Context
The effective management of vegetation on transmission and distribution corridors is essential to the reliable supply of electricity and to ensure public and worker safety. Vegetation programs must also comply with new and emerging regulations, meet public and landowner expectations and consider environmental issues. Managing vegetation can range from pruning or removing individual trees to encouraging the establishment of low growing compatible plant communities on a right-of-way. Furthermore, it involves responding to public, First Nations, Government and landowner requests and concerns, while still achieving control that will comply with NERC and other regulations in a cost effective manner. These are a few of the aspects needed to develop a comprehensive and effective vegetation management program.

Focus Areas
The CEATI Vegetation Management Program focuses on many of the areas noted above with an emphasis on asset management and program planning, as opposed to specific work specifications required for fieldwork.

The following areas have been identified by members as important to VMP’s mission. It is anticipated that this list will develop and evolve over time.
• Adapting and Implementing Technology Solutions to Vegetation Programs
• New Materials and Techniques
• Environmental Issues, Requirements, and Compliance
• Vegetation Management Program Optimization
• Responsible Vegetation Management Practices
• Strategies for Public Notification and Consultation

Why It Matters
The VMP group provides vegetation managers with a cost-effective vehicle for sharing experiences and addressing issues pertinent to their day-to-day operations, maintenance, and planning. The primary benefit of program participation lies in the opportunity to tap into the wealth of experience and knowledge of other transmission & distribution electrical utility participants, allowing members to learn from the mistakes and successes of others.

Goals and Objectives
CEATI’s Vegetation Management Program is designed to create networking opportunities for vegetation managers and connections with subject matter experts for making improvements in their vegetation management programs.

Deliverables
As a participant in the Effective Program Implementation working group and a sponsor for three projects (listed below) BPA expects to gain empirical evidence, performance data, recommendations, and best practices to inform the Agency’s future measures development and improvement.
TIP 432: CEATI – Vegetation Management Protection (VMP)

Project Start Date: January 2020
Project End Date: December 2021

Links
CEATI Vegetation Management Program

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CEATI VMP Program Research Portfolio - 2021

The following current projects are expected to provide value to BPA’s Transmission right of way vegetation management operations:

The overall objective of this project is to establish best management practices for program communication that supports the provision of consistent, effective messaging to the public, stakeholders and corporate leaders for their understanding and overall acceptance for electric utilities’ vegetation management practices and implementation for providing safe and reliable service. In support of the best management practices, a compilation, and cross-reference library, is necessary to provide the most effective key communication messages that should be used by vegetation management and communication professionals for the most effective defense, justification, communication and promotion of electric utility vegetation management programs.
Bonneville Power Administration is a Sponsor of this Project

4106 Practical Use of Earth Imagery Using Satellites for Utility Vegetation Management
A comparison of LiDAR and PhoDAR is to be studied by the vegetation management group and the most likely next step is the study of how satellite imagery can either add greater value to already-existing the data set or stand alone for the purpose of understanding the landscape and condition of the utility forest or assist in the development of a growth model for greater predictability in support of preventative maintenance.
Bonneville Power Administration is a Sponsor of this Project

4105 A Comparison of Phodar vs. LiDAR - Advantages and Disadvantages of Each
The objective of this project is to develop a practical guide for managers at electrical utilities that can be used to decide whether PhoDAR or LiDAR is the best method to use to collect information on vegetation, equipment and assets in a specific situation. For example in vegetation management, it is becoming increasingly important to pin point the exact location of a tree trunk. This information is critical to determining if the tree is on or off the ROW and pivotal in determining how to deal with it. Historically many utilities have conducted separate patrols to obtain data for individual groups; there could be significant potential benefits from combining patrols. The report should include both the transmission and distribution systems and it should specifically address challenges and benefits of collecting spatial data that will be of use to all utility management programs including vegetation and asset management.
Bonneville Power Administration is a Sponsor of this Project