. All of the NRCS spatial climate products have up-to-date metadata.

7. *Standards: What is the status of this theme's data, process, transfer, and classification standards?*
 - Standards will be addressed in the near future.
 - Existing, recognized standards will be reviewed and used where appropriate.
 - Full FGDC metadata standards are presently the subcommittee-endorsed protocol for spatial climate data and are widely used to document existing climate themes.

8. *Progress: List FY 2004 activities/progress to date (quantify where possible).*
 - The subcommittee did not formally meet in 2003-2004. However, considerable progress continues in development of spatial climate data sets and infrastructure at the participating institutions.
 - Development of new spatial climate data sets, including new 1971-2000 precipitation and temperature averages maps of all portions of the U.S. is now being conducted by the NRCS, in conjunction with the Spatial Climate Analysis Service at Oregon State University.
 - New subcommittee leadership effective Jan. 1, 2005 will be Phil Pasteris of the NRCS National Water and Climate Center, Portland, with support from Chris Daly and George Taylor at Oregon State University.
 - Subcommittee web page has been maintained and future web page direction now being discussed. See: <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/fgdc/subcommittee/>.
 - Presently 15 subcommittee members—10 Federal and 5 University/State.
 - Definition of climate included in 2002 revision of OMB Circular A-16.
 - Prioritization and coordination of spatial climate data set development across agencies presently a subcommittee goal.

9. *Participation: Participating Federal Agencies:*
 - USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - USDC-NOAA
 - DOD-Army
 - DOD-Air Force
 - Tennessee Valley Authority

10. *Planned Activities: What are your planned activities for 2005?*
 - New leadership from Phil Pasteris at the USDA-NRCS National Water and Climate Center.
 - Review of new 1971-2000 precipitation and temperature normals maps in 2005.
 - Subcommittee will play key role in review of products, assurance of standards, and in advertising new products to users.

11. *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?*
 - No formal policy. Subcommittee fully endorses the concept of open access to fully-government-funded spatial climate data sets.
 - Subcommittee seeks to form alliances with state, local and private entities involved in spatial climate data development to ensure information about data access is fully known.

12. *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.*

- Base funding for spatial climate development within the federal government is a significant issue. Most funding to date for these activities has been via special projects, without substantial collaboration between departments and agencies. In general, funding has been inadequate to meet the significant demands for these products within and outside the Federal government. This will be a goal of the subcommittee—to help ensure that adequate funding for these projects can be obtained, and that cooperation between agencies is realized. The updating of precipitation frequency map products by the National Weather Service, in collaboration with many other Federal agencies, and other public and private entities, serves as a prime example of this issue.