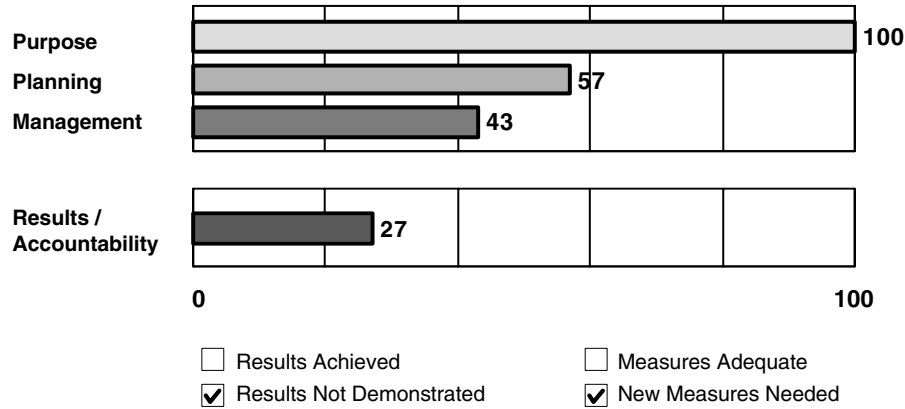


Program: USDA Wildland Fire Management

Agency: Department of Agriculture

Bureau: Forest Service



Key Performance Measures

Year Target Actual

Measure Description	Year	Target	Actual
Long-term Measure: Number of high priority acres moved to a better condition class Measures the extent to which excessive fuel loads (small trees and brush that exacerbate risks of catastrophic fire) are reduced and forest health is improved (New measure, targets under development)			
Annual Measure: Number of high priority acres treated in (1) the wildland urban interface (WUI) or (2) in condition classes 2 or 3 outside the WUI Measures acres treated to reduce fire risk in areas adjacent to communities and in other high-priority areas. (New measure, targets under development)			
Efficiency Measure: Number of high priority acres treated in (1) the wildland urban interface (WUI) or (2) in condition classes 2 or 3 outside the WUI per million dollars of gross investment (New measure, targets under development)			

Rating: Results Not Demonstrated

Program Type: Direct Federal

Program Summary:

The Forest Service is responsible for managing and, if necessary, extinguishing fires on the lands it owns and on other lands through agreements. The program consists of five major activities: (1) fire preparedness, (2) fire suppression, (3) hazardous fuels reduction, (4) burned area rehabilitation, and (5) state and community fire assistance.

The assessment found that the program faces significant obstacles in meeting its long-term goals, most of which appear to be management challenges. A number of management changes are currently underway at the Forest Service to address these issues. Specific findings include:

1. The purpose and design of the program is clear and well-focused.
2. The cost of responding to fires is rapidly rising and no systematic cost containment strategy is in place to track and control firefighting efficiency.
3. Although the Forest Service has taken substantive steps to improve the hazardous fuels program (the removal of excess wood to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire), more effort is needed to demonstrate that fuels reduction activities are adequately targeted and efficiently managed.
4. The long-term goals developed as part of the 10-Year Fire Strategy still require baseline data, annual and long-term targets, and clear prioritization among the four goals and 18 measures.

Based on the identified problems in the program, the Administration will implement management improvements in the fire program, including:

1. Developing a real-time obligations system to improve the accountability of firefighting costs and accuracy of wildland fire obligations.
2. Improving accountability for firefighting costs and ensuring that states are paying their fair share of such costs.
3. Developing a new fire preparedness model that focuses on efficient allocation of available resources.
4. Establishing project criteria that is consistent with the 10-Year Implementation Strategy to ensure that hazardous fuels reduction funds are targeted as effectively as possible to reduce risks to communities in the wildland-urban interface.

(For more information on this program, please see the Department of Agriculture chapter in the Budget volume.)

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

2002 Actual	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate
1,560	1,369	1,542