

MEETING AGENDA



Environmental
Concerns in
Rights-of-Way
Management®

14TH
INTERNATIONAL
SYMPOSIUM



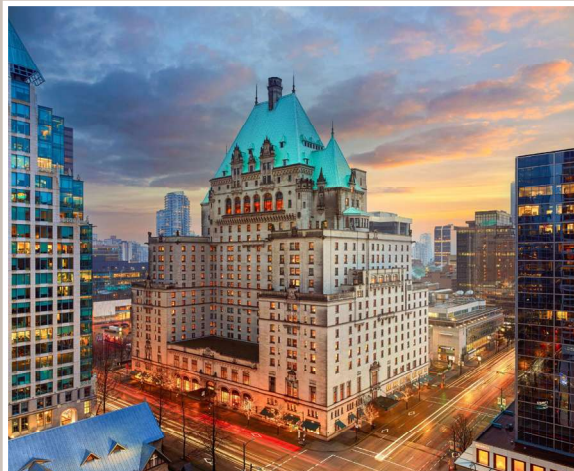
VANCOUVER

BRITISH COLUMBIA
CANADA



MAY 11-14, 2026

FAIRMONT HOTEL
Vancouver 900 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 2W6



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ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS IN RIGHTS-OF-WAY MANAGEMENT

14TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

MEETING AGENDA

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026

9:00 am	Fairmont Hotel Vancouver buses load and leave
9:30 am	Arrive at Grouse Mountain
9:30 am-11:30 am	Grouse Mountain Gondola Experience including Indigenous Welcome and 1.5km guided nature walk
11:30 am-12:00pm	Load buses and travel to hotel
12:00-1:30 pm	Lunch at hotel and change
1:30-2:00pm	Walk to Vancouver Port
2:00-2:30 pm	Load Boat/Check in at Port
2:30-3:30 pm	Boat Tour: Exports of ROW in ports
3:30-5:00 pm	Walk to Brewery & Return to Hotel
6:00-8:00 pm	50 Year of ROW Welcome Reception & Networking Dinner, Columbia Ballroom; Dean Mutrie and Anne Beard

KEY CATEGORIES

- Ecology/Environmental
- Regulatory & Permitting
- Reclamation/Restoration
- Planning/Evaluation & Assessment
- Indigenous Engagement Inclusion
- Technology & Mitigation Strategies
- Vegetation Management
- Energy Transition

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026

6:00-7:00 am	Running Club: Join other conference attendees for a morning run! (Meet in the lobby.) <i>*Must sign waiver to participate; waiver is on website.</i>	
7:00-7:45 am	Breakfast / Exhibit Hall Open	Columbia Ballroom
7:50-8:05 am	Welcome Message	Pacific Ballroom
8:05-8:25 am	Safety Message	Pacific Ballroom
8:25-9:45 am	Keynote: "21 Things you should know about Indigenous Self Government" Speaker: Bob Joseph	Pacific Ballroom
9:50-10:00 am	Break	
TIME	ACTIVITY	ROOM
10:00 am-12:00 pm	Morning Plenary Session—Rights of Way in Transition Panel: A Changing Landscape Over 50 Years	Pacific Ballroom
12:00-12:55 pm	Lunch / Exhibit Hall Open	Columbia Ballroom
1:00-1:25 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Biodiversity gains in ROW: Importance of Information based programs; Mariclaire Rigby and Eric George 	Waddington
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Partnership Playbook: Trending Strategies for Community Collaboration; Leticia Solaun, Lucy Cotter, and Suzanne Moreland 	Boardroom
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Northeast Utility Working Group: A Coalition for Conservation, Construction, and Right-of-way Maintenance; Corey Schutzman and Jacob Reed 	Vancouver Island

TIME	ACTIVITY	ROOM
1:30–1:55 pm	● Comparing traditional ground survey methods to machine learning using UAVs to assess milkweed stem density and habitat composition in ROWs; Adam M. Baker	Waddington
	● CER's collaborative approach to verifying compliance to environmental requirements on pipeline construction projects: Inspection teams comprised of Inspection Officers & Indigenous Monitors; Holly Kingston	Boardroom
	● From the Working Face: Consulting Practitioners' Insights for Improving the Efficiency and Quality of Impact Assessment in Canada; Jason Smith, Celesa I. Horvath & Stacie Smith	Vancouver Island
2:00–2:25 pm	● Easement Landowner Perceptions and Preferences for Integrated Vegetation Management; Gabriel Karns and Julia Glandorff	Waddington
	● A Successful Industry-First Nation Collaboration on the Coastal GasLink Pipeline; Ward Prystay, Regina Toth, and Bob Redden	Boardroom
	● How well is the Canadian pipeline approvals process working in the post Bill C-69 era?; James Power and Lindsay Mitchell	Vancouver Island
2:30–2:55 pm	● Energy in the Balance: Implementing Mandated Infrastructure Upgrades Efficiently While Navigating Expanding Environmental Regulations; Ryan Scott and Meredith Mathias	Waddington
	● A Special Wetland, Eversource Energy's Atlantic White Cedar Mitigation Project; Melissa Kaplan and Tom Groves	Boardroom
	● California Must Adopt Biodiversity Net Gain to Protect Its Future; Robert Warwick	Vancouver Island
2:55–3:15 pm	Break	
3:15–3:40 pm	● From Risk to Asset: Nature-Positive Outcomes and Avoided Risks through Integrated Vegetation Management and Conservation Tools; Dan Salas and Caroline Hernandez	Waddington
	● Strategies for avoiding and minimizing disturbance to bald and golden eagle nests during construction of large-scale transmission line projects; Jessica Pollock	Boardroom
	● Addressing the Challenges of Developing Transmission Line Infrastructure in Urban Areas: A Northern Virginia Perspective; Jon Berkin, Stephen Precker, Liz Valsamidis, and Laura Meadows	Vancouver Island
3:45–4:10 pm	● Single and side-by-side high voltage powerlines cause similar rates of fatal bird collisions in southern Québec, Canada, during fall migration; Amélie Drolet	Waddington
	● Wildlife on the Grid: Exploring the Effectiveness of Utility Rights-of-Ways as Urban Wildlife Corridors in Northwest Indiana; Mark Johnston	Boardroom
	● Assessing the Impact of the Monarch CCAA: Five Years of Conservation Efforts; Megan Petraitis	Vancouver Island
4:15–4:40 pm	● Native Plants, Biodiversity Gains using IVM in Relation to Adjacent Land Use: NYPA; Anand Persad and Lew Payne	Waddington
	● Plant and Animal Response to Powerline Right of Way Treatments: The Latest Research Findings from the Pennsylvania State Game Lands 33 (SGL33) Research Project; Hannah Cave Stout	Boardroom
	● A synopsis of the variance (change) request program of the United States Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's voluntary Environmental Compliance Monitoring Program (ECMP); Anthony Dalbec	Vancouver Island
4:45–5:00 pm	Plenary/End of Day – Recap and Announcements	Pacific Ballroom

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026

6:00–7:00 am	Running Club: Join other conference attendees for a morning run! (Meet in the lobby.)	
7:00–8:00 am	Breakfast / Exhibit Hall Open	Columbia Ballroom
8:00–8:20 am	Welcome Message	Pacific Ballroom
TIME	ACTIVITY	ROOM
8:20–8:50 am	● Using drone and satellite imagery to assess the quality of pollinator habitat on rights-of-way; Ashley Bennett, Josh Pritso, and Randy Pearson	Waddington
	● Redefining UVM in Urban Environments; Kathryn Manende and Deven Morrill	Boardroom
	● Unparalleled constraints and complexities—the Buffalo Plains Windfarm; Andy Edeburn	Vancouver Island
8:55–9:20 am	● Saving Snails: Novel ROW Mitigation for an Endangered Invertebrate; Nick Parayko	Waddington
	● Assessing Agricultural Land Reclamation Following the Trans Mountain Expansion Project: Findings from Year One of Post-Construction Environmental Monitoring; Amy Sigsworth, Jacob Loukianoff, and Venesa Whyte (Presenters); Bruce McTavish (Co-Author)	Boardroom
	● HVDC Insulator Replacements—Controlling the Chaos of Regular Maintenance; Corey Schutzman and Jessica Farrell	Vancouver Island
9:25–9:40 am	Break	
9:45–11:05 am	Morning Plenary: Planning, Constructing & Operating Rights-of-Way for Biodiversity Outcomes	Pacific Ballroom
11:10–11:35 am	● Quantifying Natural Recovery in Forested Areas; Brittany Flemming	Waddington
	● Incorporating local Inuit knowledge into caribou-road management strategies; Jenny Foca	Boardroom
11:40 am–12:05 pm	● Threatened and Endangered Species Compliance in a Time of Regulatory Uncertainty; Andrea Sampson	Waddington
	● Grid Reliability Meets Biodiversity: Lessons from Europe’s Ecological Corridor Management Approach; Nick Ferguson	Boardroom
11:10am–12:05 pm	● Celebrating 15 Years of the Utility Arborist Research Fund: Findings and Future Possibilities; Paul Putman, Phil Chen, Jon Goodfellow, Greg Dahl, and Mel Mount	Vancouver Island
12:05–1:00 pm	Lunch / Exhibit Hall Open	
1:05–1:30 pm	● Roads Versus Right-Of-Ways: Comparing Bat Acoustic Data From Two Land Use Types; Steve Johnson	Waddington
	● An assessment of non-herbicidal oils used in IVM control methods on ROW Session; John Goodfellow	Boardroom
	● Proactive Environmental Offsets Reduce Time Lags and Regulatory Risk; Jamie Kereliuk	Vancouver Island
1:35–2:00 pm	● Environmental Planning and Response During an Underground Transmission Line Installation in Sensitive Environments; Andrew Orthober; Andrew Orthober and Kyle Ayers	Waddington
	● Legacy soil impacts across Ohio pipeline ROWs. What are they and how might they impact integrated vegetation management?; M. Scott Demyan	Boardroom
	● Scalable, Efficient, and Enduring Solution for Managing and Analyzing Environmental Data; Venesa Whyte & Triona Shea	Vancouver Island

TIME	ACTIVITY	ROOM
2:05–2:30 pm	● Sampling for Clubroot: Are False Negatives Compromising Crop Biosecurity on Linear Infrastructure Projects?; Brent Saulnier	Waddington
	● Integrating Advanced Technologies and Data-Driven Strategies for Enhanced Utility Vegetation Management; Robert Vanderhoof	Boardroom
	● A Guide to Implementing Site-Level Biodiversity No Net Loss and Net Gain Approaches in the Oil & Gas Industry; Kristine Sare	Vancouver Island
2:35–3:00 pm	● Everyone’s a winner: designing out archaeological impacts and project risks on a linear megaproject in Germany; Brigitte Stefanie Buss	Waddington
	● The effect of construction mats on right-of-way plant community composition and pollinators; Ashley Bennett, Lew Payne, and Amy Flansburg	Boardroom
	● Rights-of-Way and Snake Populations in Southern Alberta: Lessons from a Long-Term Mark-Recapture Study; Laura Southcott & Adam Martinson	Vancouver Island
3:05–3:15 pm	Break	
3:20–3:45 pm	● Stuck Between a Rock and a Rare Plant: Balancing Natural Resources and Growing Energy Consumption; Ryan Scott and Jacob Reed	Waddington
	● Integrating Engagement a Canadian Perspective; Craig Neufeld and Niki Paille	Boardroom
	● Shredded Wood Material for Rights of Way Stabilization, A Case Study—Georgia Transmission Corporation; Lauren Attenbury	Vancouver Island
3:50–4:15 pm	● SunZia Plant Salvage Program and the Implementation of Geospatial Technology to Aid in Environmental Asset Management; Colin Piggot and Samantha Cyr	Waddington
	● Vegetation Management for Species-At-Risk on Operational Pipeline Rights-of-Way; Stephanie Grossman	Boardroom
	● SunZia Transmission – Streamlining Success in Migratory Bird Treaty Act Compliance on a Large Linear Project; Lori Jones and Mark Fletcher	Vancouver Island
4:20–4:45 pm	● Satellite-Based Corridor Monitoring for Construction and Vegetation Management; Pieter duPlessis and Rob Friesen	Waddington
	● Post Fire Hazardous Tree Removal and Subsequent Vegetation Analysis Reveals Biodiversity Net Gain in Napa Valley and Adjoining Areas; Anand Persad and Eric Brown	Boardroom
	● Toward a better management of forest roads in Québec; Philippe Jolin-Morin	Vancouver Island
4:50–5:00 pm	End of Day - Recap and Announcements	Pacific Ballroom

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026

6:00–7:00 am	Running Club: Join other conference attendees for a morning run! (Meet in the lobby.)	
7:30–8:30 am	Breakfast / Exhibit Hall Open	Columbia Ballroom
8:35–9:00 am	● Digital Solutions for Erosion and Sediment Control: A Coastal Gas Link Pipeline Project; Kristen Foreman Erik Voight	Waddington
	● Opportunities for Ecological Improvements Through Multifunctional Transmission Corridor Design; Katie Morrice	Boardroom
	● Using Modern Drone Technology to Minimize Disturbance During Raptor Nest Surveys; Kirsten Pearson and Michael Gerringer	Vancouver Island
9:05–9:30 am	● Exploring AI Solutions for Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment of Linear Infrastructure: Tools, Challenges, and Best Practices; Researcher: Matt Mosher; Presented by Jason Smith and Erik Voight	Waddington
	● Measure Vegetation Management Program Progress & Enhance Decision-Making with Machine Learning; Travis Rogers and Adam Bradshaw	Boardroom
	● Mapping monarch seasonal breeding patterns in eastern North America to inform mowing strategies for roadsides and other rights-of-ways; Researcher: Presented by Victoria Woodson & Carolyn Callaghan; Researched by Vincent Fyson	Vancouver Island
9:35–10:00 am	● Bat use of forested ROWs in the eastern United States; Donald Solick	Waddington
	● Beyond the Brochure: Advancing Indigenous Reconciliation on the Ground; Julie Greenwood	Boardroom
	● Getting Started on Nature Positive Strategies and Biodiversity Disclosure; Kristine Sare	Vancouver Island
10:05–11:30 am	Transition in Use of Technology; Selecting the Right Tool for the Right Business Case; AJM Environmental (Simon Coats or Tommy Thorsteinsson), Eric Voight (Jacobs), Rick Johnstone (ivm partners), Conrad Hilly (NV5), Alister Jenkins (Aethon)	
11:35–11:45	Final Goodbye – Looking ahead	
11:45 am–12:15 pm	Box Lunches	

9:00 am–4:30 pm	Rights-of-Way Habitat Working Group Meeting Agenda found here: https://rightofway.erc.uic.edu/2026-working-group-meeting-draft-agenda	Vancouver Island
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