



ENVIRONMENT + SUSTAINABILITY

Vegetation Management Field Education

ITC relies on state and federal surveys of rare plant and animal species or unique natural ecosystems to support its environmental stewardship activities. However, the annual updates provided by wildlife agencies used to compile online databases for ITC and other organizations can provide an incomplete picture of rare species and unique habitat locations in relationship to ITC transmission corridors.

To strengthen our knowledge in this area, ITC's environmental team developed a field program for recognizing rare species and their habitats.

ITC's environmental team conducts annual sessions focusing on field identification of rare plant and wildlife species, the vegetation characterizing their preferred habitats, and unique landscape ecosystems. Invasive species identification and recognition of common native plant species typical of different ecosystem types also are addressed. The sessions include special regulatory topics such as federally endangered species, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Act and cultural resources.

Program Scope

- Field-based, hands-on activities
- Relationship-building with natural resource agencies and local land managers
- Natural resource agency and public land manager coordination regarding site selection, species locations, and recommended vegetation management methodologies
- Multi-site, field-based sessions for vegetation managers and planners concentrating on identification of rare plant and animal species, unique ecosystems, common native vegetation typical of various ecosystems types, and invasive species.
- Development of educational field booklets providing:
 - Regional landscape ecosystem context, geology, soils, vegetation, and rare plant and animal species for each field site
 - Photographs and key identification characteristics for each rare species and unique ecosystem
 - Special environmental topic summaries of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Act, and the Natural Historic Preservation Act
- Reference list of printed and electronic resources for further reading and future use.

About ITC:

ITC is investing in a 21st century power grid to improve reliability, expand access to markets, lower the overall cost of delivered energy and allow new generating resources to interconnect to our transmission systems. In the course of our daily work, ITC integrates a sustainable approach to the environment, enabling us to contribute to the well-being of the communities we serve.



ITC's environmental team engages the services of Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. (ECT), which provides multidisciplinary environmental services worldwide.

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