

# FACT SHEET



## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY

### PROTECTING AND CARING FOR OUR WILDLIFE AND THEIR HABITATS

A key component of our environmental stewardship program is our commitment to protecting wildlife and the habitats where they live and breed. Thousands of acres of land across the country are designated as “utility-owned rights-of-way”, which means that although a certain piece of property may not be owned by a utility, they have the right to access that area to maintain essential equipment such as poles and electrical power infrastructure. These substantial areas of land offer a variety of challenges and opportunities for utilities to conserve wildlife habitat in ways that can benefit a large and diverse array of species.

We approach wildlife habitat protection in a number of proactive ways. We regularly manage and maintain the numerous types of vegetation on transmission and distribution rights-of-way land, especially where it pertains to invasive species, which are among the greatest threats to the world’s biodiversity. Wherever possible, we adopt and implement strategic wildlife protection measures such as installing river or stream bank buffers along rights-of-way corridors, timing maintenance activities to avoid breeding seasons, building right-of-way crossings for target species, and applying herbicides at their lowest effective concentrations.

#### THE BASICS OF WILDLIFE HABITAT PROTECTION

Wide ranges of animals—especially land-based animals—use power line rights-of-way as migration corridors. The rights-of-way also serve as “border habitats,” which are essential to the survival of many birds and small mammals.

Land and water owned by electric companies often serve as wildlife refuges or preserves and are thereby protected from development for other uses.

More than half of the habitats for the most endangered species are found on non-federal land and water, including those owned or leased by electric companies.



Because biodiversity within plant and animal species is usually a good indicator of an ecosystem’s health, we carefully monitor these areas and support numerous restoration efforts that create wildlife habitat and increase biodiversity. We use ecosystem-specific (i.e., grassland, shrubland, wetland) best-management practices to protect and preserve the unique characteristics of individual wildlife habitats and plant native species to maintain natural diversity and promote environmental stewardship. We also provide diverse habitats and food sources for wildlife.



## We have received numerous environmental awards for our efforts to protect wildlife habitats.

- We received the Wild Turkey Management Award for incorporating effective wild turkey management into our on-site habitat program
- We were recognized by the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign and the Wildlife Habitat Council for establishing pollinator-friendly practices along our rights-of-way
- We were awarded the Wildlife Habitat Council's Wildlife at Work Certification for contributions to wildlife habitat along our rights-of-way and at one of our industrial facilities

## FOCUSING ON BEST PRACTICES

We are committed to making sure we follow best practices whenever we work in areas where our wildlife live. Examples of our best practices include:

- Conducting habitat management surveys, not just to determine the general condition and components of the land in an area, but also to identify animal or plant species that need particular care and attention
- Enforcing stringent response procedures to minimize our impact on wildlife habitats and to ensure that affected areas are cleaned up, restored and monitored should a spill or other environmental incident occur
- Working with regulatory agencies to identify utility corridors where multiple electric, telephone and/or other facilities or rights-of-way can be grouped to minimize impact on wildlife habitat and habitat fragmentation
- Consulting with regulatory agencies and complying with the Endangered Species Act—we are proactive in protecting threatened and endangered species and their habitats



Our Meadow Management Program promotes the germination and growth of dormant annual and perennial wildflower seeds. Wildflowers provide food and nectar for bees, butterflies and caterpillars. Butterfly populations are an important part of rights-of-way wildlife habitats because they pollinate flowers and provide an essential food source for other wildlife. They also beautify the environment at the same time.

For more information about our environmental programs, contact us at [enviroinfo@pepcoholdings.com](mailto:enviroinfo@pepcoholdings.com) or visit us at [www.pepcoholdings.com/services/environment/](http://www.pepcoholdings.com/services/environment/).