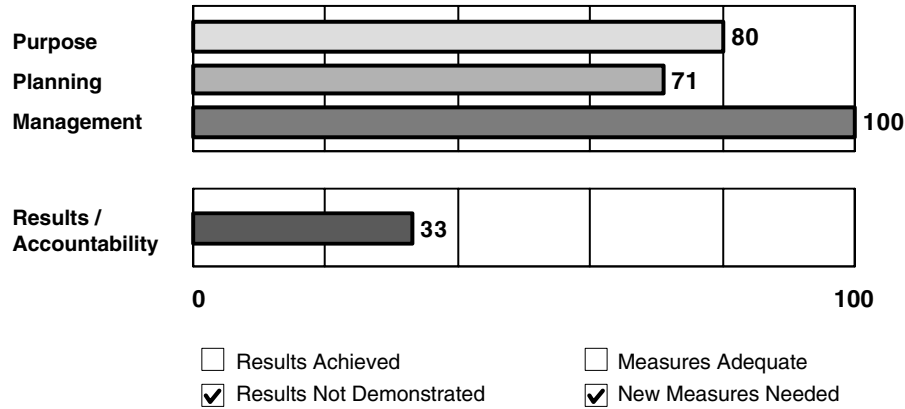


Program: *Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program*

Agency: *Department of Agriculture*

Bureau: *Natural Resources Conservation Service*



Key Performance Measures

Year Target Actual

Measure	Year	Target	Actual
Long-term Measure: Measures under development			
Annual Measure: Number of acres where wildlife habitat management measures were applied	2002	384,432	325,685
Annual Measure: Number of acres of wetland habitat created, restored, or enhanced	2002	6,880	6,767

Rating: *Results Not Demonstrated*

Program Type: *Direct Federal*

Program Summary:

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) provides cost-share payments of up to 75 percent to landowners to enhance wildlife habitat. Improvements are made to both upland and wetland habitats, and are often used to benefit threatened and endangered species. The 2002 farm bill provided WHIP annual mandatory funding, and the program's funding increases from \$26 million in 2003 to \$48 million in 2004.

Overall, the results of the PART indicated that the program is managed in an effective manner. WHIP prioritizes funding for rare, threatened, and endangered fish and wildlife. In addition, WHIP leverages significant resources from conservation partners and often acts as a seed source for additional habitat projects. Other findings include:

1. WHIP could be more effective if its program purpose was more specific and narrowly focused.
2. Possible overlap exists between WHIP and other conservation programs administered by the Department of Agriculture, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Wetlands Reserve Program.
3. The program does not have a limited number of ambitious, long-term performance goals that focus on outcomes.
4. The PART identified no independent and quality evaluations of WHIP.
5. The low results section score is primarily due to a lack of outcome-based performance indicators and independent, quality evaluations.

Based upon the PART review, the agency will:

1. Work to develop outcome-based performance measures and targets.
2. Conduct an internal, in-depth review of WHIP during 2003 by a departmental Oversight & Evaluation team.
3. The Administration requests an increase in the agency's discretionary appropriation in 2004 to design and implement an evaluation system that will provide outcome performance indicators for farm bill conservation programs, such as WHIP.

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

<u>2002 Actual</u>	<u>2003 Estimate</u>	<u>2004 Estimate</u>
15	26	48