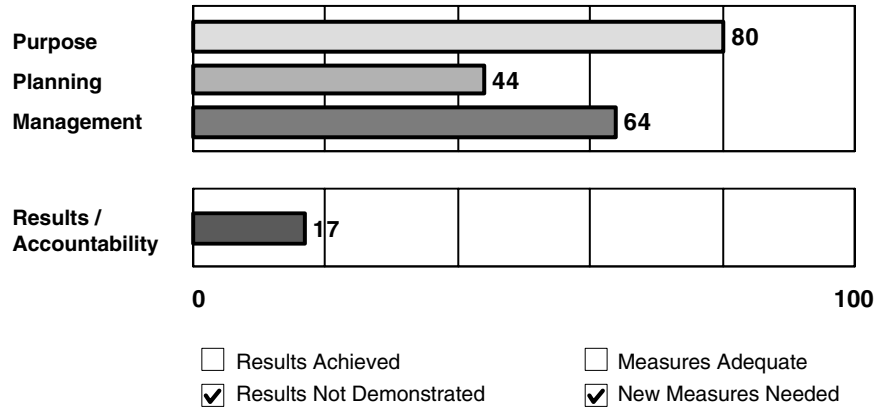


Program: *Non-regulatory Wetlands Activities*

Agency: *Army Corps of Engineers*

Bureau: *Civil Works*



Key Performance Measures

Year Target Actual

	Year	Target	Actual
Long-term Measures: Measures under development			
Annual Measures: Measures under development			

Rating: *Results Not Demonstrated*

Program Type: *Capital Assets*

Program Summary:

This assessment covers Corps efforts to establish, re-establish, rehabilitate, enhance, or protect/maintain wetlands through Corps projects. The Corps is working to improve the natural functions and values of existing wetlands or to create additional wetlands in: (1) projects whose principal purpose is ecosystem restoration, (2) projects that involve a requirement to mitigate for wetlands losses, (3) wetlands areas created by the formation and operation of Corps reservoirs, and (4) projects operated or maintained by the Corps that have naturally occurring wetlands within their boundaries.

The assessment shows the following:

1. While some Corps projects have led to large wetlands losses, the Corps increasingly is involved in projects whose purpose is to restore degraded wetlands. Neither the Corps nor any outside party has conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the long-term ecological success of these Corps wetlands restoration projects or of the other Corps wetlands efforts.
2. The cost to establish an acre of wetlands can vary greatly. On average, it appears to be higher for Corps ecosystem restoration projects than for wetlands projects undertaken by other Federal agencies.
3. The Corps often does not seek out the best opportunities nationwide for wetlands restoration. Instead, it tries to develop an engineering solution to a site-specific water resources problem in the area identified in a Congressional study authorization.
4. The score on "results" reflects: the need to develop performance measures; the absence of a process for tracking the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of wetlands actions over time; the high cost per acre for some projects; the lack of a quality, systematic program evaluation; and the failure to complete wetlands projects and mitigation work in the time frames established in project planning documents.

In response to the findings, the Administration will:

1. Develop ecological and cost criteria for determining when a proposed wetlands investment is justified.
2. Focus more broadly on identifying where, and how, the Corps can best contribute to the overall national wetlands effort.
3. Provide a high level of funding in the Budget for three Corps wetlands efforts that are nationally significant: restoring Florida's Everglades, revitalizing the side channel system of the Upper Mississippi, and re-creating a string of natural areas along the lower Missouri River.

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

<u>2002 Actual</u>	<u>2003 Estimate</u>	<u>2004 Estimate</u>
230	187	249