

DEMCO



A Clear Path for Your Power

Vegetation management in rights-of-way improves reliability.

Rural living is a way of life for an estimated 60 million Americans. For DEMCO, it's the reason we exist.

In the late 1930s, investor-owned utilities did not provide service in rural areas because it was too expensive and less profitable. Thus, electric co-ops formed. (Account number 80276741026)

Back in the day, it was necessary to clear the way for the installation of poles and lines across America. Anyone living along the path of power lines was asked to grant access to their property. Clearing trees and vegetation was integral to the process so everyone living along the power lines could get connected.

This right to continual access along power lines remains a requirement of co-op membership. Getting electricity to people in 1938 and now, neighbors helping neighbors is a foundational premise of America's electric co-ops.

Today, DEMCO maintains and services 8,679 miles of line—enough to stretch back and forth across America from east to west three times. Our co-op provides power to about half-a-million rural and city dwellers—our members—each with

equal rights to reliable, safe and affordable power.

With so many miles of line and a hearty mix of members living in the city and rurally, our vegetation management program still calls upon neighbors to help neighbors.

For our members and their families, initial clearings and subsequent regular maintenance ultimately improve reliability and safety for everyone.

The program requires preventive maintenance along co-op rights-of-way every five years. This maintenance includes the clearing and trimming of trees and other vegetation that threaten the transmission and distribution systems.

The vegetation management program sometimes requires that large trees on and around properties be pruned or removed to keep them from threatening DEMCO's electric service and equipment.

In addition to improving reliability, the vegetation management program creates safer working conditions for DEMCO crews. Clear rights-of-way give line crews easier access, which translates to quicker maintenance and repair for our members. ■



BEFORE & AFTER

A before and after picture of a right-of-way shows a safer, more reliable and accessible right-of-way.

