

Rights of Way Access Roads and Land Acquisition FY12 – FY15

Rights of Way (ROW) are comprised of corridors that contain transmission lines and the access roads established for the original construction and ongoing maintenance of transmission lines. Working with federal, state, and local agencies, private land owners, and other interested parties, BPA maintains 266,600 acres of transmission line corridor rights of way, 19,146 miles of access roads, and approximately 80,000 tracts of easement for the corridors and access roads.

There are three primary activities that occur on the rights of way: 1) control vegetation, 2) maintain and improve access roads, and 3) acquire and manage land rights. All these activities are important in maintaining transmission reliability, availability and safety at least life cycle cost. Only the last two items, access roads and land rights have a capital component. Controlling vegetation is expensed.

BPA's historical approach to ROW management has been to react to events rather than apply a proactive, planned life-cycle cost and a balanced risk approach. Costs to upgrade the ROW are primarily capital activities focused on supporting the sustain programs and upgrades of existing access roads. The historic budget for capital improvements to existing access roads has been as low as \$1 million per year. In addition, there is a significant backlog of obtaining formal easements in many locations.

The integrated rights of way strategy synchronizes the planning and scheduling of ROW work with long-range plans for tribal renewals, line projects, vegetation management cycles, and access roads projects. This four-year capital program for ROW supports implementation of the integrated strategy. Capital requirements for access road construction and easements are driven primarily by the level of construction activities within the Steel and Wood Line sustain programs.