RIGHTS-OF-WAY AS HABITAT WORKING GROUP



PROMOTING HABITAT & HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS ON WORKING LANDS

The Working Group engages more than 400 organizations from across private industry, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and academia in the U.S. and Canada.

The Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group connects a diverse network of people to enhance compatible, value-added conservation on energy and transportation lands. Through workshops and webinars, interactive online tools and databases, and focused task forces, the Working Group provides an inclusive and collaborative forum to advance innovative and credible solutions for creating and managing habitat on energy and transportation lands.

WHY RIGHTS-OF-WAY?

Rights-of-way (ROW) are comprised of roadsides and corridors for railroads, electric transmission and distribution lines, and gas/petroleum pipelines. These pathways connect the world around us, and create havens for wildlife. As habitats around the world diminish with increasing land development and intensifying land management practices, ROW often contain greater biodiversity compared to adjacent or surrounding landscapes. In this way, ROW can provide the food and shelter that many of our beloved birds, butterflies, and other wildlife so desperately need. ROW offer a unique opportunity to advance habitat conservation by creating a broad network of linear tracts that intersect a variety of landscapes, connect remnant habitats to other favorable environments, and are generally safe from major disturbances or future development.

INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION

Integrating climate change, biodiversity, and environmental justice goals

CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION

Unique partnerships to enhance and advance conservation efforts

RESOURCE CLEARINGHOUSE

Central repository for data and tools to help meet habitat goals

KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

Sharing collective experiences to improve habitat actions

UIC UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO
Energy Resources Center

ROW HWG

rightofway.erc.uic.edu

MAKING WAY FOR HABITAT

VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS

The Working Group developed the first nationwide Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for the monarch butterfly. This agreement demonstrates the significant interest and investment in habitat conservation across the energy and transportation sectors and provides valuable regulatory certainty and operational flexibility to industry participants. Finalized in April 2020, the CCAA is the largest conservation agreement of its kind in terms of geographic extent and broad multi-sector collaboration and serves as an innovative model for large-scale landscape conservation for other at-risk species. Beginning in 2023, the Working Group will begin development of a similar agreement for several bumble bee species.

GEOSPATIAL HABITAT DATABASE

The Rights-of-Way as Habitat Geospatial Database collects data on pollinator habitat managed on ROW and other lands across the U.S. The database enables better quantification of managed habitat on these lands, supports general tracking and benchmarking of habitat restoration activities by the energy and transportation sectors, highlights the ecosystem benefits and promotes new conservation partnerships and collaborations.

POLLINATOR HABITAT SCORECARD

Recognizing the need for a common language to describe habitat across organizations, sectors, and a variety of landscapes, the Working Group developed a standard set of metrics and scoring methodologies for evaluating pollinator habitat and management practices on energy and transportation lands.

MEETINGS AND WEBINARS

Working Group meetings and webinars bring together conservation experts, vegetation managers, environmental professionals, researchers, government agencies, and non-profit partners to tackle important topics related to implementing and managing habitat on working lands. The meetings and webinars provide valuable networking and learning opportunities in addition to collaborative working sessions for industry peers to exchange best practices and develop shared resources.

ONLINE RESOURCES

The Working Group's interactive website features a clearinghouse of best management practices, case studies, tools, and other resources related to habitat conservation on working lands; an up-to-date events calendar and news page; a searchable directory of Working Group participants; webinar recordings; an online discussion board; and current project summaries.

40+
INDUSTRY PARTNERS

up to **2.3 MILLION**
ACRES OF HABITAT

MAPPING HABITAT
ON RIGHTS-OF-WAY

3 TIERS
PROVIDE
a flexible
monitoring tool

100+
ATTENDEES
At Meetings

8+
PROJECT TEAMS

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