Overview:

- This report highlights Forest Service responses to requests for routine vegetation management work by powerline owners/operators with approved operating plans and operating agreements for the calendar year 2023. This report is provided in accordance with section 512 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and is part of the Agency’s commitment to working with powerline owners and operators to provide safe and reliable delivery of electricity across National Forest System lands to rural and urban communities throughout the United States.

- Routine (non-emergency) vegetation management is planned action, as outlined in an approved operating plan or agreement, periodically taken to reduce or eliminate threats to powerline facilities from vegetation within or adjacent to powerline facilities rights-of-way on NFS lands.

- 355 requests were made by powerline facility owner/operators to perform routine vegetation maintenance on lands managed by the Forest Service in 2023. That is a 94% increase over 2022.

- As shown in Figure 1, 76% of requests were made in the Pacific Southwest Region, which is the states of California and Hawaii.

- Figure 2 shows that the most common request was to remove non-emergency hazard trees followed by requests to perform touch up vegetation clearing without the use of pesticides or herbicides.

- Figure 3 shows that the Forest Service largely responded to requests within the timeframe specified in the operating plan, when the operating plan included target response requirements e.g., within 3 business days of the request having been made.

- As shown in Figure 4, 33% of the requests were approved as received with the company being notified that they did not need additional approval as approval was already granted in an operating plan or schedule of work. Another 40% of requests, which did require prior approval, were approved as received. Other requests were approved with mitigations, delayed due to concerns that other cultural and natural resources may be negatively impacted, or the Forest Service had not yet responded by the end of the reporting period.

- Of the 355 requests 99 were to perform vegetation management in priority landscapes as identified in the agency’s Wildfire Crisis Landscape Investments and the additional 11 landscapes that were added to that effort in 2023. Of those 99 requests all but one were to perform routine vegetation management in California.

- For reference, here is a map of the Forest Service regional boundaries.
**Figure 1. Number of Requests by Region.** In 2023, 355 requests for routine vegetation management were made by powerline facility owners/operators with approved operating plans or agreements.

(R1) Northern Region
(R2) Rocky Mountain Region
(R3) Southwestern Region
(R4) Intermountain Region
(R5) Pacific Southwest Region
(R6) Pacific Northwest Region
(R8) Southern Region
(R9) Eastern Region
(R10) Alaska Region

**Figure 2. Type of Routine Vegetation Management Requested.** 364 types of routine vegetation management were requested in 2023. Note, this number exceeds the total number of requests made as one request may contain multiple types of routine vegetation management.

(A) Vegetation inspection 7
(B) Vegetation clearing 77 previously approved in an operating plan, agreement, or schedule of work
(C) Touch up vegetation clearing between approved cycles without the use of pesticides or herbicides 40
(D) Non-emergency hazard tree pruning, topping, or felling 233
(E) Other 7
Figure 3. Did the Forest Service respond per the timeframe specified in an approved operating plan or agreement?

- Yes: 241
- No: 46
- No Timeframe Specified: 23
- No Data: 45

Figure 4. Nature of the Forest Service Response.

- (A) Approved as received: 119
- Response informed powerline facility owner/operator that the activity was previously approved and did not require further approval.
- (B) Approved as received for an activity that was not previously approved: 141
- (C) Approved with mitigations: 36
- (D) Not approved: 2
- (E) Response not yet made: 9
- (F) Other: 37
- (G) No data: 11
Figure 5. Number of requests by priority landscape. 99 of the 355 vegetation management requests were to perform vegetation management in priority landscapes as identified in the US Forest Service’s Wildfire Crisis Strategy. 98 of those 99 requests were to perform routine vegetation management in California.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landscape</th>
<th>Requests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Idaho</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern California Fireshed</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Reduction Strategy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinity Forest Health</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Yuba</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanislaus Landscape Project</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>