

WETLAND ACCESS MATTING: THE RIGHT PLAN FOR SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEMS

METRICS

- ✓ 40 percent fewer mats used
- ✓ Savings of \$19 per linear foot
- ✓ Project completion one month ahead of schedule



BACKGROUND

An electric utility customer came to NEW SOUTH, a YAK ACCESS company, looking for a new solution for wetland access. The previous access provider had stacked mats to create a temporary road, resulting in wetland damage and the formation of a new creek bed that disturbed the natural ecosystem.

Knowing that they would have to return to the site to repair transmission lines, the utility company wanted to implement a new access solution that would not damage the sensitive ecosystem.



THE PROBLEM

A UTILITY COMPANY NEEDS TO AVOID FURTHER WETLAND DAMAGE.

The damaged wetlands from the previous project may never fully recover, but the utility company knew they could take steps to protect the environment and prevent any further damage on the new project. The company was also at risk of getting fined by regulatory authorities and undergoing costly restoration efforts due to the damage from the previous project.

THE SOLUTION

INNOVATIVE MATS PROVIDE SAFE ACCESS WITH MINIMAL IMPACT.

NEW SOUTH used the emtek® wetland protection system, a wetland matting solution that distributes weight over a much larger area than traditional road mats. The unique system allows heavy equipment to travel across wetlands while applying very little downward pressure—around 3.5 psi, which is less than half a human footprint.

The system does not impede the flow of water or wildlife below the mats and can rise and fall with the tides or as water levels change. Radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags embedded in the mats ensure no materials are left behind after the project is completed.





THE RESULTS

THE CLIENT SAVES TIME AND MONEY WHILE PROTECTING THE WETLAND.

Using the emtek® system delivered several benefits to the company, including:

Regulatory Compliance

The embedded RFID technology confirmed the removal of all the mats. The company also met the depression limits designed to protect sensitive species and restrict soil compaction that can impact vegetation growth. The emtek® mats were treated to meet phytosanitary standards and prevent the transfer of invasive species.

Cost Savings

The project used less fuel because emtek® mats are thinner than traditional mats, so fewer truckloads were required to install and remove them from the site. There was no need for post-project restoration because the emtek® system floated above the vegetation and caused no damage. A comparative study showed that the emtek® solution used 40 percent fewer mats than the original method and saved \$19 per linear foot.

Time Savings

The emtek® system was easier to install and remove than the original method with traditional mats, allowing the project to be completed one month ahead of schedule.



THE FUTURE

TAILORED SOLUTIONS DELIVER THE BEST VALUE.

Based on the results, the utility company will continue to work with NEW SOUTH to determine the best access strategy for each site. NEW SOUTH tailors every access solution based on the needs of the site to ensure the customer pays for exactly what they need and nothing more.

Whether it's the emtek® system for wetlands, traditional timber mats, or a combination of different mat types, the NEW SOUTH team creates a customized approach for efficient installation and removal, cost-effective product selection, and maximum environmental protection.



The right solution, in the right place, at the right time.



Discuss the details of your next site access project.

CONTACT US