

FACT SHEET: Integrated Vegetation Management Program

What is Integrated Vegetation Management?

Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) is an assessment and management tool for maintaining growth within transmission line corridors, also called rights of way (ROW). The underlying need for the IVM Program is to ensure reliable and cost-effective operation of Western's federal transmission system, while protecting the environment and the safety and health of Western employees and the general public.

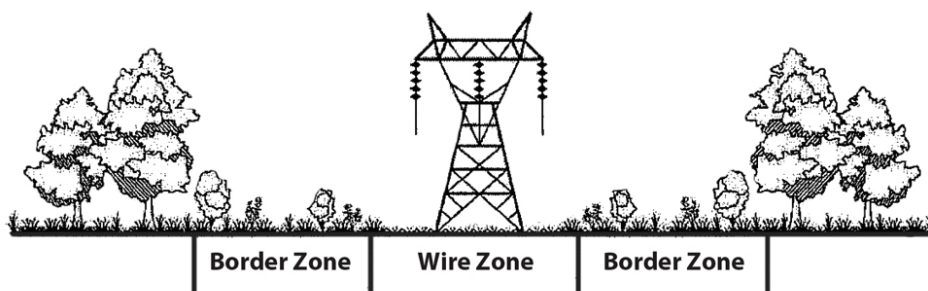
Why is Integrated Vegetation Management important?

With the responsibility of operation and maintenance on the federal transmission system, as well as other transmission and distribution facilities, Western must maintain thousands of mile of electric transmission line ROWs. Often these ROWs can be several hundreds of feet wide. Vegetation growing in these ROWs must be controlled to prevent operational hazards, protect facilities from fire, prevent safety problems for Western employees and neighboring members of the public, and to prevent interference with our ability to carry out both routine and emergency maintenance of these facilities.

Vegetation near the transmission systems has always been a concern, but is a much greater problem today as it is a major cause of unplanned outages. However, with everyone's cooperation, we can help to ensure system reliability and limit fires caused or fueled by vegetation.

It is the policy of Western to protect the public, its maintenance crews, and our electric transmission lines and facilities by means of regular maintenance of the transmission line, towers, and access roads to prevent these types of occurrences.

Western will clear the ROW in a manner consistent with its long-range vegetation management plan and with the achievement of "Wire Zone, Border Zone" objectives. This involves shifting plant communities found on the current ROW away from the predominately tall growing plant species, resulting in a more environmentally and aesthetically stable ROW environment.



Methods of Integrated Vegetation Management

Western addresses both the control of unwanted vegetation and the control of noxious weeds using several methods including:

- **Manual:** Use of physical labor/hand saws and chippers
- **Chemical:** Use of herbicides to chemically control vegetation; this can involve a number of different treatment/application methods
- **Mechanical:** Use of mechanical equipment



Who does the work for these projects?

Western will contact the current landowner and brief them on the scope of the project, once a determination has been completed. This determination is conducted by Western's Lands Division, and the maintenance crews (linemen) by:

- Quarterly aerial patrols
- Annual ground patrols
- Calls from landowners
- Site inspections by Western's Utility Arborist and the Lands Department

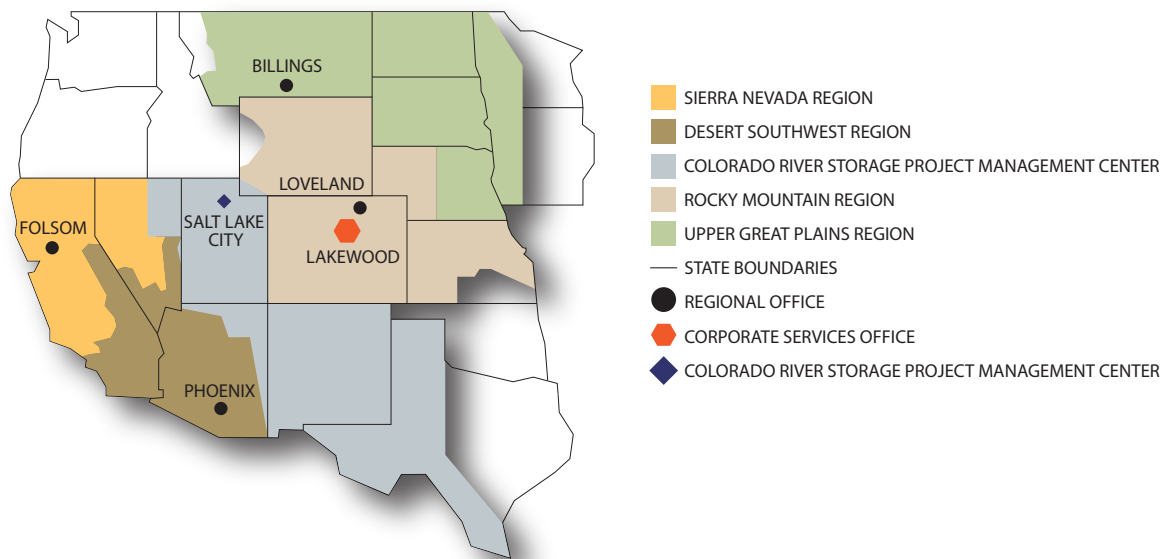
Western will hire contractors to enter the ROW and complete all of the vegetation management work at Western's expense.

When will Integrated Vegetation Management be conducted in my area?

Western conducts vegetation management projects in small sections. Landowners are contacted by our Lands Division when we are planning vegetation management in your area.

More Information

For more information about Western and its programs, visit our website: www.wapa.gov



Western Area Power Administration annually markets and transmits more than 25,000 gigawatt hours of clean, renewable power from 56 hydroelectric powerplants owned and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 15 western and central states. It is part of the Department of Energy.

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