

ROWSC ACCREDITATION

Benefits of Achieving Right-of-Way Steward Accreditation from the Right-of-Way Stewardship Council

ONE

Institutionalized Reliability and Sustainability

Through this approach to IVM, accredited utilities sustain power system reliability while achieving a balance in the three pillars of ESG sustainability. ROWSC principles guide member utilities in establishing, implementing, maintaining, and continually improving their vegetation management practices, consistent with the globally recognized International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001 Environmental Management Systems. The accreditation process also encourages risk-based thinking that promotes integration of vegetation management with the requirements of other organizational-management structures (*e.g., quality, occupational health and safety, financial management*).

TWO

Assured Regulatory Compliance

ROWSC accreditation provides assurances to regulatory agencies that the IVM framework is implemented consistently within an organization's practices and that compliance-related outcomes are appropriately considered in the vegetation management system.

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The ROWSC is the **ONLY** accreditation program that has established standards for responsible right-of-way (ROW) vegetation management. Through this approach, utility companies validate their commitment to environmental stewardship, environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles, and the communities they serve.

ROWSC accreditation provides integrated vegetation management (IVM) practitioners in the utility sector with the six benefits associated with the adoption of an IVM-based strategy, as follows:



ACCREDITED UTILITIES

The ROWSC has accredited utilities in the United States and Canada. A common characteristic of these utilities is their recognition that organizational sustainability includes protecting the environment, responding to changing environmental conditions, and ensuring safety, security, access, and regulatory compliance.

Accredited utilities, recognized by the ROWSC as "A Right-of-Way Steward Utility," include:



ALTALINK



BONNEVILLE POWER
ADMINISTRATION
(BPA)



FIRSTENERGY



NY Power
Authority

NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY
(NYPA)



SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL
UTILITY DISTRICT
(SMUD)



VERMONT ELECTRIC
COMPANY
(VELCO)



THREE

Enhanced Community Relations

ROWSC accreditation can enhance a company's reputation and instill stakeholder confidence. Criteria within the accreditation standards help to foster more comprehensive strategic communication, education, and engagement with the public and internal and external stakeholders.

FOUR

Distinction as a "Right-of-Way Steward Utility"

ROWSC's ISO-grounded accreditation model provides standards of excellence for environmental stewardship. Accreditation presents the opportunity for utility companies to demonstrate their commitment to such standards as a Right-of-Way Steward Utility.

FIVE

Reduced Costs

ROWSC principles emphasize proactive management and biological control methods that reduce incompatible vegetation and establish a sustainable, compatible plant community. Through this management approach, utilities can realize a reduction in treatment efforts and resulting cost savings without compromising safety and compliance outcomes.

SIX

Recognition Through Continuous Improvement

Even upon accreditation, utilities must continue to demonstrate their commitment to continuous improvement. Throughout the accreditation process and beyond, ROWSC enlists third-party experts that perform regular checks and audits of ongoing IVM practices. This independent verification ensures the sustainability of these practices and heightens recognition of these utilities to the public, regulators, and the industry at large.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DOVETAIL PARTNERS

ABOUT THE ROWSC

The ROWSC was established in 2013 as a program within Dovetail Partners, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit environmental think tank serving as program administrator.

The organizational structure of the ROWSC includes diverse volunteer representatives from non-governmental environmental organizations, academia, the utility vegetation management industry, utilities, government, and the public at large.

For more information

on the ROWSC principles, accreditation program, and success stories, please contact the ROWSC Program Administrator at

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OR **612-333-0430**.