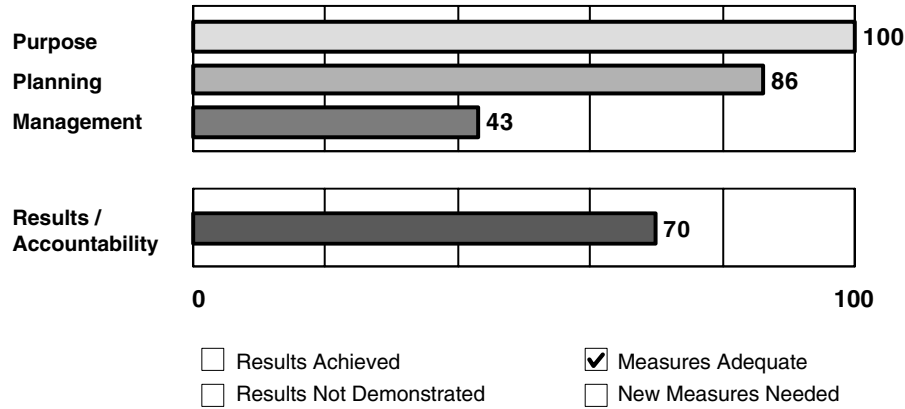


Program: *National Park Service Natural Resource Challenge*

Agency: *Department of the Interior*

Bureau: *National Park Service*



Key Performance Measures

Year Target Actual

Long-term Measure: Percent of 270 national parks that use monitoring networks to track key "vital signs" parameters (Vital signs are the key indicators that best represent how an overall ecosystem is doing.)	2002		0%
	2004	4%	
	2006	37%	
	2008	80%	
Annual Measure: Percent of the total of 2,767 data sets completed (Data sets consist of 12 basic inventories of natural resources, such as vegetation, soil, and water chemistry.)	2002	27%	28%
	2003	41%	49%
	2004	54%	
	2005	56%	
Annual Measure: Percent of 990 federally listed species found in national parks that are in stable or improving condition	2002	32%	32%
	2003	33%	
	2004	33%	
	2005	34%	

Rating: *Moderately Effective*

Program Type: *Direct Federal*

Program Summary:

The NPS Natural Resource Challenge monitors the quality of natural resources, such as wildlife habitat, in 270 of the Nation's national parks. The President made a commitment to support this program, arguing that "park managers must have access to the best scientific research about the ecosystems they manage."

The PART found that the Challenge has a well-planned process for parks in 32 monitoring networks to collect data, monitor resources, and establish performance measures. NPS will have in place 25 networks by the end of 2004. The Results rating is not as high as it could be because the program is still new. In particular, the PART concluded that:

1. The purpose of the program is very well defined.
2. Strategic planning is excellent. The program aims precisely at long-standing gaps in information on natural resources.
3. Management of the program is adequate, but the Park Service needs to address broader weaknesses in finance and other management issues.
4. Results have not yet been fully demonstrated, because the program is so new. There will be more evidence of results next year.

In response to these findings, the Administration will:

1. Provide \$76 million in 2004 (+\$8 million over 2003) for the program, keeping this Presidential commitment on track.
2. Coordinate performance measures in the program with ongoing changes to the Department's overall strategic plan.
3. Continue efforts to improve overall Park Service management in finance, contracting, and other areas.
4. Establish efficiency measures.

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

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

<u>2002 Actual</u>	<u>2003 Estimate</u>	<u>2004 Estimate</u>
50	68	76