

## Connected ROW

The effect of humans on the natural world is profound. Urban sprawl, infrastructure development, deforestation, pollution and climate disruption all have their individual and cumulative effects on the environment.

The idea of rewilding has been around for quite some time however we have a unique opportunity in the work that we do to explore this idea further in both principle and execution. The definition of “rewild” is to restore an area of land to its natural uncultivated state. This term is used especially with reference to the reintroduction of species of wild animal that have been driven out or exterminated.

There are challenges that we face in our respective work and there are opportunities for us to leverage some of the core ideas of this principle. We may not all be able to restore the ROW to its natural state however we may be able to recommend and apply methodology that has a positive environmental effect. Biodiversity, vegetation management and wildlife corridor connectivity are all components of work prescriptions that we can either control or provide consultation on.

In the paper, “Rewilding and Biodiversity: Complementary Goals for Continental Conservation.”, Reed Noss and Michael Soulé discuss this idea thoroughly. There is inspiration in this quote from the ‘Conclusions’, “Because ecological and cultural contexts differ, local conservationists and biologists are in the best position to develop tactics for the recovery of wilderness and ecological values in their regions. In practice, this means that many grassroots conservation groups will emphasize representation of habitats or protection of special elements in their reserve designs, at least in the preliminary stages.”

There is a unique opportunity for us to engage on the local level in our work, personal and community life to enact the principles which guide us in the UAA, treating our rights-of-way as ecosystems and taking the best possible care of the natural resources we have been entrusted to manage.

### Links:

<https://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/can-animals-save-us/wildlife-right-of-way>

<https://www.wildwill.net/blog/2017/05/15/rewilding-biodiversity-complementary-goals-continental-conservation/>