



# Vegetation Management

The effective management of vegetation on transmission and distribution corridors is essential to the reliable supply of electricity and for ensured public and worker safety. Vegetation programs must comply with new and emerging regulations while meeting public and landowner expectations and taking environmental impacts into consideration. The program involves responding to requests and concerns of the public, First Nations, Government, and landowners, while nonetheless achieving control that complies with NERC & other requirements in a cost effective manner. Managing vegetation can range from pruning and/or removing individual trees, to encouraging the establishment of low growing compatible plant communities on a right-of-way. These examples name only a few of the many issues that must be addressed in the development of a comprehensive and effective vegetation management program.

CEATI's Vegetation Management interest group will focus on issues of interest to the electrical utility personnel managing vegetation programs. The group emphasizes program development and management, which includes justifying budgets, work planning, addressing regulatory issues, managing contractors, and setting standards and guidelines for the work.

The group also provides vegetation managers with a cost-effective vehicle for sharing experiences and addressing issues pertinent to their day-to-day operations, maintenance, and planning. The primary benefit of program participation lies in the opportunity to tap into the wealth of experience and knowledge of other transmission & distribution electrical utility participants, allowing members to learn from the mistakes and successes of others.

## Topics & Issues

1. Environmental Issues
2. Regulatory Requirements & Compliance Frameworks
3. Public & Social Issues
4. Vegetation Management Program Optimization
5. Responsible Vegetation Management Practices
6. New Materials & Techniques

## Technical Advisor



**Steve Narolski** earned a master of silviculture certification through the graduate honorarium, the Continuing Education in Forest Ecology and Silviculture, from the University of Montana, the University of Idaho, and the Washington State University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Science from the Pennsylvania State University. As a professional forester for 46 years, he has worked on the federal, state, and private levels. His recent work focused on utility integrated vegetation management for transmission assets and was president-elect for the Utility Arborists Association. He led IVM programs with Puget Sound Energy, Bonneville Power Administration, and the Western Power Administration as well as distribution assets for a host of local utilities across the USA, recognized as an IVM expert in the utility industry creating numerous programs that NERC/WECC identified as "best in class". He has authored many articles related to utility IVM and how to cope with the rising incidence of wildfire while maintaining reliability and safety.



## Core Themes

- Adapting and Implementing Technology Solutions to Vegetation Programs
- New Materials and Techniques
- Environmental Issues, Requirements, and Compliance
- Vegetation Management Program Optimization
- Responsible Vegetation Management Practices
- Strategies for Public Notification and Consultation

## Recent Training Webinars

- Managing Invasive Species on a Large Scale at National Grid – Emerald Ash Borer and Gypsy Moth
- RTE France's BELIVE Project for Biodiversity and Security Match Under Powerlines
- Drone Technology Being Utilized for Utility Rights of Way
- Vegetation Management Procurement: A Vendor Perspective
- The Modern Role of Supply Chain
- Space Based Earth Monitoring Technologies
- Hydro One's Vegetation Management Program
- Apps for Arborists
- The Right-of-Way Stewardship Accreditation Program
- Contracting versus In-House Tree Workers



## Collaborative Projects

- Vegetation Management Cost Benefit of Herbicide Use
- Control of Weeds in Electrical Facilities such as Substations, Switchyards, Capacitor Stations, and Cable Termination Sites
- Powerline Vegetation Management Best Management Practices Within Boreal Woodland Caribou
- Improving Vegetation Management via Wearable Technology and Augmented Reality
- An Analysis of PhoDAR vs LiDAR For Collecting Spatial Data by Electrical Utilities and Operational Recommendations for Use

## Annual Activities

- 2-Day Industry Conference
- General Meeting
- Regular Conference Calls
- 4-6 Training Webinars
- On-Demand Information Exchange

\*Participation is open to all Transmission & Distribution Electrical Utilities and Government Agencies.