

2023 Fuels Modification Audit Results

Internal quality audits were conducted following modification activities at approximately 78% of the treatment and maintenance sites. Each site was given an evaluation of good, fair, or poor for quality of dead/down removal, nonnative weed removal, native thinning, and overall cleanliness of the site. These audits were conducted to ensure consistency between different lead biologists and crews and to check the adherence of modification activities to the Program goals. Audits were conducted at 24 treatment sites (26%) and 377 (89%) maintenance sites. Overall, 99% of sites received a passing audit score (i.e., no rework was required), while only three sites (1%) received a failing score and were revisited to address issues.

Summary of 2023 Fuels Modification Audit Results

Poles Completed: 514

Poles Audited: 401

% Poles Audited: 78%

Fails: 3

Summary of 2023 Quality Audit Results

Category	Site Ratings			Final Evaluation	
	Poor	Fair	Good	Pass	Fail
Dead/Down Removal	2 (0.5%)	53 (13%)	346 (86%)	398 (99%)	3 (1%)
Nonnative Removal	3 (1%)	45 (11%)	353 (88%)		
Native Thinning ¹	1 (3%)	5 (14%)	29 (83%)		
Overall Cleanliness	2 (0.5%)	50 (12%)	349 (87%)		

¹ The quality of native thinning was only evaluated at Treatment and Re-treatment sites.

² Rework was required for all sites receiving a failing grade.

- Ratings of Good indicate that the task has been completed to specifications
- Ratings of Fair indicate that the task has been completed with minor deficiencies, but is acceptable and meets program objectives
- Ratings of Poor indicate that the task has been completed with major deficiencies and needs rework

The four categories that are rated include the three “pillars” of the program, as listed here:

- (1) Weed Removal: removal of herbaceous vegetation, especially nonnative and fire-promoting species.
- (2) Dead/down Removal: removal of dead plant material, even if still standing and “downed” woody vegetation such as logs and debris laying within the site
- (3) Native Thinning: thinning of woody vegetation, with a focus on reducing lateral and vertical connectivity, reducing highly flammable species, and preserving habitat value.

One additional category called “Overall Cleanliness” which is meant to provide a general assessment of our work from the property owner’s perspective, such as:

- Was the site left a condition that is better or equal to how we found it?
- Were cuts clean on existing woody material?
- Is the ground generally clear of cut material and loose debris?
- Are any piles leftover, or any forgotten flagging or material?
- Were there any ruts or impacts due to parking/staging?