GROW WITH TREES
BOOTS TO THE BOARDROOM

Utility Vegetation Management, Integrated Vegetation Management, & Integrated Habitat Management

	Utility Vegetation Management (UVM)[1]	**Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)[2]**	**Integrated Habitat Management (IHM)[3]**
Goal / Purpose	Maintain vegetation below minimum clearance distances (tolerance levels and action thresholds)	Maintain vegetation below minimum clearance distances, to establish and maintain low-growing vegetation covers (biological control) that will discourage incompatible species from establishing	Maintain vegetation below minimum vegetation clearance distances, to establish and maintain low-growing vegetation covers (biological control) that meet specific wildlife habitat compositional and structural requirements
Control Methods	Physical, chemical, cultural	Biological, physical, chemical, cultural	Biological, physical, chemical, cultural, prescribed fire (if/where feasible)
Treatment Selectivity	Mostly non-selective	Non-selective & selective	Non-selective & selective
Maintenance Periodicity	Cyclic (0.25-6 years), sometimes deferred	Cyclic (0.25-6), not often deferred	As needed, dependent on vegetation composition and need for disturbance
Vegetation Composition Control	Largely uncontrolled	Controlled	Highly controlled
Vegetation Outcomes	Increasing incompatible densities and heights through resprouting hardwoods (stem multiplication), high risk of colonization by invasives	Reduced incompatible densities and heights, lower risk of invasives (all reduced over UVM)	Reduced incompatible densities and heights, low risk of invasives (all reduced over IVM)
Scale	Whole network	Whole network	Very rarely applied across whole networks; typically reserved for special sites (research & demonstration, high value restoration projects)

[1] **Utility Vegetation Management:** To maintain reliable and safe transmission and distribution of energy, federal, state/provincial, and municipal/local laws, statutes, codes, and regulations are established to enforce legal requirements for energy utilities to manage vegetation to provide safe and reliable energy to their customers (Right-of-Way Stewardship Council, 2025 Technical Requirements).

[2] **Integrated Vegetation Management:** A system of managing plant communities in which compatible and incompatible vegetation are identified, action thresholds are considered, control methods are evaluated, and selected controls are implemented to achieve specific objectives (IVM BMP 3rd Edition).

[3] **Integrated Habitat Management:** All aspects of IVM with the intent to manage for specific wildlife habitats and/or desired vegetation conditions.

IVM & Sustainability Acronyms & Terms

Biodiversity Commitment: Publicly available commitment issued by a company to formally adhere to the requirements found within S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment (EPRI, November 2022. ESG Biodiversity Handbook. 3002024725).

Biodiversity Conservation Target: A limited number of species, natural communities, or entire ecological systems that natural resources managers select to represent the biodiversity of a conservation landscape or protected area, which therefore serve as the foci of conservation investment and measures of conservation effectiveness. (NatureServe, 2008).

Biodiversity Risk Assessment: A biodiversity risk assessment is the identification, evaluation, and prioritization of risks to an organization that stem from its dependencies on, and impacts to, biodiversity and ecosystems. These risks can be physical, transition-related, or systemic, and are assessed through changes in the state of nature and in the flow of ecosystem services the organization relies on (summarized from Guidance on the Identification and Assessment of Nature-Related Issues: The LEAP Approach, 2023).

Biodiversity Exposure Evaluation: Geospatial process of evaluating a company footprint for co-location and adjacency to protected areas, biologically important areas outside of protected areas, and potential habitat for critically endangered, endangered, threatened, vulnerable species and species of least concern. (EPRI, November 2022. ESG Biodiversity Handbook. 3002024725).

CDP: Carbon Disclosure Project

DJSI: Dow Jones Sustainability Index, Corporate Sustainability Assessment, Section 2.6 Biodiversity

GRI: Global Reporting Initiative, 101, Biodiversity 2024, Topic Standard

TNFD: Task Force for Nature-Related Financial Disclosures, LEAP Approach (Located, Evaluate, Assess, Prepare)

NNL: No Net Loss: Status achieved when biodiversity gains from the combination of avoidance, mitigation, rehabilitation, and targeted conservation actions match biodiversity losses from the impacts of a specific development project such that there is no overall reduction in the type, amount, or condition of biodiversity over space and time (Fauna & Flora International, 2015)

NPI: Net Positive Impact: Target for project outcomes in which the impacts on biodiversity (i.e., the variety of ecosystems and living things) caused by the project are outweighed by the actions taken to avoid and reduce such impacts, rehabilitate affected species/landscapes, and offset any residual impacts (NPI Alliance, 2015).