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

The Right-of-Way Stewardship Council (ROWSC) is an accreditation program that establishes standards for responsible right-of-way vegetation management on corridors. The program promotes the application of integrated vegetation management (IVM) and best management practices to the utility vegetation management industry in order to maintain power system reliability and address ecological concerns.

The accreditation provides standards of excellence for environmental stewardship and presents the opportunity for companies to demonstrate their commitment to such standards. Third-party recognition ensures an independent, proven process to convey credibility and bring recognition to IVM programs. The benefits of the accreditation reach beyond the practitioner’s sphere; it has the potential to positively impact the industry, communities, stakeholders and agencies.

Institutionalize Sustainable Management

Good systems engender consistent practices and performance. For example, ROWSC principles institutionalize sustainable management by the promotion of documentation of key elements of vegetation management systems, a practice consistent with internationally recognized Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14001). Comprehensive documentation processes ensure broader adoption, continuity, and eliminates duplication of practices and policies.

Improve positive relations with stakeholders

ROWSC principles place strong emphasis on engaging communities and other stakeholders in the planning, conducting and monitoring of vegetation management activities and their outcomes. They engender positive relations with stakeholders by engaging them throughout the IVM process, which leads to a better understanding of impacts and increased confidence and trust by stakeholders. Positive relations with stakeholders lead to informed communities taking ownership of projects and to a decrease in the likelihood of conflict and legal disputes.

Surpass regulatory requirements

To date, vegetation management on power line corridors has been relatively free of regulations, but that is changing. Due to society’s growing interest in the environment and heightened awareness of the impact of power line corridors on landscapes, activities on these lands are of growing importance. Companies that proactively use ROWSC principles on a voluntary basis are likely to be better prepared to address and meet any possible future regulations.

For more information on the ROWSC guiding principles, accreditation program and success stories, please contact [full name] at [email].

Reduce treatment costs

ROWSC principles emphasize proactive management and biological control methods that reduce undesirable vegetation, which leads to a reduction in treatment efforts and cost savings. These benefits occur with the targeted removal of undesirable vegetation while establishing a community of plants/vegetation that is compatible with regulatory standards (shrubs, forbs, grasses, etc.).