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2000 Annual Program Performance Report

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE



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**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2000**

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INTRODUCTION

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 mandated that each agency of the Executive Branch prepare a 5-year Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan and Report. The first revision of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Strategic Plan was completed in Fiscal Year (FY) 2000. This is the second NRCS Annual Performance Report.

Overall, performance objectives and management initiatives for the year were achieved or exceeded.

The progress that has been made can be attributed to the hard work and commitment of many people, especially at the field level with support from conservation partners such as the local Conservation Districts and State Conservation Agencies.

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Table 1: NRCS FY 2000 Performance

Strategic Goals and Management Initiatives	Performance Goals and Indicators	1999 Actual	2000 Target	2000 Actual
Goal 1: A healthy and productive land that sustains food and fiber production, sustains functioning watersheds and natural systems, enhances the environment and improves urban and rural landscapes.	Assist producers to plan and apply systems to protect and enhance cropland and grazing land.			
	Resource management systems applied on cropland, acres.	8,680,000*	6,000,000	10,200,000
	Cropland protected against excessive erosion, acres.	5,320,000*	4,000,000	4,100,000
	Resource management systems applied on grazing land, acres.	7,900,000*	5,800,000	10,700,000
	Prescribed grazing applied, acres.	10,200,000*	10,000,000	19,600,000
	Assist producers to plan and apply systems to protect water quality against agricultural non-point sources of pollution.			
	Nutrient management systems applied, acres	2,700,000*	2,900,000	4,300,000
	Waste management systems , planned or installed, number	6,170*	9,300	11,000
	Conservation buffers for water quality and wildlife, acres	734,000*	940,000	1,000,000
	Assist producers to plan, apply, and improve systems to manage irrigation water.			
	Irrigation water management, reduction in water applied, acre/inches	7,500,000*	7,200,000	9,100,000
	Assist local sponsors to plan and apply systems to protect watersheds against flood damages.			
	Annual flood prevention benefits, dollars	914 million	914 million	1.242 billion
Assist resource managers to enhance forestland health and productivity.				
Forest stand improvement applied, acres	20,000*	270,000	390,000	
Tree and shrub establishment, acres	82,000*	308,000	640,000	
Assist resource managers to plan and apply systems to protect or enhance wetlands and wildlife land.				
Wetland creation or restoration applied, acres	270,000*	200,000	290,000	
Wildlife habitat management applied, acres	6,300,000*	3,800,000	12,300,000	

* In FY 99, data for these indicators were collected at 287 sample sites and expanded to represent national performance. In FY 2000, the performance and results measurement system was implemented in all field offices.

Strategic Goals and Management Initiatives	Performance Goals and Indicators	1999 Actual	2000 Target	2000 Actual
Goal 2: Individuals and their neighbors working as effective and willing stewards of the natural resources on their property and in their communities	Assist people living in communities to describe the conditions of the land and develop plans to address their concerns. Group and Area-wide natural resource plans developed, number	N/A	2,500	2,164
Management Initiative 1: Provide high quality customer service	Treat Customers fairly and equitably. Minority clients receiving assistance, number	N/A	70,000	340,000
	Provide high quality service tailored to customer needs. Customer satisfaction: Program Delivery Service Quality Customers receiving planning and application assistance, number	N/A 91% 92% 630,000	N/A N/A 93% 581,400	N/A N/A N/A 547,000
	Management Initiative 2: Improve quality and usefulness of NRCS information	Make available current soils data in a form that can be used as the foundation for integrated resource assessments from areas that range from a single farm to the Nation. Soil surveys available in digital form, number Customers accessing or downloading soils data, number	366 2,611	180 3,000
Provide accurate and timely information on water supply for western water resources managers. Water supply forecasts issued Water users and managers utilizing information developed by the snow survey and water supply forecasting program, number Water users fully satisfied with usefulness of snow survey and water supply forecasting program information		6,835 43,800 98%	6,470 58,300 98%	6,875 55,261 98%
Develop and transfer plant science technology to help solve natural resource problems. New Plant Releases Hits on PLANTS website PLANTS Website users		22 20,000,000 720,000	16 16,000,000 800,000	25 17,510,000 745,500

* In FY 99, data for these indicators were collected at 287 sample sites and expanded to represent national performance. In FY 2000, the performance and results measurement system was implemented in all field offices.

NRCS MISSION

The mission of the Natural Resources Conservation Service is:

Providing leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

NRCS PROGRAMS

The Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1935 (Public Law 74-46) established the NRCS as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Pursuant to Public Law 103-354, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) Reorganization Act of 1994, (7 U.S.C. 6962), the SCS became NRCS.

Conservation Operations

The four programs in the Conservation Operations account are the basic activities that support all NRCS programs and activities. **Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)** provides the infrastructure through which NRCS is able to respond to the multitude of conservation needs across the Nation. CTA is authorized for conservation planning and application assistance to control soil erosion, improve water quality, and protect cropland, rangeland, forestland and wildlife habitat. Through CTA, NRCS provides assistance to conservation districts, develops technical standards and technical guides, conducts resources inventories, and provides assistance to individuals to plan and manage their natural resources. This basic assistance includes assessing natural resource conditions and issues and explaining the USDA programs that are available to address them. This technical assistance helps land users to assess conservation needs, consider alternative courses of action, set goals, and develop conservation plans. CTA supports the Food Security Act of 1985 as amended in 1990 and 1996. These “Farm Bills” require that NRCS determine the compliance with highly erodible land and wetlands conservation provisions of USDA program applicants. CTA also

provides assistance in implementing conservation plans and follow-up assistance to maintain the conservation system and revise it when the operator’s situation changes. As a reimbursable activity under CTA, NRCS provides technical assistance to resource managers participating in programs administered by the Farm Service Agency, such as Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and Emergency Conservation Program.

The **Soil Survey** and the **Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting** programs develop and disseminate basic information on soil resources and seasonal water supplies and provide recommendations for managing these resources. The **Plant Materials** program develops plants and plant science technologies for conservation systems using plant materials.

Water Resources Programs

NRCS programs that focus on water resources include **Watershed Surveys and Planning, Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations**, and **Emergency Watershed Protection**. Water resources activities focus on restoring the health of watersheds through a comprehensive planning approach. These programs assist communities to protect watersheds from damage caused by erosion, floodwater, and sediment, and to conserve and develop water and land resources. Resource concerns addressed include water quality, opportunities for water conservation, wetland and water storage capacity, agricultural drought problems, rural development, municipal and industrial water

needs, upstream flood damages, and water needs for fish, wildlife, and forest-based industries. Planning involves assisting local sponsoring organizations to develop plans for small watersheds (not larger than 250,000 acres). Surveys include river basin studies and floodplain management studies. Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations provide technical and financial assistance to local sponsors to install watershed improvement measures. Measures may include land treatment, structural, and non-structural measures. Emergency Watershed Protection provides immediate assistance to reduce threats to life and property in watersheds damaged by severe natural events such as floods, hurricanes, or droughts, and to restore damaged sites to pre-disaster conditions.

Resource Conservation and Development

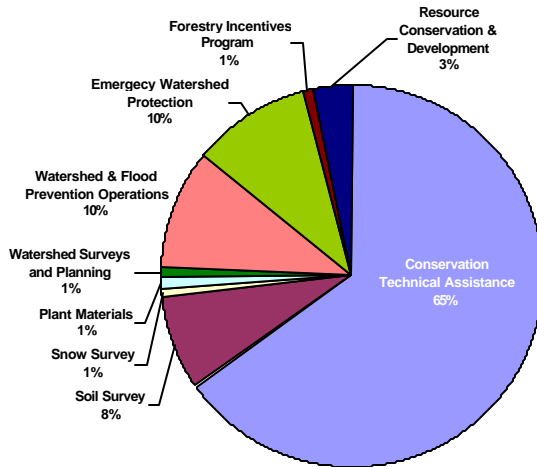
The Resource Conservation and Development Program provides technical assistance to improve the capability of state and local units of government and local nonprofit organizations to plan, develop, and carry out programs for resource conservation and development.

Financial Assistance Programs (Farm Bill Programs)

Since passage of the 1996 Act, the Secretary of Agriculture has assigned to NRCS the responsibility for administering a number of programs that provide both financial and technical assistance. The largest of these, the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program**, provides technical, financial and educational assistance to address priority natural resource concerns identified at the local level. These programs also include three that are primarily single purpose: **Wetlands Reserve Program**, **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program**, and **Farmland Protection Program**. NRCS also administers the **Forestry Incentives Program**, which is not derived from the 1996 Farm Bill. All of these programs help participants plan and apply conservation to the land and provide financial assistance or incentives.

NRCS FISCAL OBLIGATIONS

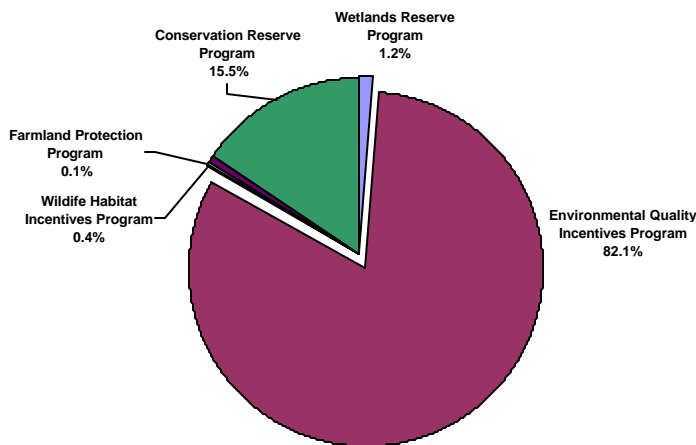
Figure 1: NRCS FY 2000 Discretionary Funds (% of total)



Discretionary Funds:

NRCS receives appropriations from a variety of legislative sources. While nearly two-thirds of the agency's funding is authorized by Public Law 74-46, there are a number of smaller appropriations that round out the agency's capacity to carry out its natural resource conservation mission.

Figure 2: NRCS FY 2000 Mandatory Funds (% of total)



Mandatory Funds:

These funds are associated with cost share programs and are derived from the Commodity Credit Corporation as directed by the Congress. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) represents technical assistance only as the program is administered by the Farm Services Agency, which is responsible for the financial assistance components and rental payments.

FY 2000 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Overall, NRCS met or exceeded key performance targets for FY 2000. In some cases, targets were exceeded significantly. In those cases, analysis has been conducted to determine the causes of high performance and determine whether it can be sustained.

Targets for FY 2001 have been raised as supported by the analysis. In the few cases where the target was not achieved, an explanation is provided in the text of the report.

Strategic Goal 1: A healthy and productive land that sustains food and fiber production, sustains functioning watersheds and natural systems, enhances the environment, and improves urban and rural landscapes.

Performance Goal: Assist producers to plan and apply systems to protect and enhance cropland and grazing land.

PERFORMANCE

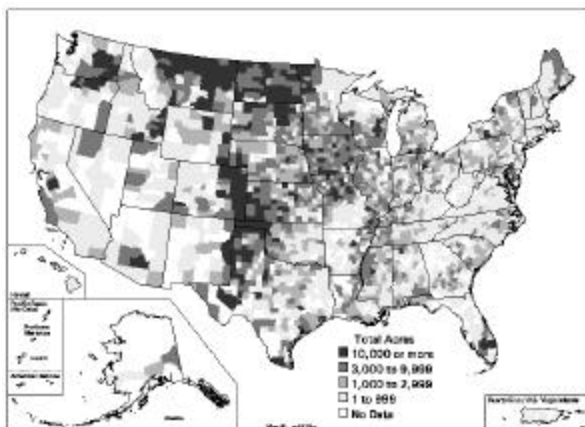
Resource management systems applied on cropland:

Target: 6 million acres

Actual: 10.2 million acres

Analysis: Target was exceeded by 70 percent. Fiscal year 2001 target is 11,000,000 acres.

Figure 4: Cropland Resource Management Systems Applied, fiscal year 2000



PERFORMANCE

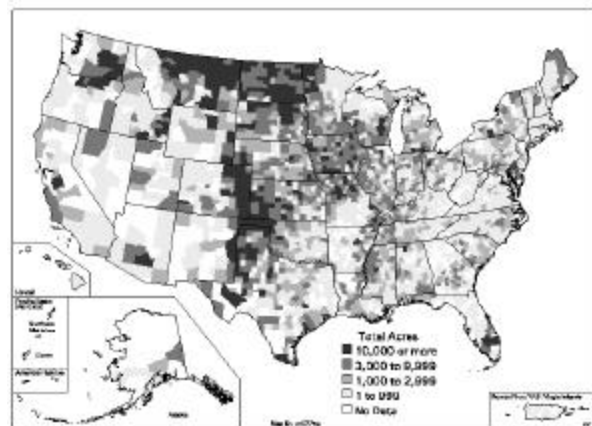
Cropland protected against excessive erosion:

Target: 4,000,000 acres

Actual: 4,100,000 acres

Analysis: Target was exceeded. Target for FY 2001 is 5,000,000 acres.

Figure 5: Cropland Protected Against Excessive Erosion, fiscal year 2000



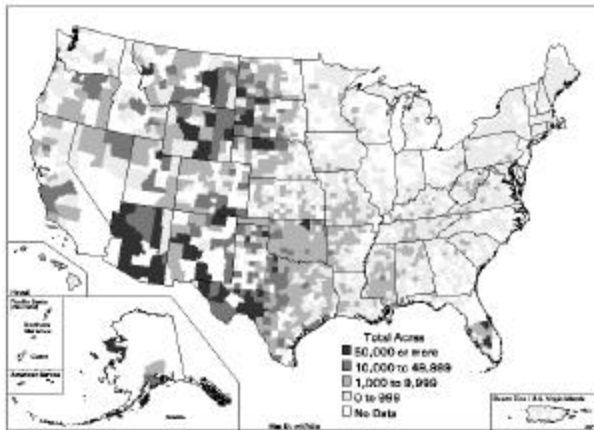
Resource management systems applied on grazing land:

Target: 5,800,000 acres

Actual: 10,700,000 acres

Analysis: Target was exceeded by 85 percent. Fiscal Year 2001 target is 11,000,000 acres.

Figure 6: Grazing Land Resource Management Systems, Fiscal Year 2000



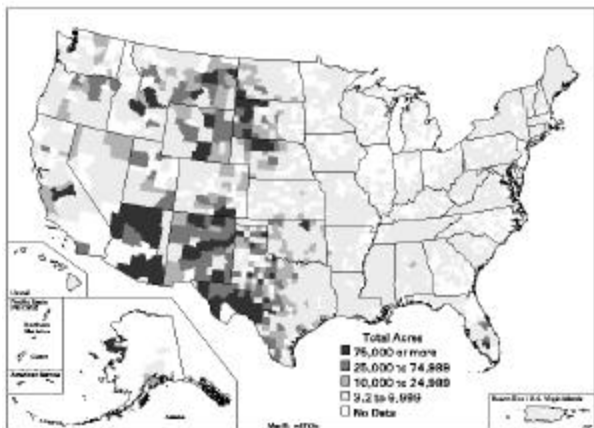
Prescribed Grazing:

Target: 10,000,000 acres

Actual: 19,600,000 acres

Analysis: Target was exceeded by almost 100 percent. This performance measure will not be targeted in fiscal year 2001, as the focus will be to get Resource Management Systems applied on grazing lands and not just a single practice, prescribed grazing.

Figure 7: Prescribed Grazing Applied, Fiscal Year 2000



Since targets for all indicators were exceeded, the performance goal has been achieved.

Performance Goal: Assist producers to plan and apply systems to protect water quality against non-point sources of pollution.

PERFORMANCE

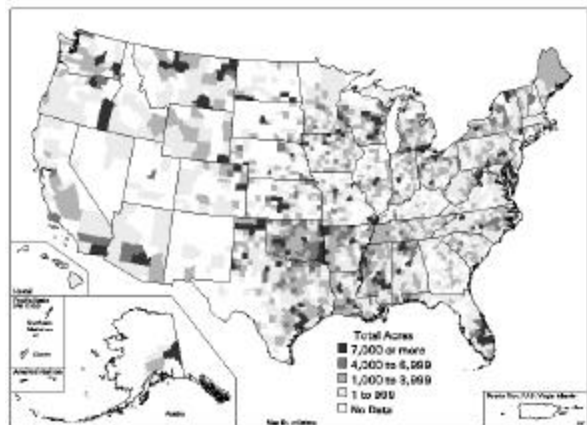
Nutrient management systems applied:

Target: 2,900,000 acres

Actual: 4,300,000 acres

Analysis: The target was exceeded by nearly 50 percent. The target for FY 2001 is 5,000,000 acres.

Figure 8: Nutrient Management Systems Applied, Fiscal Year 2000



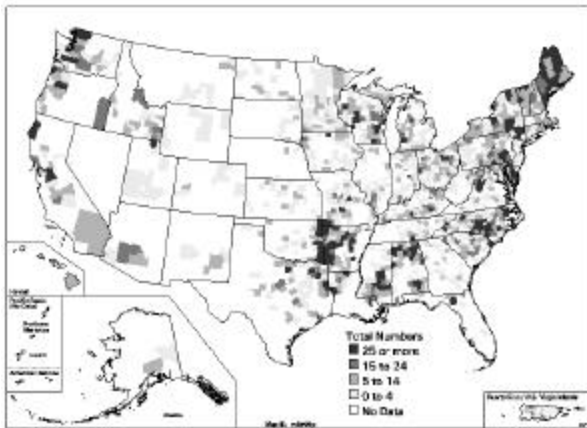
Waste management systems planned or installed.

Target: 9,300

Actual: 11,000

Analysis: Target was exceeded by 18 percent. The target for fiscal year 2001 will be 11,000.

Figure 9: Waste Management Systems or Installed, Fiscal Year 2000

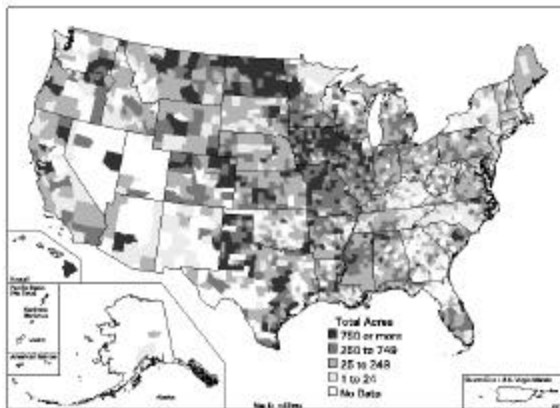


Conservation buffers for water quality and wildlife:

Target: 940,000 acres
Actual: 1,000,000 acres

Analysis: Target was exceeded by six percent. The definition of the indicator has been refined for fiscal year 2001 and the target set at 250,000 acres.

Figure 10: Conservation Buffers Applied, Fiscal Year 2000



Targets for all performance indicators were exceeded. Performance goal was achieved.

Performance Goal: Assist local sponsors to plan and apply systems to protect watersheds against flood damage.

PERFORMANCE

Annual flood prevention benefits:

Target: \$914,000,000
Actual: \$1,242,000,000

Analysis: Target was exceeded.

The Performance goal was achieved for FY 2000.

Performance Goal: Assist resource managers to enhance forestland health and productivity.

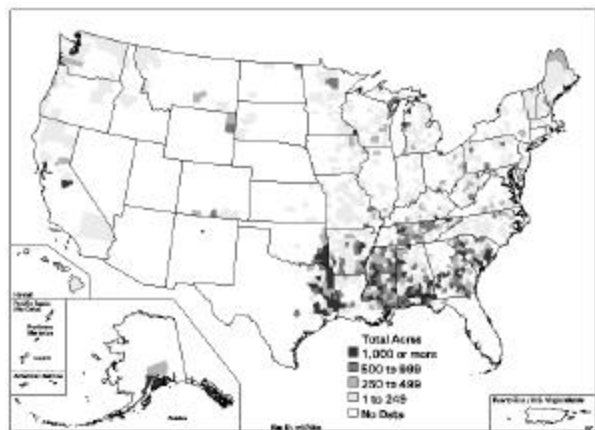
PERFORMANCE

Forest stand improvements applied:

Target: 270,000 acres
Actual: 390,000 acres

Analysis: Target was exceeded by more than 40 percent and has been raised by 30,000 acres for fiscal year 2001.

Figure 11: Forest Stand Improvement Applied, Fiscal Year 2000



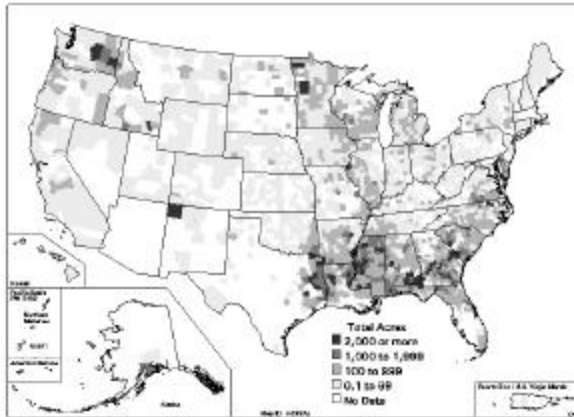
Tree and shrub establishment:

Target: 308,000 acres

Actual: 640,000 acres

Analysis: Target was exceeded by more than 100 percent. The fiscal year 2001 goal will not be raised because of emphasis on other targets.

Figure 12: Tree and Shrub Establishment, Fiscal Year 2000



Performance goal for forestland health and productivity was achieved.

Performance Goal: Assist producers to plan, apply and improve systems to manage irrigation water.

PERFORMANCE

Irrigation Water Management, reduction in water applied:

Target: 7,200,000 ac/in.

Actual: 9,100,000 ac/in.

Analysis: Target was exceeded by 26 percent. In fiscal year 2001, this target will be measured in acres of irrigation management systems applied rather than reduction in water applied. Goal for fiscal year 2001 has been set at 1,000,000 acres.

Performance goal for irrigation water management was achieved.

Performance Goal: Assist resource managers to plan and apply systems to protect or enhance wetlands and wildlife land.

PERFORMANCE

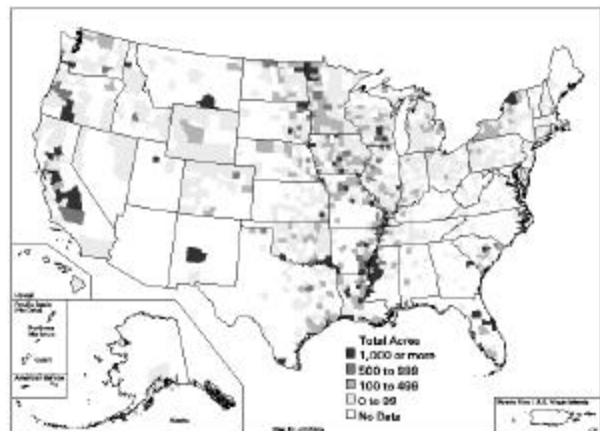
Wetland creation or restoration applied:

Target: 200,000 acres

Actual: 290,000 acres

Analysis: Target was exceeded by 45 percent. FY 2001 target has been set at 250,000 acres.

Figure 13: Wetlands Created or Restored, Fiscal Year 2000



Wildlife habitat management applied

Target: 3,800,000 acres

Actual: 12,300,000 acres

Analysis: This target was greatly exceeded and has been raised to 5,000,000 acres for fiscal year 2001.

Performance goal for wetlands and wildlife land has been achieved.

Strategic Goal 2: Individuals and their neighbors working together as effective and willing stewards of the natural resources on their property and in their communities.

Performance Goal: A strong and effective grassroots conservation partnership across the United States.

PERFORMANCE

Group and Area-wide Natural Resource Plans Developed:

Target: 2,500

Actual: 2,164

Analysis: Because the means to report on this performance goal was not implemented until late in fiscal year 2000, it is likely that the data reported do not reflect all plans developed during the year.

2000 Data: A means to record NRCS assistance with locally led natural resource planning efforts was added during the second half of FY 2000 to our Performance and Results Measurement System. The specific report is called Group and Area-Wide Plans.

Management Initiative 1: Provide high quality customer service

Performance Goal: Treat customers fairly and equitably.

PERFORMANCE

Minority Customers Assisted:

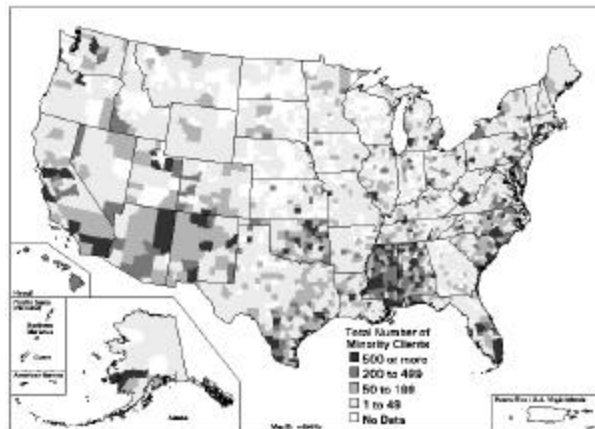
Target: 70,000

Actual: 340,000

Analysis: This target was greatly exceeded. The 340,000 number includes all assistance to individuals, groups and others. Within these categories there are twelve customer types. If we singled out the agricultural producers, the total minority customers assisted was just over 53,000. More than

70 percent of the minority customers assisted were in the student/educator category. For FY 2001, NRCS will shift to indicators that relate to direct assistance in applying conservation systems.

Figure 14: Minority Customers Assisted, Fiscal Year 2000



Description of Actions and Schedules:

Customers assisted has required some clarification in order to get more consistent reporting from all offices. A key issue is individual versus group type assistance and direct versus indirect assistance. An effort to provide training on PRMS was initiated late in 2000 and is continuing during the current year.

Performance Goal: Provide high quality service tailored to customer needs.

PERFORMANCE

Customer satisfaction, percentage

Target: 93%

Actual: NA

2000 Data: NRCS is one of the Federal agencies that is participating in the Customer Satisfaction Index Survey now being conducted through a contract with the National Quality Research Center of the University of Michigan. Fully implementing a system for customer

satisfaction measurement includes a more extensive customer assessment, through the use of both focus groups and a survey instrument, taking almost one year to complete. Achieving this is a high priority activity for the agency.

Customers receiving planning and application assistance

Target: 581,400

Actual: 547,000

Analysis: NRCS came very close to its goal for planning and application assistance.

Overall NRCS assisted 3 million customers.

This goal is affected by availability of cost-share or other incentive programs, the farm economy, and agency response to natural disasters.

Participation in NRCS administered cost-share programs was:

Program	Number Assisted
Forestry Incentives Program	4,065
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program	500
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	16,479
Wetlands Reserve Program	2,103

Management Initiative 2: Improve quality and usefulness of NRCS information

Performance Goal: Make current soils data available in a form that can be used as the foundation for integrated resource assessments for areas that range from a single farm to the entire nation.

PERFORMANCE

Non-Federal lands with soil survey available in digital form, number of surveys

Target: 180

Actual: 237

Analysis: The target was exceeded.

Customers accessing or downloading soils data – STATSGO and SSURGO Downloads/CD Orders

Target: 3,000

Actual: 11,505

Analysis: The target was exceeded.

2000 Data: Data for these items are reported through a management information system known as “Soil Survey Schedule” operated and maintained by the NRCS Soil Survey Division.

Performance Goal: Provide accurate and timely information on water supply for western water resources managers

PERFORMANCE

Water supply forecasts issued:

Target: 6,470

Actual: 6,875

Analysis: The target was exceeded.

Number of water users and managers utilizing information developed by the snow survey and water supply forecasting program:

Target: 58,300

Actual: 55,261

Analysis: 94 percent of the target was attained.

Water users fully satisfied with usefulness of snow survey and water supply forecasting program information:

Target: 98%

Actual: 98%

Analysis: The target was achieved.

2000 Data: Water supply data is provided by the NRCS Water and Climate Center in Portland, OR.

Performance Goal: Develop and transfer plant science technology to help solve natural resource problems.

PERFORMANCE

New plant releases

Target: 16

Actual: 25

Analysis: The target was exceeded.

Customers accessing or downloading plant science information (PLANTS database)

Hits on Website

Target: 16,000,000

Actual: 17,510,000

Website users

Target: 800,000

Actual: 745,500

Analysis: The target for downloading PLANTS data was exceeded. For the

number of website users, 93 percent of the target was achieved. Although the target for one of the eight indicators was not quite achieved, Management Initiative 2 is considered to have been accomplished in fiscal year 2000.

2000 Data: NRCS operates a Plant Materials Program nationally with a mission of evaluating and producing plants that can be used effectively for erosion control and other conservation purposes. There are 24 centers nationwide and a National Plant Materials Center at Beltsville, Maryland. The PLANTS database is operated and maintained at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. These are the sources of the reported data.

ASSESSMENT OF THE FY 2000 DATA

The purpose of the annual performance report is to emphasize organizational and management accountability for program execution and results. This year's report reflects a major milestone regarding performance reporting in NRCS. The Performance and Results Measurement System (PRMS) is now fully implemented at the field office level. NRCS has invested in web-based information technology for field offices and, late in FY 2000, initiated a nationwide field office operations training effort emphasizing the Integrated Accountability System (IAS). Nearly 1.8 million records were entered in PRMS nationally, a major increase over last year.

At the end of the fiscal year, each State conservationist was required to verify and validate the performance data that were reported within his or her state and provide explanations for instances where goals were significantly not met or exceeded. The data were then analyzed by staff of the Strategic Planning and Accountability functional area. Some discrepancies were noted, however, it was determined that there was no compelling basis to discount any of the reported results. The data were used without adjustments in this report and also served as a baseline in establishing FY 2001 targets.

NRCS is continuing efforts to improve the timeliness and quality of PRMS operations and data. We are committed to producing high quality performance data in order to achieve our legislated mandates including the Government Performance and Results Act, effectively manage programs and inform Congress, the Administration, the Conservation Partnership and the public. We have begun implementation of a quality assurance strategy for PRMS that features a tiered approach of four tiers: data entry point mechanisms, quality gate mechanisms, state

and regional level controls and national level controls.

Late in FY 2000, NRCS designed and initiated a process to conduct an internal review of the PRMS by the agency's Oversight and Evaluation Staff. This review was largely carried out during the first quarter of FY 2001. Moreover, a nationwide Field Office Operations Training Program was initiated in FY 2000, which included training modules on the NRCS Integrated Accountability System with emphasis on PRMS. Steps such as these will ensure the credibility of our GPRA requirements. NRCS is also fully integrated into the U.S. Department of Agriculture GPRA process, and has contributed to the Department's Strategic Plan, Annual Performance Plan, and Annual Performance Report.

Work is underway to develop additional reporting tools that will allow tailoring of performance reporting at a local level, and for means and methods to measure performance outcomes. Quality assurance is being emphasized and tools will be implemented during the current year that will enhance data validation and verification.

FY 2001 PERFORMANCE

The FY 2001 Performance Plan reflects some changes in performance goals and indicators that resulted from the revision to the Natural Resources Conservation Service Strategic Plan (FY 2000-2005) that was completed in September 2000. The current Strategic Plan identifies four strategic goals and 14 strategic objectives. Performance indicators and targets have been added to the Performance Plan to address urban concerns, farmland protection, flooding, and drought. In addition, we have refined our performance indicators for measuring assistance to minorities by changing the focus from general type assistance to

assistance in applying conservation systems and participation in NRCS-administered cost share programs. Moreover, as a result of added emphasis on strategic objectives related to our goal, "Enhance natural resource productivity to enable a strong agricultural and natural resource sector," targets for indicators such as "resource management systems applied" on cropland and grazed land, and "cropland protected against excessive erosion" have been significantly raised over the FY 2000 level. Progress towards these targets so far this year is summarized in Table 2 on the following page.

FY 2001 PROGRESS

TABLE 2: NATIONAL FY 2001, 1ST QUARTER PROGRESS

Reported: 10/1/2000 - 12/31/2000

Performance Measure	2001 Performance Goal	Reported 1 st Quarter FY 2000	Progress 1st Quarter FY 2001	Percent 2001 Goal Achieved	FY2001 To FY2000 Pct.
RMS Applied on Cropland (Ac.)	11,000,000	1,926,714	1,466,671	13%	76%
RMS Applied on Grazing Land (Ac.)	11,000,000	1,585,488	1,529,346	14%	96%
Conservation Systems Applied to address flooding concerns (Ac.)	1,590,000	73,844	87,605	6%	119%
Conservation Systems Applied to address water supply concerns (Ac.)	5,385,000	921,587	1,374,598	26%	149%
Cropland Protected Against Excessive Erosion (Ac.)	5,000,000	768,618	514,997	10%	67%
Erosion Control Applied on Urban and Built-up Land (Ac.)	50,000	7,044	2,291	5%	33%
Nutrient Mgmt Applied (Ac.)	5,000,000	668,164	694,212	14%	104%
Waste Mgmt Systems Planned or Applied (No.)	11,000	1,436	2,541	23%	177%
Buffers Applied (Ac.)	250,000	100,733	123,778	50%	123%
Pest Mgmt Applied (Ac.)	4,000,000	901,859	881,181	22%	98%
Irrigation Water Mgmt Applied (Ac.)	1,000,000	182,340	172,004	17%	94%
Wetlands Creation, Restoration, or Enhancement Applied (Ac.)	250,000	56,159	58,085	23%	103%
Wildlife Habitat Mgmt Applied (Upland and Wetland Habitat) (Ac.)	5,000,000	2,372,411	1,764,000	35%	74%
Forest Stand Improve. Applied (Ac.)	300,000	32,390	67,200	22%	204%
Trees & Shrub Estab. Applied (Ac.)	300,000	67,006	44,018	15%	66%
Minority Clients Applying Cons. Sys. Under NRCS Cost-Share (No.)	2,500	NP	112	4%	NA
Minority Clients Applying Cons. Sys. With NRCS Assistance (No.)	10,000	NP	266	3%	NA
Farmland Protected, FPP only (Ac.)	17,800	NP	NA	—	—
LESA Systems Developed or Updated (No.)	50	NP	NA	—	—

NA = Not Available NP = Not in Performance Plan

FY 2001 PROGRESS

TABLE 2: NATIONAL FY 2001, 1ST QUARTER PROGRESS (CONT.)

Reported: 10/1/2000 - 12/31/2000

Performance Measure	2001 Performance Goal	Reported 1 st Quarter FY 2000	Progress 1st Quarter FY 2001	Percent 2001 Goal Achieved	FY2001 To FY2000 Pct.
Community Development Projects (RC&D) (No.)	3,422	NP	NA	—	—
Watershed Infrastructure Rehabilitation Plans or Projects Installed (No.)	20	NP	0	—	—
Watershed Protection Structures Completed (No.)	65	NP	NA	—	—
Water Supply Forecasts Issued (No.)	6,550	0	0	—	—
New Tribal Offices Established on Reservation Land (No.)	15	NP	0	0	NA
Water users/managers using SNOTEL and Water Supply forecasts (No.)	85,000	0	0	0	0
STATSGO/SSURGO Downloads/CD orders (No.)	11,505	NA	NA	NA	NA
New Plant Releases (No.)	25	25	0	-	-
Studies Evaluated (No.)	400	NP	198	49%	NA
Written Titles (No.)	345	NP	76	22%	NA
PLANTS database unique customers (No.)	670,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
NRCS Cons. Practice. Standards that are Current (No.)	36	NP	NA	NA	NA
Soil Surveys in Digital Form (Cumulative No.)	1,220	739	987	81%	NA
Soil Survey Initial Mapping and Updating (Ac.)	24,644,319	2,976,948	2,830,823	11%	95%

NA = Not Available NP = Not in Performance Plan

PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

NRCS conducts internal reviews and evaluations through a national Oversight and Evaluation Staff. The following reviews were conducted during FY 2000; however, final reports are not complete and results will be reported in the FY 2001 Annual Performance Report:

- Quality of Conservation Planning
- Technology Delivery System
- Conservation Planning Effectiveness
- Technical Quality of Conservation Practices
- Environmental Quality Improvement
- Program Streamlining
- Wetland Reserve Program- Compatible Use Authorization
- Integrated Accountability System

MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

The Government Accounting Office's (GAO) January 2001 update of its major management challenges and program risks for USDA did not include any challenges that are unique to NRCS. GAO reported continuing concerns about the department-level management of the USDA Service Center modernization effort.

HIGH RISK AREAS

GAO's January 2001 update of its high-risk series did not identify any high-risk areas unique to NRCS. GAO identified two government-wide concerns, strategic human capital management and information security, which NRCS is addressing in appropriate functional business plans.

REPORT PREPARATION

Only federal employees were involved in the preparation of this Annual Performance Report.