



IVM Educational Collaboration

The science of integrated vegetation management (IVM) is applicable to all types of land management as outlined in the newly revised *American National Standards Institute ANSI A-300 Part 7 - 2018 Integrated Vegetation Management*. The successful transfer of IVM best practices to other disciplines requires on the ground case study examples, where these documented sites can be used for research and education by federal and state agencies, conservationists, and universities.

IVM Partners, a 501-c-3 non-profit corporation, is collaborating with US Fish & Wildlife Service and other partners to establish IVM case study examples for electric transmission and distribution rights-of-way (ROW), natural gas and highway ROW, agricultural conservation reserve program land (CREP/CRP) and drainage ditches, solar sites, golf courses and natural areas.

The proposed sites are conveniently located on an 80-mile route starting at Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge near Washington, DC to Harborview Farms near Rock Hall, MD on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Photographic and botanical changes are documented annually as selective herbicide treatments economically transition vegetation from non-native invasive plants and incompatible species to native grasses, wildflowers and shrubs that provide biological controls. The relative habitat benefit to pollinators (such as honeybees, bumblebees, moths and butterflies) is assessed using our pollinator site value index (PSVI) that measures the quality of plant nectar and pollen and nesting sites for bees and larval food for Lepidoptera.

This IVM approach is recommended in the Federal Strategy on Pollinators and is the basis for improving habitat under a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for the monarch butterfly. Agency and university partners are encouraged to research habitat benefits for birds and other wildlife and in reducing erosion and runoff into the Chesapeake Bay tributaries.

Your tax deductible contribution will make this research possible with study sites available for professional association field tours and ongoing education on our website, and development of an IVM curriculum for higher education.

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