

Dear Dr.(researcher's name),

I am writing to you in reference to a NSF awarded project in which you were the primary investigator. I am conducting a survey to roughly assess the data production and data management practices of the ecological community. The study will ask questions regarding data production from the primary investigators of various NSF awarded projects. This survey will contribute to knowledge about data management for the DataONE Project (www.dataone.org).

The goals of the survey are: 1) to estimate the amount of data produced by Ecology researchers and more importantly identify the amount of data at risk of being unused and invisible to the ecological community, 2) to better understand the extent of data sharing, data reuse, and data management practices among Ecology researchers.

The survey will be conducted via telephone interview. The interview will take approximately 30-45 minutes to complete. While this survey will be conducted through an interview, a record of your participation will be maintained. I plan on maximizing the usefulness of this research by making a subset of the interview responses openly available in a data repository. However, I assure you that I will maintain confidentiality of participants by aggregating or obfuscating any responses that could otherwise facilitate identification.

If you are willing to participate please respond to this email and include a schedule of possible dates and times within the next month that is most convenient for you. Please also include your preferred contact number. I will contact you within the next few days to confirm an appropriate time for the interview.

I recognize that your time is valuable, but I hope that your participation will ultimately lead to better practices of data sharing, data reuse, and data management which will benefit the ecological community in numerous ways.

If you have any questions about the interview or this project, feel free to contact me. E-mail: mychang@uail.ucsb.edu

Sincerely,

Michelle Chang
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DataONE and National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS)