

Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	xiii
1. SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE 1982 NRI	1
Uses of the 1982 NRI	2
Information from the 1982 NRI	7
2. IMPROVING FEDERAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT EFFORTS	19
Compilation and Dissemination of NRI Data	21
Use of Sensing Technologies in Future NRIs	26
Expansion of NRI Coverage to Federal Lands	30
Inclusion of Data Related to Water Quality	31
3. THE MEASURES OF SOIL EROSION	34
NRI Estimates of Sheet and Rill Erosion: The USLE	35
Wind Erosion Estimates	54
Erosion by Concentrated Flow: Ephemeral Gullies	59

4. ON-FARM AND OFF-FARM CONSEQUENCES OF SOIL EROSION	62
Effects of Erosion on Production Costs	63
Erosion-Productivity Models	68
Soil Erosion and Water Quality	72
5. ASSESSING CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND LAND CLASSIFICATION SCHEMES	75
Conservation Practices	75
The Land Capability Class System	85
Alternative Land Classification Schemes	91
REFERENCES	95
APPENDIX	99
INDEX	111