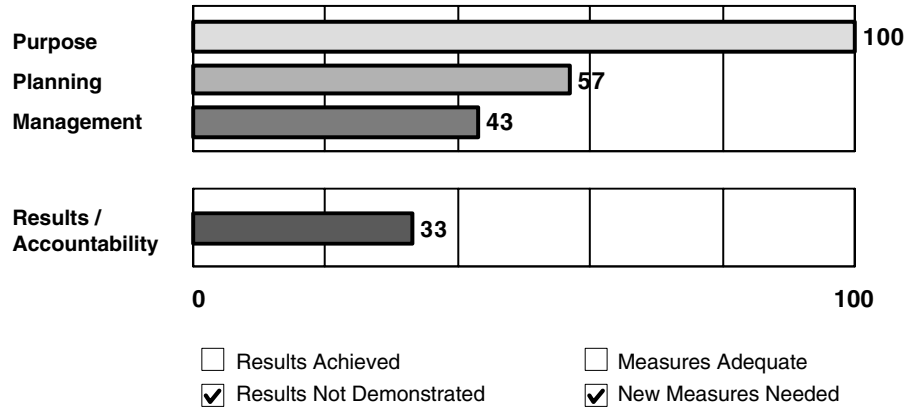


**Program: DOI Wildland Fire Management**

**Agency:** Department of the Interior

**Bureau:** Bureau of Land Management



**Key Performance Measures**

**Year Target Actual**

Measure Description	Year	Target	Actual
<b>Long-Term Measure:</b> 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)			
<b>Annual Measure:</b> 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)			
<b>Efficiency Measure:</b> 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:**

DOI is responsible for managing and, if necessary, extinguishing fires on the lands it owns. The program consists of five major activities: (1) fire preparedness, (2) fire suppression, (3) hazardous fuels reduction, (4) burned area rehabilitation, and (5) rural fire district 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 Department 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. The program cannot demonstrate that fuels reduction (removal of excess wood) activities are adequately targeted and efficiently managed. For instance, a significant amount of fuels reduction funding (\$56 million) remains unused from prior years.
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 4 goals and 18 measures.

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

1. Improving accountability for firefighting costs and ensuring that states are paying their fair share of such costs.
2. Developing a new fire preparedness model that focuses on efficient allocation of available resources.
3. Establishing project criteria to ensure that hazardous fuels reduction funds are targeted as effectively as possible to reduce risks to communities in the wildland-urban interface.

**Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)**

<u>2002 Actual</u>	<u>2003 Estimate</u>	<u>2004 Estimate</u>
678	654	699