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**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
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BPA recognized for stewardship in rights-of-way

Bonneville Power Administration becomes the first power marketing agency to achieve the stringent requirements for accreditation set by the Right-of-Way Stewardship Council

Portland, Ore. – Bonneville Power Administration was recognized recently for achieving excellence in environmental stewardship on its rights-of-way associated with more than 15,000 circuit miles of transmission in the Northwest. The Right-of-Way Stewardship Council presented the accreditation to BPA at an event in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on Monday.

BPA joins a select group of large utilities as the only power marketing administration in the nation to receive the accreditation. In all, only seven utilities have earned the title of “Right-of-Way Steward” in North America.

“I’m immensely proud – it’s a huge step for us to be the first power marketing agency to receive this accreditation,” said Steve Narolski, BPA’s program manager for vegetation management. “We’re at the forefront of other utilities on vegetation management.”

Vegetation management plays a critical role in transmission system reliability. Under industry standards set by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, vegetation in rights-of-way – or transmission corridors – must be controlled in order to prevent contact or other interference with transmission lines. A single tree coming into contact with a transmission line can cause a fault or cascading outage. Tree contacts were triggering events in both the 1996 West Coast Blackout and the 2003 Midwest-Northeast Blackout.

“This is tremendous recognition for our vegetation management team,” said Robin Furrer, BPA’s vice president of Transmission Field Services. “But it also speaks of the broader agency, too. Our vegetation crews work closely with employees from a cross section of this agency – from legal to environmental to realty to engineering and maintenance.”

The ROWSC program provides standards of excellence for environmental stewardship in the form of 10 principles and 29 criteria and presents the opportunity for utilities to demonstrate their commitment to such standards. The ROWSC establishes rigorous management standards and uses a third-party, independent auditor to ensure compliance and aid in identifying excellence.

The accreditation is for a single year with follow-up desk audits for compliance in the following three years. Every five years, accredited utilities must undergo the entire certification process including on-the-ground verification of compliance.

About Right-of-Way Stewardship Council

[Right-of-Way Stewardship Council](#) is an accreditation program that is being pursued by a diverse group of stakeholders to provide standards of excellence for environmental stewardship along rights-of-way and presents the opportunity for utility companies to demonstrate their commitment to such standards. It establishes standards for responsible ROW vegetation management within high-voltage electric transmission corridors. The aim of the program is to promote the application of integrated vegetation management and best management practices to the utility vegetation management industry in order to maintain power system reliability and address ecological concerns. Dovetail Partners serves as the ROWSC program administrator and fiscal agent.

About BPA

[Bonneville Power Administration](#) is a federal nonprofit agency that manages over 15,000 circuit miles of transmission lines throughout the Pacific Northwest. Although BPA is part of the U.S. Department of Energy, it is self-funding and covers its costs by selling its products and services. BPA markets wholesale electrical power from 31 federal hydro projects in the Columbia River Basin, one nonfederal nuclear plant and several other small nonfederal power plants. About one-third of the electric power used in the Northwest comes from BPA. BPA dedicates itself to providing high system reliability, low rates consistent with sound business principles, environmental stewardship and accountability.

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