

Fuels Modification audits conducted by AECOM for 2022 Fuels Modification work

Internal quality audits were conducted following modification activities at approximately 20% 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 70 treatment sites (21.5%) and 31 (21.4%) maintenance sites. No site received a quality audit rating of poor during the 2022 WFM Program. The overall results are provided in Table below. Attached is the detail Audit Report.

Summary of 2022 Fuels Modification Audit Results

Poles Completed: 500

Poles Audited: 101

% Poles Audited: 20%

Fails: 0

Category	Poor	Fair	Good
Dead/Down Removal	0 (0%)	14 (14%)	87 (86%)
Nonnative Removal	0 (0%)	5 (5%)	96 (95%)
Native Thinning	0 (0%)	19 (19%)	82 (81%)
Overall Cleanliness	0 (0%)	10 (10%)	91 (90%)

- 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 non-native 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 the work from the property owner’s perspective, such as:

- Was the site left in 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?