

Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group

January 19, 2016

**THE
UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
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ERC
ENERGY RESOURCES CENTER

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Today's Meeting

- Morning Presentations
- Working Lunch
- Afternoon Sessions
 - Track 1: Nuts and bolts
 - Track 2: Managing for success
- Post-meeting Survey



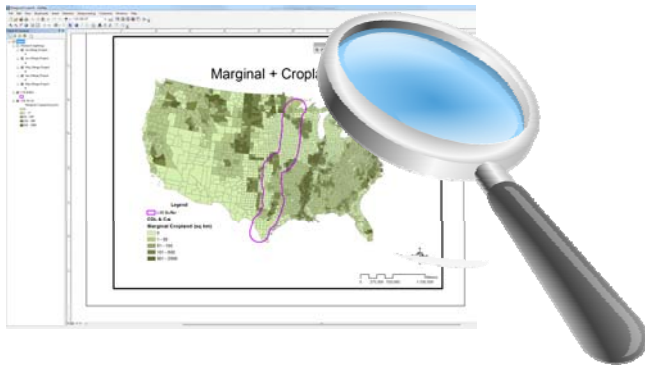
About Energy Resources Center

- Within College of Engineering at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
- Research center founded in 1973
- Focused research and services related to energy efficiency, distributed generation, utilities billing management, and biofuels and bioenergy
- Engaged with utilities, ag industry, government agencies, and non-profits



About Energy Resources Center

Land use analyses



Monarch Collaborative



Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group



Powell Center Monarch Science Partnership



Board Member



Why Rights-of-Way?

- Extensive network
- Intersect various landscapes
- Linear
- Often contain greater plant diversity than adjacent lands
 - Pollen and nectar sources
 - Nesting sites and host plants
- Generally free of major disturbances
- Protected from future development
- Studies show that right-of-way habitats work!



Photos courtesy of: St. Olaf College, Rice County Integrated Roadside (top);
Dreamstime.com (middle); Pacific Gas & Electric (bottom)

Why Rights-of-Way?

- More than 17 million acres of roadsides in U.S.¹
- 164,000 miles of electric transmission lines in U.S.²
- Not to mention gas and oil pipelines, railroads, and other utilities such as wastewater



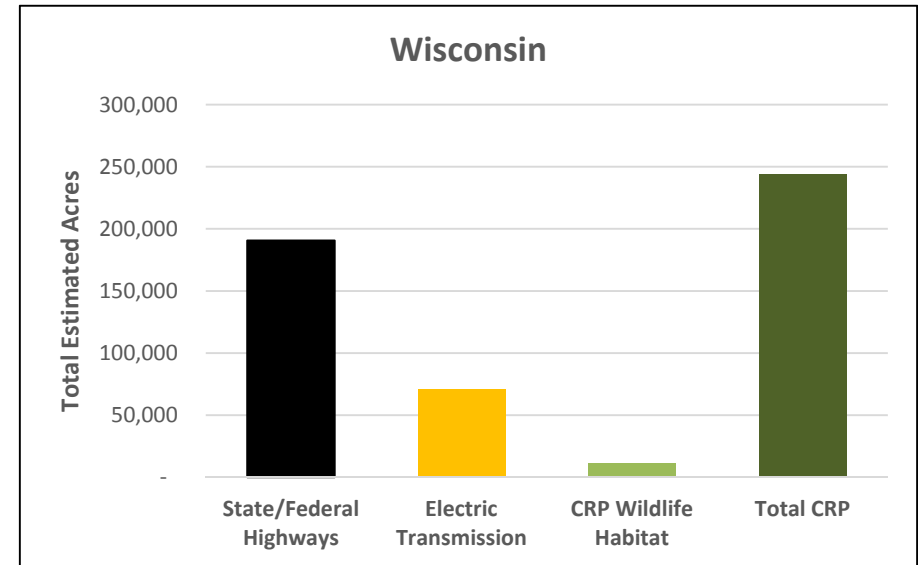
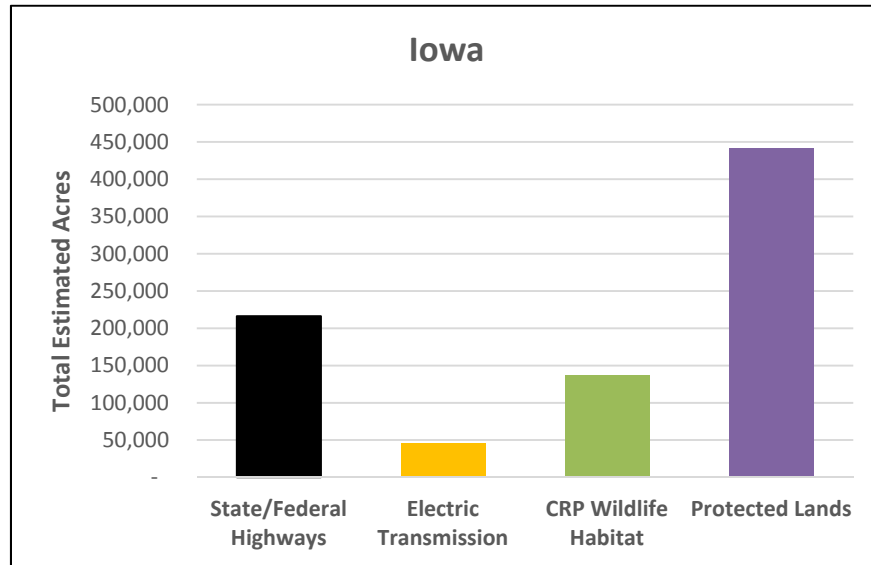
Photos courtesy of (left to right): Godfrey Hoffman Associates, LLC; Geology.com; The Dallas Morning News; Kable Intelligence Limited.



1. Ament, R., Powell, S., Stoy, P., Begley, J. (2013). Roadside Vegetation and Soils on Federal Lands.
2. Silverstein, A. (2011). Transmission 101. NCEP Transmission Technologies Workshop.

Why Rights-of-Way?

- Compared to other landscapes...



ROW as Habitat Working Group

Feedback from July meeting

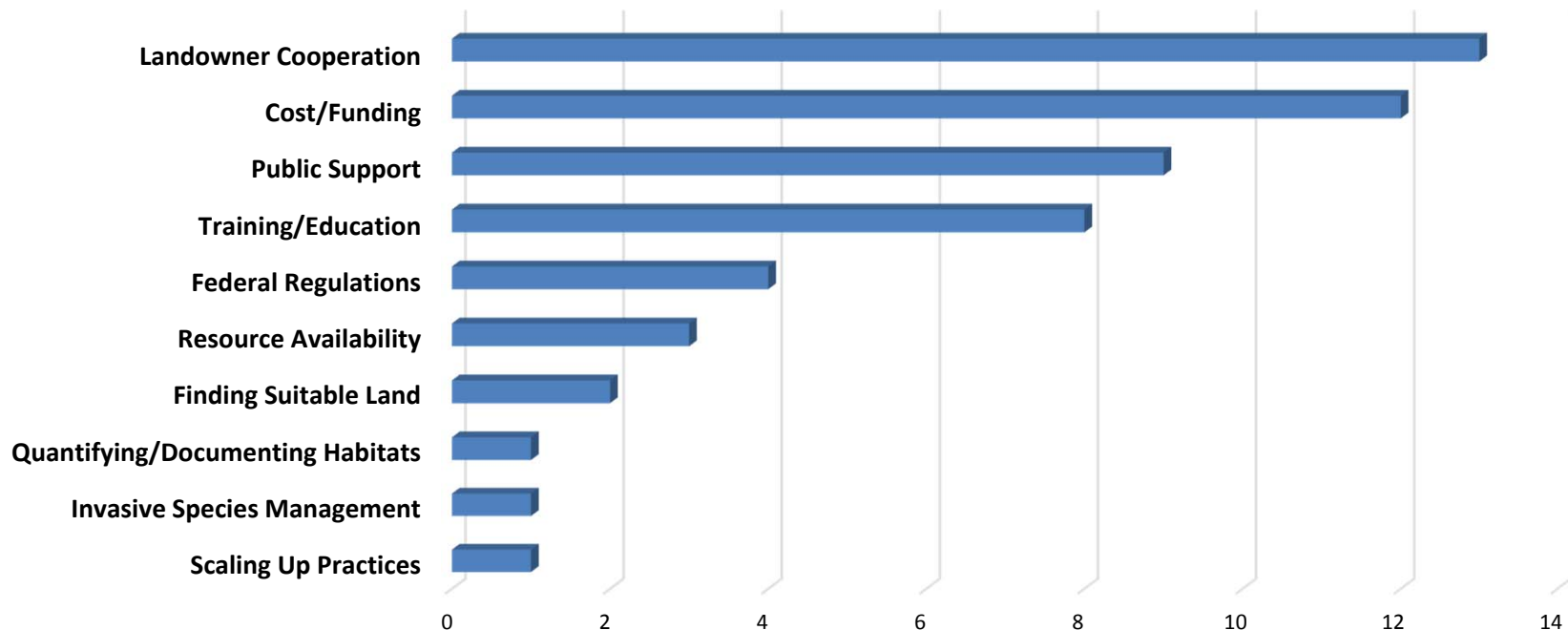
- Meet regularly
- Want ways to engage with each other
- Need BMPs, tools and roadmaps, and other expertise and strategies that can be adapted
- Help identify or coordinate funding opportunities
- New contacts to invite to working group



ROW as Habitat Working Group

Feedback from July meeting

Hurdles Facing Working Group Participants



ROW as Habitat Working Group

Since then...

- Awarded grant by National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- Supporting parallel initiatives like I-35 corridor
- *Pollinator Habitat in Practice* webinars
- Tracking relevant news and resources
- Updates to website




ROW as Habitat Working Group


<http://www.erc.uic.edu/biofuels-bioenergy/pollinator-habitat/rights-of-way-as-habitat/>


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Pollinator Habitat

Overview

Rights-of-Way as Habitat

RIGHTS-OF-WAY AS HABITAT

A number of recent federal and state conservation strategies for pollinators, including the [National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators](#) released by the White House's Pollinator Health Task Force in May 2015, identify utility and transportation rights-of-way as key to the success of widespread pollinator habitat development.

WORKING GROUP

The ERC facilitates a Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group focused on the utility and transportation sectors. The working group provides a forum to collaborate and share ideas, best practices, and other information to promote successful habitat projects along rights-of-way.


SAVE THE DATE

Please mark your calendars to attend the next Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group meeting on **January 19, 2016** at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Find more information and register [here](#).


Initial Meeting

PROGRAM CONTACT


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WORKING GROUP RESOURCES PAGE


RELATED LINKS



Opportunities for Pollinators Along Rights-of-Way



Opportunities for Pollinators Along Right-Of-Way



Pollinator Habitat in Practice: Noble Energy's Pipeline Right-of-Way Project in Northeast Colorado

If you have information or resources to contribute to this page, please contact

ROW as Habitat Working Group



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