

Corridor 126-218
Region 3 Review

Corridor 126-218

Vernal to Rock Springs Corridor

Corridor Rationale

Input regarding alignment from Chevron, National Grid, and the Western Utility Group during the WWEC PEIS suggested following this route. There are no planned transmission or pipeline projects within the corridor and no pending or recently authorized ROWs within the corridor. One recently authorized transmission line intersects the corridor.

Corridor location (Region 3 portion):

Utah (Daggett and Uintah Co.)
 BLM: Vernal Field Office
 Regional Review Region(s): Region 3 and Region 4

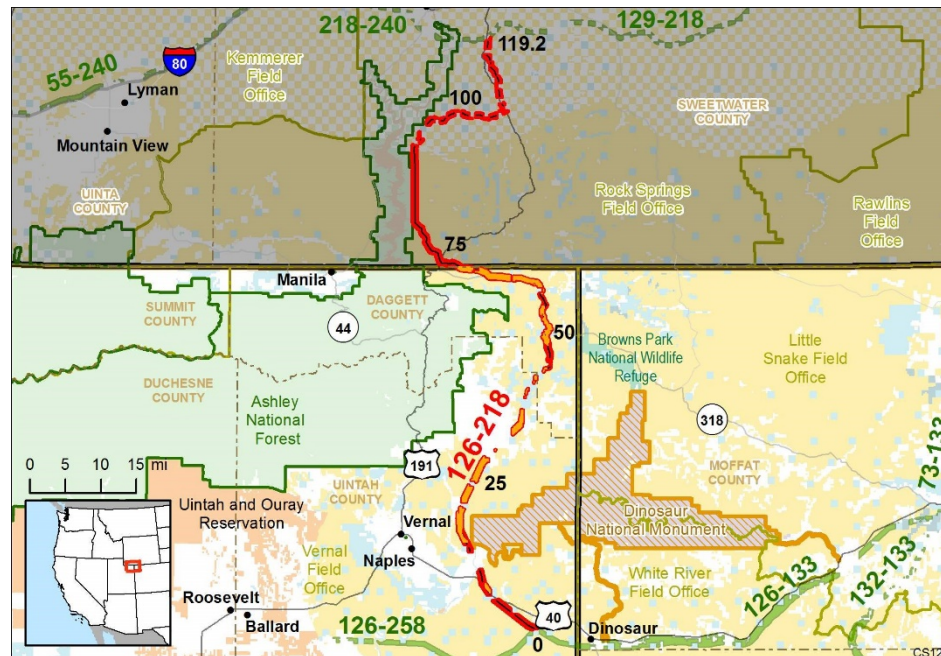
Corridor width, length (Region 3 portion):

Width 3,500 ft
 54.3 miles of designated corridor
 71.4 mile-posted route, including gaps

Sec 368 energy corridor restrictions (Region 3 portion): (Y)

- corridor was designated multi-modal in Region 3, but portions of the corridor within PHMA were designated underground only in the 2015 Utah GRSG ARMPA (depicted in orange in Figures 1-3).

Corridor of concern (N)



Corridor history:

- Locally designated corridor prior to 2009 (N)
- Existing infrastructure (Y)
 - Electric transmission:
 - 69 kV (MP 0 to MP 9)
 - 138 kV (MP 0 to MP 6)
 - Pipelines:
 - 3 refined product (MP 11 to MP 63)
 - 1 to 3 natural gas (MP 11 to MP 67)
- Energy potential near the corridor (N)
- Corridor changes since 2009 (Y)
 - 2015 Utah GRSG ARMPA designated portion of corridor underground-only (depicted in orange in Figures 1-3).

Figure 1. Corridor 126-218

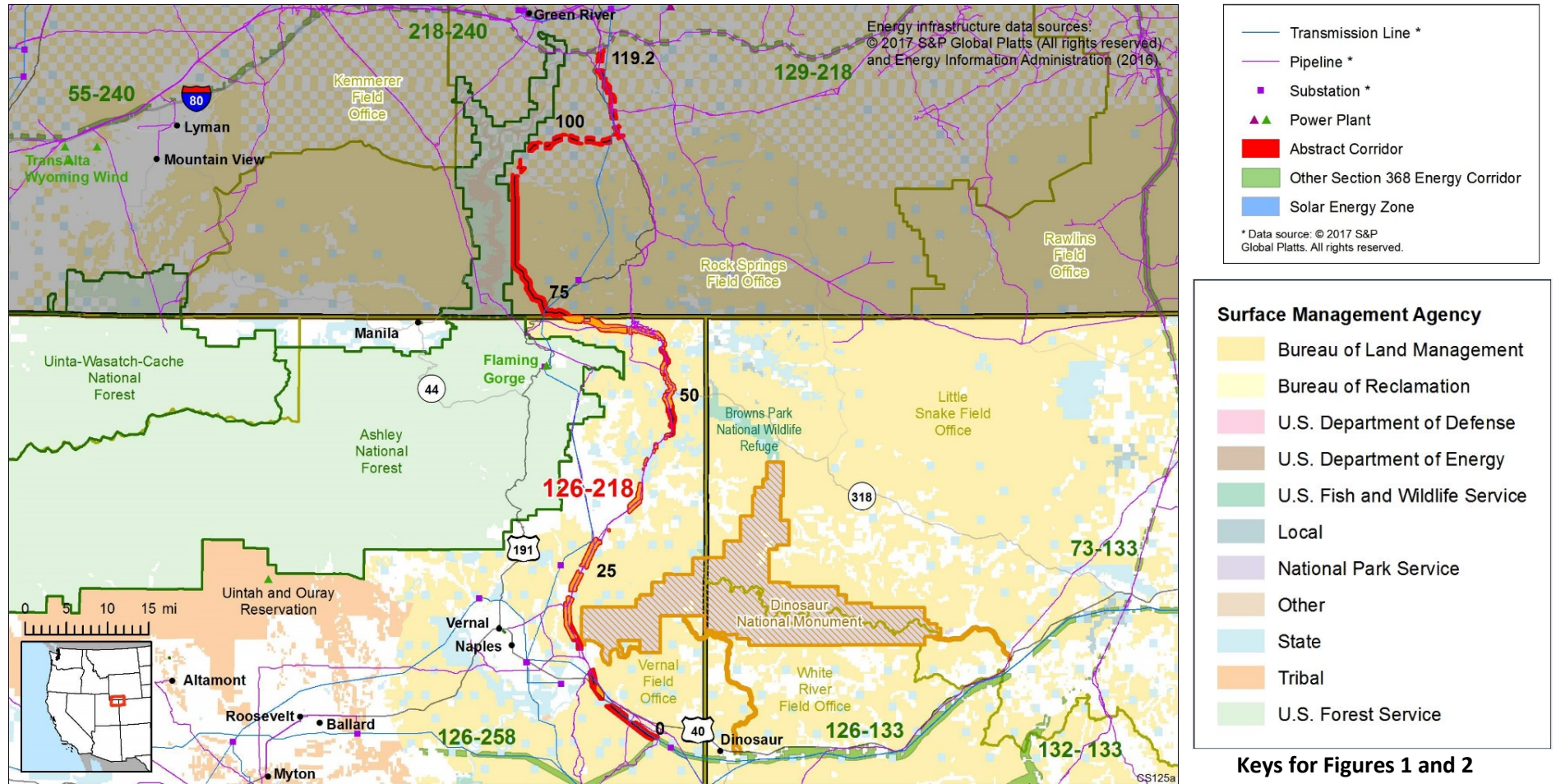


Figure 2. Corridor 126-218 and nearby electric transmission lines and pipelines. (grayed out area outside of Region 2 and 3 Review)

Conflict Map Analysis

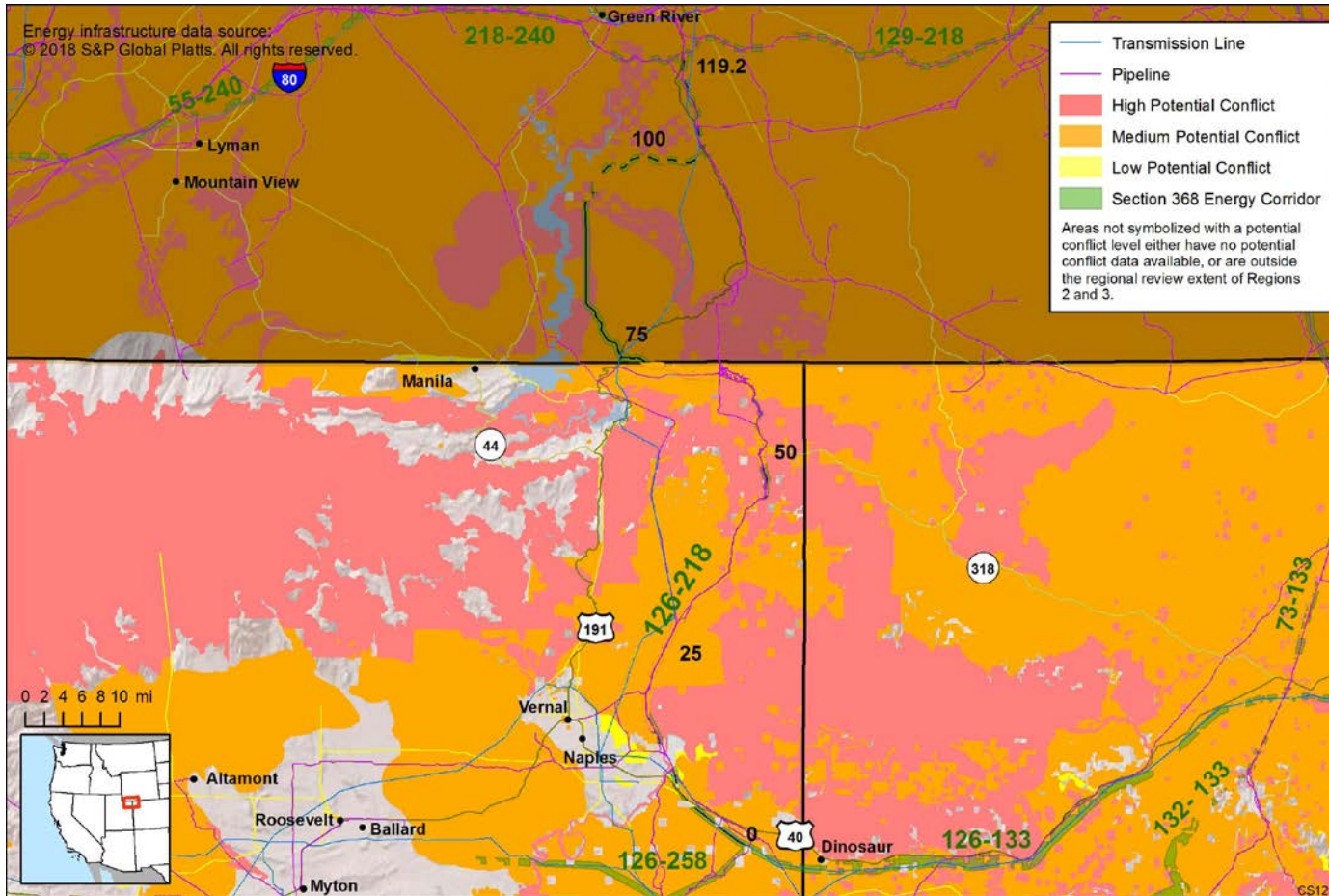


Figure 3. Map of Conflict Areas in Vicinity of Corridor 126-218

Figure 3 reflects a comprehensive resource conflict assessment developed to enable the Agencies and stakeholders to visualize a corridor’s proximity to environmentally sensitive areas and to evaluate options for routes with lower potential conflict. The potential conflict assessment (low, medium, high) shown in the figure is based on [criteria](#) found on the WWEC Information Center at www.corridoreis.anl.gov. To meet the intent of the Energy Policy Act and the Settlement Agreement siting principles, corridors may be located in areas where there is potentially high resource conflict; however, where feasible, opportunity for corridor revisions should be identified in areas with potentially lower conflict.

Visit the 368 Mapper for a full view of the Potential conflict map (<https://bogi.evs.anl.gov/section368/portal/>)

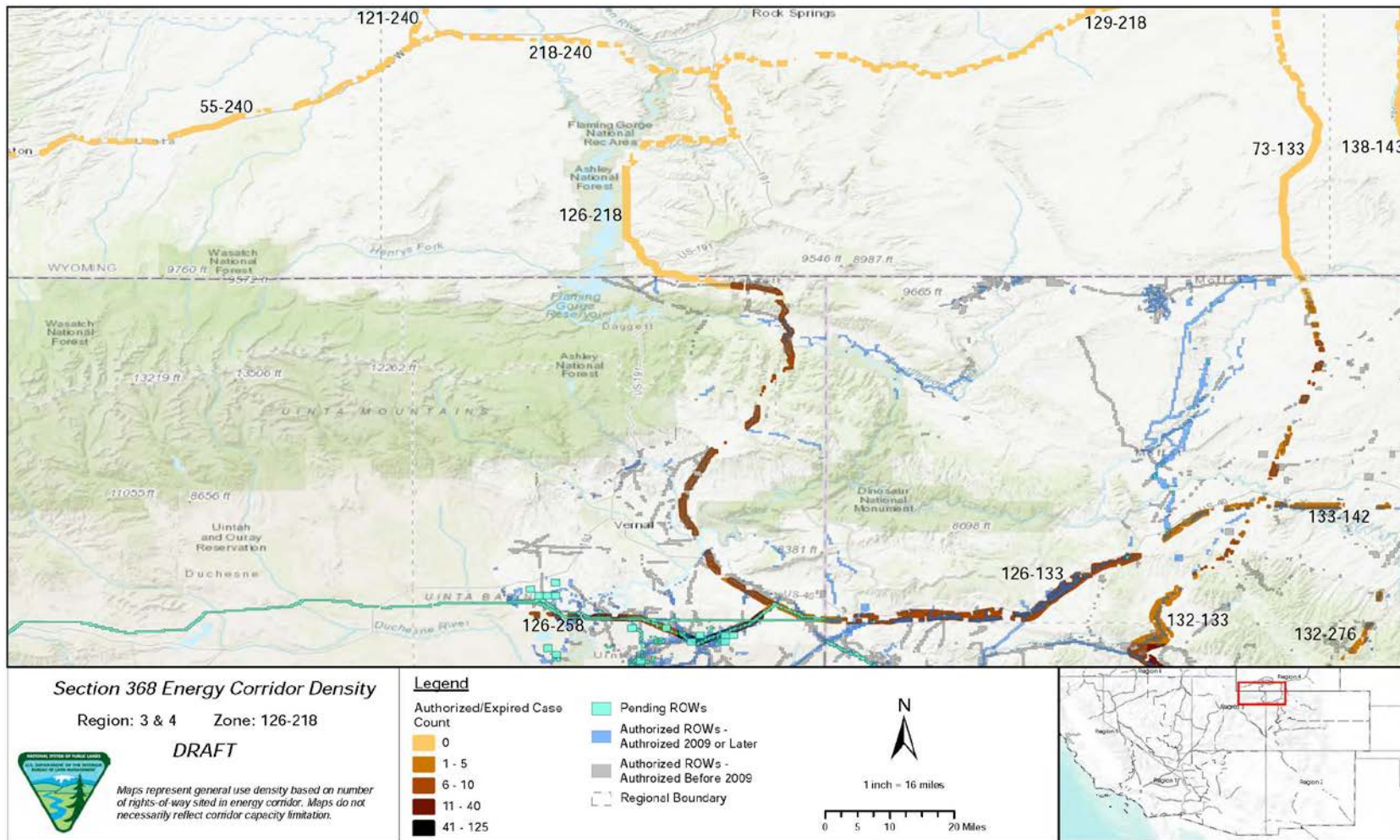


Figure 4. Corridor 126-218, Corridor Density Map

Figure 4 shows the density of energy use to assist in evaluating corridor utility. ROWs granted prior to the corridor designation (2009) are shown in grey; ROWs granted after corridor designation are shown in blue; and pending ROWs under current review for approval are shown in turquoise. Note the ROW density shown for the corridor is only a snapshot that does not fully illustrate remaining corridor capacity. Not all ROWs have GIS data at the time this abstract was developed. BLM and USFS are currently improving their ROW GIS databases and anticipate more complete data in the near future.

General Stakeholder Feedback on Corridor Utility

The State of Utah believes that the corridor plays an important role for existing and future energy infrastructure in the Uintah Basin, and requests that no changes are made to the existing alignment of the corridor. The State of Utah expressed that the corridor is particularly important due to its proximity to oil and gas developments that require quality transportation infrastructure.

Corridor Review Table

The table below captures details of the Agencies' review of the energy corridor. Consideration of the general corridor siting principles of the 2012 Settlement Agreement framed each corridor review, to identify potential improvements to maximize corridor utility and minimize impacts on the environment. Initial Agency analysis is provided to facilitate further discussion during stakeholder workshops.

CORRIDOR 126-218 REVIEW TABLE							
ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1, 2}
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE ISSUES							
<i>Specially Designated Areas</i>							
126-218 .001	BLM	Vernal FO	Daggett, UT	Diamond Breaks WSA	MP 47 to MP 48	GIS Analysis: WSA over 1 mi east of corridor.	WSAs are an important resource that are considered carefully during corridor planning. The corridor's current location does not intersect the WSA and best meets the siting principles. (1)
126-218 .002	BLM	Vernal FO	Daggett, UT	Browns Park ACEC	MP 49 to MP 57	GIS Analysis: ACEC intersects corridor.	The Browns Park ACEC is an avoidance area (NSO for leasing). The Vernal Approved RMP (2008) is consistent with decisions identified in the West-wide Energy Corridor PEIS ROD; the corridor meets the siting principles. There is no alternative route following a locally designated corridor or existing infrastructure with which the corridor could be collocated. Existing infrastructure already occurs within the corridor within the ACEC. (1)
126-218 .003	BLM	Vernal FO	Daggett, UT	Red Creek ACEC	MP 59 to MP 69	GIS Analysis: ACEC intersects corridor. Agency Input: Red Creek ACEC is being managed to reduce	The ACEC is a ROW avoidance area. The Vernal Approved RMP (2008) is consistent with decisions identified in the West-wide Energy Corridor PEIS ROD; the corridor meets the siting

CORRIDOR 126-218 REVIEW TABLE							
ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1,2}
						sedimentation into Red Creek and the downstream Green River by stabilizing channels and stream banks to lessen erosion and by maintaining vegetation cover through the watershed.	principles. There is no alternative route following a locally designated corridor or existing infrastructure with which the corridor could be collocated. Existing infrastructure already occurs within the corridor within the ACEC. (1)
126-218 .004	BLM	Vernal FO	Daggett, UT	Upper Green River WSR	Not specified.	Agency Input: suitable segment of the Upper Green River is tentatively classified as recreational. Suitable rivers are generally analyzed to ensure that actions do not impact their free-flowing condition, outstandingly remarkable values or tentative classification.	Suitable WSR ScenicRec-7 in RMP allows NSO (ROW avoidance) within line of sight up to 0.5 mi except in established corridors. (3)
126-218 .005	BLM	Vernal FO	Uintah and Daggett, UT	Blue Mountain SRMA	MP 8 to MP 12, MP 49 to MP 57	GIS Analysis: SRMA intersects and is adjacent to corridor	There are existing pipelines within the corridor where it passes through the Blue Mountain SRMA. The preferred methodology to mitigate undue degradation of resources is to collocate future energy infrastructure across public land with existing infrastructure to the extent feasible. As such, the current location appears to best meet the siting principles (1)
Ecology							
126-218 .006	BLM	Vernal FO	Uintah, UT	Hamilton Milkvetch (BLM sensitive species)	MP 25	Agency Input: habitat in corridor.	Not a consideration for corridor-level planning and would be addressed during the ROW application process. At the project-level, any new proposal would need to take sensitive species into consideration and consult as appropriate. IOPs would be followed to minimize impacts. (3)
126-218 .007	BLM	Vernal FO	Uintah and Daggett, UT	Ute Ladies'-tresses (ESA-listed: threatened)	MP 20, MP 50	Agency Input: habitat and known individuals. Potential habitat where there are riparian areas.	Protection of ESA-listed species habitat is important. The corridor location within the current range of habitat and known individuals of the Ute Ladies'-

CORRIDOR 126-218 REVIEW TABLE							
ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1, 2}
							gresses is not easily resolved or avoided by corridor-level planning. Further analysis to determine the presence of the species occurring within the area will be considered outside of corridor-level planning. (3)
126-218 .008	BLM	Vernal FO	Uintah and Daggett, UT	GRSG (BLM and USFS sensitive species)	Not specified.	RFI: substantially re-route this segment and follow overall recommendations for the following West-wide risk scores: "High" risk to Flowlines, "High" risk to Permeability, "Very High" risk to CHAT, and "High" risk to Imperiled Species. Re-route or exclude new infrastructure ROWs and avoid all new energy infrastructure development within GRSG PACs (62% overlap). Use full mitigation hierarchy to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts within four miles of important sage-grouse breeding areas. Identify and where present avoid impacts to geographic areas for recovery units for threatened and endangered species. Comment on abstract: Reroute to avoid GRSG PACs.	The corridor location within the current range of the GRSG is not easily resolved or avoided by corridor-level planning because alternate routes could still require siting through the habitat for this species. Further analysis to determine the presence of the species occurring within the area will be considered outside of corridor-level planning. (3) See also response below for GRSG PHMA and GHMA.
126-218 .009	BLM	Vernal FO Rock Springs FO	Uintah and Daggett, UT Sweetwater, WY	Utah GRSG PHMA (BLM and USFS sensitive species)	MP 7 to MP 10, MP 16 to MP 46, MP 50 to MP 56, MP 58 to MP 119 MP 70 to MP 71	GIS Analysis: GRSG PHMA intersects corridor. GIS Analysis: GRSG GHMA is adjacent to corridor.	The Utah GRSG ARMPA retained the existing 368 corridor, but changed it to be available for underground use only in PHMAs; no new above-ground lines can be constructed in the PHMA portions of this corridor. Since the corridor overlaps one of the largest GRSG populations in the state, no new

CORRIDOR 126-218 REVIEW TABLE							
ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1, 2}
				Nine Plan GRSG GHMA (BLM and USFS sensitive species)			<p>aboveground ROWs can be built within the corridor.</p> <p>Within existing designated utility corridors, an exception to the 3 percent disturbance cap is provided in designated utility corridors for achieving a net conservation gain to the species. This exception is limited to projects that fulfill the use that the corridors were designated for (e.g., transmission lines and pipelines) and within the designated width of the corridor. This exception will concentrate future ROW surface disturbance in areas of existing disturbance and will avoid new development of infrastructure corridors in PHMAs.</p> <p>Given that the corridor is underground only to avoid PHMAs and future development in the corridor will collocate energy infrastructure across public land with existing infrastructure to the extent feasible, the current location appears to best meet the siting principles. (1)</p>
126-218 .010	NA	State Land	Uintah, UT	<p>Colorado Pikeminnow critical habitat (ESA-listed: endangered)</p> <p>Razorback Sucker critical habitat (ESA-listed: endangered)</p> <p>Humpback Chub critical habitat (ESA-listed: endangered)</p>	MP 12 to MP 15	<p>RFI: consult with USFWS to avoid adverse modification to designated critical habitat.</p> <p>GIS Analysis: critical habitat intersects corridor gap.</p>	Protection of ESA-listed species habitat is important. The preferred methodology to mitigate undue degradation of resources is to collocate future energy infrastructure across public land with existing infrastructure to the extent feasible. As such, the current location appears to best meet the siting principles based on the settlement agreement, since any alternative route would go through

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1,2}
				Bonytail Chub critical habitat (ESA-listed: endangered)			areas of ESA-listed critical habitat and would not lend-itself to collocation and would further fragment critical habitat. (1)
126-218 .011				Special status species	Not specified.	<p>Comment on abstract: threatened and endangered species that may occur along this corridor include Black-footed Ferret, Mexican Spotted Owl, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Colorado River fishes (Bonytail Chub, Colorado Pikeminnow, Humpback Chub, and Razorback Sucker), and Ute Ladies'-tresses. Colorado River fishes may be impacted by direct impacts from stream crossings and water depletions. Projects taking place in this corridor may require ESA Section 7 consultation with the USFWS. We recommend that projects within this corridor are evaluated for impacts to listed species and their habitats, and measures are included to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts.</p> <p>Comment on abstract: Additional species not identified in the corridor abstract may be present: Canada Lynx, Mexican Spotted Owl, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Ute Ladies'-tresses.</p> <p>Conduct further analysis to determine the presence of abovementioned species.</p>	This corridor location within the current range where these species may occur is not easily resolved or avoided by corridor-level planning because alternate routes would still require siting through the current range of these species, Further analysis to determine the presence of all species occurring within the area will be considered outside the corridor-level planning. (3)

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1,2}
Air Quality							
126-218 .012	EPA	EPA	Uintah, UT	Air Quality	MP 0 to MP 44	Agency Input: Uintah County is pending non-attainment designation for the ozone NAAQS.	Not a consideration for corridor-level planning. At the project-level, any new project would need to take non-attainment into consideration. IOPs would be followed to minimize fugitive dust generation. (3)
Paleontology							
126-218 .013	BLM	Vernal FO	Uintah and Daggett, UT	PFYC Class 4 PFYC Class 5	MP 0 to MP 4, MP 49 to MP 56, MP 59 to MP 60, MP 65 to MP 71 MP 1 to MP 2, MP 3, MP 5 to MP 10, MP 11 to MP 12, MP 16 to MP 17, MP 18, and MP 19 to MP 21	GIS Analysis: PFYC Class 4 and 5 areas intersect corridor. Agency Input: the section of the corridor just west of the boundary of Dinosaur National Monument is in the Morrison Formation (Jurassic) with PFYC of 5 and there are multiple known localities in this area so very sensitive. The corridor crosses through the Cedar Mountain Formation (Cretaceous) which has fossil vertebrates, as does the Dakota Formation. The corridor crosses the Mancos and Mowry Shale (Cretaceous) which may have marine vertebrates PFYC 3. The route also crosses Pleistocene sediments which have the potential for scattered vertebrate remains.	The identified potential of paleontological resources is a concern for the Agencies, which cannot be resolved during corridor-level planning. Assessments will occur as part of the ROW application process. (3)
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics							
126-218 .014	BLM	Vernal FO	Uintah and Daggett, UT	Lands with wilderness characteristics	MP 0 to MP 7, MP 8 to MP 10, MP 15 to MP 29, MP 35 to MP 39, MP 41 to	RFI: Cold Spring Mountain, The Rim Rock GIS Analysis: lands with wilderness characteristics	Corridor 126-218 intersects the Cold Spring Mountain, Lower Flaming Gorge, Dead Horse Pass, and Mountain Home lands with wilderness characteristics units. These units were

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1, 2}
					MP 51, MP 52 to MP 68.	<p>intersect and are adjacent to corridor.</p> <p>Agency Input: Rim Rock B, Cold Spring Mountain, Lower Flaming Gorge, Dead Horse Pass, Mountain Home.</p> <p>Comment on abstract: it is unclear whether the intersection with lands with wilderness characteristics will be addressed through the Regional Review. The Agencies must use a consistent approach that makes clear commitments to addressing intersections with ACECs and other special designations and provides details on opportunities to do so through corridor revisions.</p>	<p>designated as natural areas in the 2008 Vernal RMP, are managed to maintain their wilderness character, and are considered avoidance areas for ROWs. Vernal RMP determined that Rim Rock B is not designated as a natural area and will not be managed to preserve wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>The BLM retains broad discretion regarding the multiple use management of lands possessing wilderness characteristics without Wilderness or WSA designations. As such, land possessing the characteristics of wilderness are not subject to the legal thresholds or other statutory obligations specified for congressionally designated Wilderness and WSAs. There are necessities that warrant land use and thus rationalize energy corridors as meeting the best siting principles, which include maximizing utility while minimizing impacts. In locations where the BLM is not managing lands with wilderness characteristics with protective allocations, project level planning will still consider ways to minimize or avoid impacts while meeting the purpose and need of various types of land use including energy projects. Furthermore, the impairment of wilderness characteristics does not, in and of itself, constitute a significant impact; or on its own, warrant the relocation of a corridor or corridor segment. BLM must consider all resources and resource uses and</p>

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1,2}
							carefully weigh the current value for the present generation as well as for future generations. At this time, given the information available, there is an opportunity for the Agencies to consider adding an IOP related to lands with wilderness characteristics to ensure appropriate consideration occurs with proposed development within the energy corridor. (2)
126-218 .015	BLM			Citizens' proposed wilderness	<p>Not specified.</p> <p>MP 5</p> <p>MP 16</p> <p>MP 16 to MP 19</p> <p>MP 41 to MP 42</p> <p>MP 43 to MP 44</p> <p>MP 45 to MP 48</p>	<p>RFI: Dead Horse Pass, Goslin Mountain, Lower Flaming Gorge Mountain Home, O-Wi-Yu-Kuts Red Creek Badlands,</p> <p>Agency Input: Split Mountain Benches S., Split Mtn. Benches</p> <p>Comment on abstract: Corridor intersects with BLM wilderness-quality lands. 588 acres overlap (The Rim Rock-BLM).</p> <p>99 acres overlap (Split Mtn Benches S.-citizen).</p> <p>521 acres overlap (Split Mtn Benches-citizen).</p> <p>17 acres overlap (Lower Flaming Gorge-Citizen).</p> <p>63 acres overlap (Dead Horse Pass-citizen).</p> <p>168 acres overlap (Dead Horse Pass-citizen)</p>	<p>Split Mountain Benches (adjacent to the western edge of Dinosaur National Monument) is currently under review and pending new determination. Wilderness inventory would be completed during the ROW application process as necessary to conform to policy.</p> <p>The BLM's current inventory findings will be used in land use planning analyses related to the revision, deletion, or addition to the energy corridors. Consideration of citizens' wilderness proposals is beyond the Agencies scope and authority. As such, the corridor's current location best meets the siting principles. (1)</p> <p>At such time that citizens' inventory information is formally submitted, the BLM will compare its official Agency inventory information with the submitted materials, determine if the conclusion reached in previous BLM inventories remains valid, and update findings regarding the lands ability to qualify as wilderness in character. (3)</p>

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1, 2}
					MP 46 to MP 51 MP 53 to MP 59 MP 59 to MP 60 MP 59 to MP 63 MP 64 to MP 67	336 acres overlap (Lower Flaming Gorge-citizen). 431 acres overlap (O-Wi-Yu-Kuts-citizen). 124 acres overlap (Red Creek Badlands-citizen). 371 acres overlap (Mountain Home-citizen). 415 acres overlap (Goslin Mountain-citizen). Comment on abstract: the corridor abstracts dismiss all intersections with citizens' proposed wilderness areas. This approach is wholly inappropriate and inadequate; the Agencies must address conflicts with proposed wilderness.	
Visual Resources							
126-218 .016	BLM	Vernal FO	Daggett, UT	VRM Class I	MP 46 to MP 49	GIS Analysis: VRM Class I area is 1,100 ft east of corridor.	The corridor does not cross VRM Class I areas. (1)
126-218 .017	BLM	Vernal FO	Uintah and Daggett, UT	VRM Class II	MP 15 to MP 19, MP 35 to MP 38, MP 41 to MP 63 MP 49 to MP 57	GIS Analysis: VRM Class II areas and the corridor intersect. Agency Input: designated VRM Class II area of corridor within Browns Park ACEC. The ACEC partly established based on its scenic resources.	Future development within the corridor could be limited as VRM Class II allows for low level of change to the characteristic landscape. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. There is an opportunity for the Agencies to consider adding an IOP related to Visual Resources to ensure appropriate consideration occurs with

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1, 2}
							proposed development within the energy corridor. (2)
126-218.018	BLM	Vernal FO, Rock Springs FO	Uintah and Daggett, UT and Sweetwater, WY	VRM Class III	MP 0 to MP 2, MP 6, MP 15, MP 18 to MP 32, MP 59 to MP 71 MP 59 to MP 63, MP 64 to MP 69	GIS Analysis: VRM Class III areas intersect the corridor. Agency Input: Designated VRM Class III and Class IV areas of corridor within Red Creek ACEC. The ACEC partly established based on its scenic resources. Also Browns Park area.	VRM Class III allows for moderate change to the characteristic landscape, although minimizing visual contrast remains a requirement. Management activities may attract the attention of the casual observer, but shall not dominate the view. (1)
126-218.019	BLM	Vernal FO	Uintah, UT	VRM Class IV	MP 2 to MP 15, MP 38 to MP 42, MP 59 to MP 66	GIS Analysis: VRM Class IV areas and the corridor intersect.	The existing corridor location best meets the siting principles. (1)
Cultural Resources							
126-218.020	NA	State land	Daggett, UT	Dr. John Parson Cabin Complex	MP 51	GIS Analysis: site listed on the NRHP is adjacent to corridor.	This site could potentially be impacted by presence of additional development. NHPA Section 106 process would be followed to identify any possible impact of development. Existing IOPs specific to cultural resources would be followed in connection with any proposed energy project in the corridor and that may also potentially affect listed properties in corridor gaps or near the corridor. (3)
126-218.021	BLM	Vernal FO	Daggett, UT	John Jarvie Historic Ranch District	MP 55	GIS Analysis: site listed on NRHP over 1 mi west of corridor.	The property is not within the corridor and are not a consideration for corridor-level planning. Section 106 process would be followed to identify possible impact of development. (1)
126-218.022	BLM	Vernal FO	Daggett, UT	Class III survey work	Not specified.	Agency Input: Class III survey work from RMP Settlement Agreement including Browns Park ACEC and other high probability areas.	The potential for cultural resources is a concern for the Agencies that cannot be resolved during corridor-level planning. Section 106 consultation will

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1,2}
							occur as part of the ROW application process. (3)
Land Use Concerns							
Corridor pinched by BLM or USFS authorized use							
126-218 .023	BLM	Vernal FO	Daggett, UT	Jessie Ewing Canyon	MP 50	<p>Agency Input: Jessie Ewing Canyon is full of pipelines. The last pipeline installed in Jessie Ewing Canyon was buried in the road.</p> <p>The last large pipeline that utilized this corridor was unable to go through Jessie Ewing Canyon and was moved to the west prior to continuing up into Wyoming.</p>	Due to topography (steep cliffs), there is no additional physical access inside the corridor through Jessie Ewing Canyon.(3)
126-218 .024	BLM	Vernal FO	Daggett, UT	Existing infrastructure	Entire corridor	GIS Analysis: multiple natural gas and refined product pipelines generally follow the path of the corridor for the entire length of Region 3. Three electric transmission lines generally follow the path of the corridor from MP 0 to MP 11, where they exit the corridor at a perpendicular angle.	<p>Generally, this is the intent for use of the corridor, but in this case in combination with the physical barrier at Jessie Ewing Canyon (see comment above) there may not be available space for additional development. (3)</p> <p>Consistent with BLM ROW regulations, notification to ROW holders would be provided.</p>
Public Access and Recreation							
126-218 .025	BLM	Vernal FO and State and private lands	Uintah, UT	Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway	MP 6 to MP 10	GIS Analysis: State scenic highway intersects corridor.	Coordination with UDOT would be required to identify any management prescriptions related to the scenic highway. (3)
126-218 .026	BLM	Vernal FO	Daggett and Uintah UT	Dinosaur North Travel Management Areas	Not specified.	Agency Input: Per RMP settlement agreement, certain routes may be closed to public access. Travel Plan NEPA is pending, route evaluation has occurred, and another round of open houses will occur.	Not a consideration for corridor-level planning in the regional review. (3)

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1,2}
<i>Other noted land use concerns</i>							
126-218 .027	BLM	Vernal FO	Uintah, UT	Land ownership	Not specified.	Agency Input: land ownership lawsuit is pending which may affect the lower portion of this route	This land is currently under the management of the BLM and this issue is therefore not a consideration at the time of this review. BLM can only authorize projects on BLM-administered lands. If land ownership within the corridor changes, proponents would have to work with the Ute Tribe, as required, for any proposed project in the corridor. Proponents would also have to work with the Ute Tribe to obtain a tribal resolution consenting to the grant of a ROW by BIA. BIA cannot grant ROWs without tribal consent. (3)
126-218 .028	NPS	Dinosaur National Monument	Uintah, UT	Dinosaur National Monument	MP 16 to MP 20	<p>GIS Analysis: Dinosaur National Monument as close as 530 ft mi east of corridor.</p> <p>Comment on abstract: the abstract does not specify whether and how coordination with the NPS is occurring, identify more specific impacts to NPS lands and the experiences of park visitors, or identify a path to making needed revisions to the corridor to address potential impacts.</p> <p>Given the high potential for conflict along this corridor, the Agencies should specify how impacts to Dinosaur National Monument and other protected or sensitive resources will be addressed. If they cannot adequately address these</p>	The corridor is not in the National Monument. Coordination with the NPS is needed to identify impacts of corridor development on the National Monument and its visitors. (3)

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1, 2}
						conflicts, the Agencies should consider eliminating the corridor altogether.	
126-218 .029	NA	Private lands	Utah	Agricultural lands	Not specified.	Comment on abstract: energy development may have impact on agriculture in adjacent areas if not developed and maintained properly (e.g., invasive and noxious weed species). Ensure that all developments, changes, or alterations to energy corridors do not adversely affect agriculture and domestic livestock grazing in the affected areas.	Corridor-level planning does not entail the detail necessary to prescribe operation and maintenance procedures on hypothetical projects or corridor revisions. The concern will be addressed with specific, current information at the time of energy development proposal(s). (3)

¹ Projects proposed in the corridor would be reviewed during their ROW application review process and would adhere to Federal laws, regulations, and policy.

² (1) = confirm existing corridor best meets siting principles; (2) = identify opportunities to improve corridor placement or IOPs; (3) = acknowledge concern not easily resolved or avoided by corridor-level planning.

Abstract Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACEC = area of critical environmental concern; ARMPA = Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment; BIA = Bureau of Indian Affairs; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; CHAT = Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool; EPA = Environmental Protection Agency; ESA = Endangered Species Act; FO = Field Office; GIS = geographic information system; GHMA = General Habitat Management Area; GRSG = Greater Sage-grouse; IOP = interagency operating procedure; MP = milepost; NA = not available; NAAQS = National Ambient Air Quality Standards; NEPA = National Environmental Protection Act; NHPA = National Historic Preservation Act; NPS = National Park Service; NRHP = National Register of Historic Places; NSO = no surface occupancy; PAC = Priority Area for Conservation; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; PFYC = Potential Fossil Yield Classification; PHMA = Priority Habitat Management Area; RFI = request for information; ROD = Record of Decision; ROW = right-of-way; SRMA = Special Recreation Management Area; UDNR = Utah Department of Natural Resources; UDOT = Utah Department of Transportation; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; VRM = Visual Resource Management; WSA = wilderness study area; WSR = Wild and Scenic River; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor.

Corridor 126-218

Region 4 Review

Corridor 126-218

Vernal to Rock Springs Corridor

Corridor Purpose and Rationale

The corridor provides a north-south interstate pathway for energy transport from Utah to Wyoming. The corridor connects multiple Section 368 energy corridors, creating a continuous corridor network across BLM- and USFS-administered lands. Input regarding alignment from Chevron, National Grid, and Western Utility Group during the WWEC PEIS suggested following this route. There are no planned transmission or pipeline projects within the corridor and no pending ROWs within the corridor. The corridor is limited to underground-only within a portion of the corridor because of high lightning and wildfire hazards and visual impacts.

Corridor location (Region 4 portion):

Wyoming (Sweetwater Co.)
 BLM: Rock Springs Field Office
 Regional Review Regions: Region 3 and Region 4

Corridor width, length (Region 4 portion):

Width 3,500 ft
 34 miles of designated corridor
 48 miles of posted route, including gaps

Designated Use:

- Corridor is underground only MP 71 to MP 108, multi-modal MP 108 to MP 119

Corridor of concern (N)

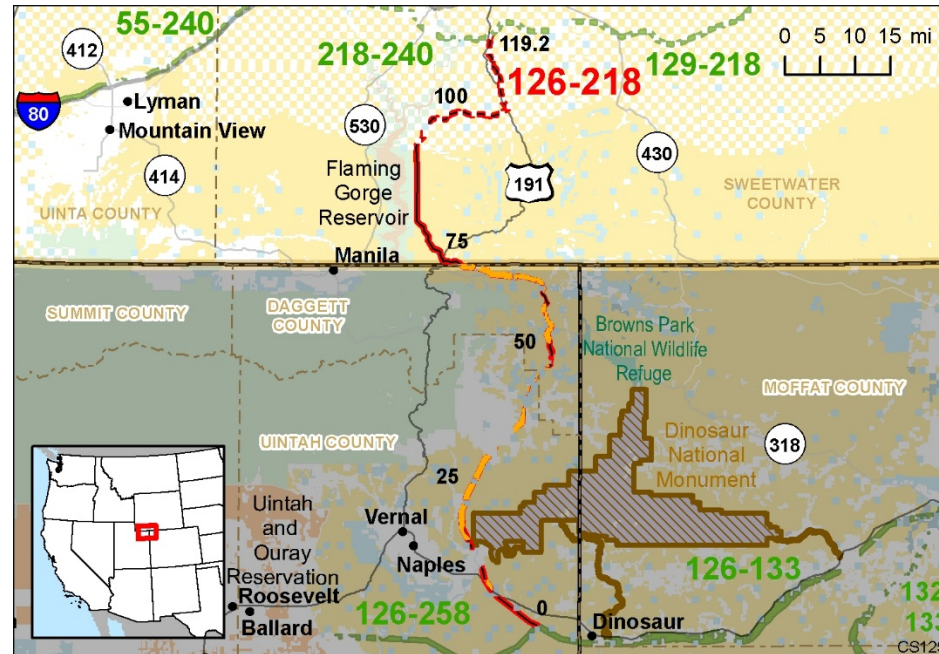


Figure 1. Corridor 126-218

Corridor history:

- Locally designated prior to 2009 (N)
- Existing infrastructure (Y)
 - A 230-kV transmission line is within and adjacent to a portion of the corridor.
 - Three natural gas pipelines run along a portion of the corridor.
 - Highway 191 runs along a portion of the corridor.
- Energy potential near the corridor (Y)
 - 1 substation is within the corridor and 2 more substations are within 5 mi of the corridor.
- Corridor changes since 2009 (N)

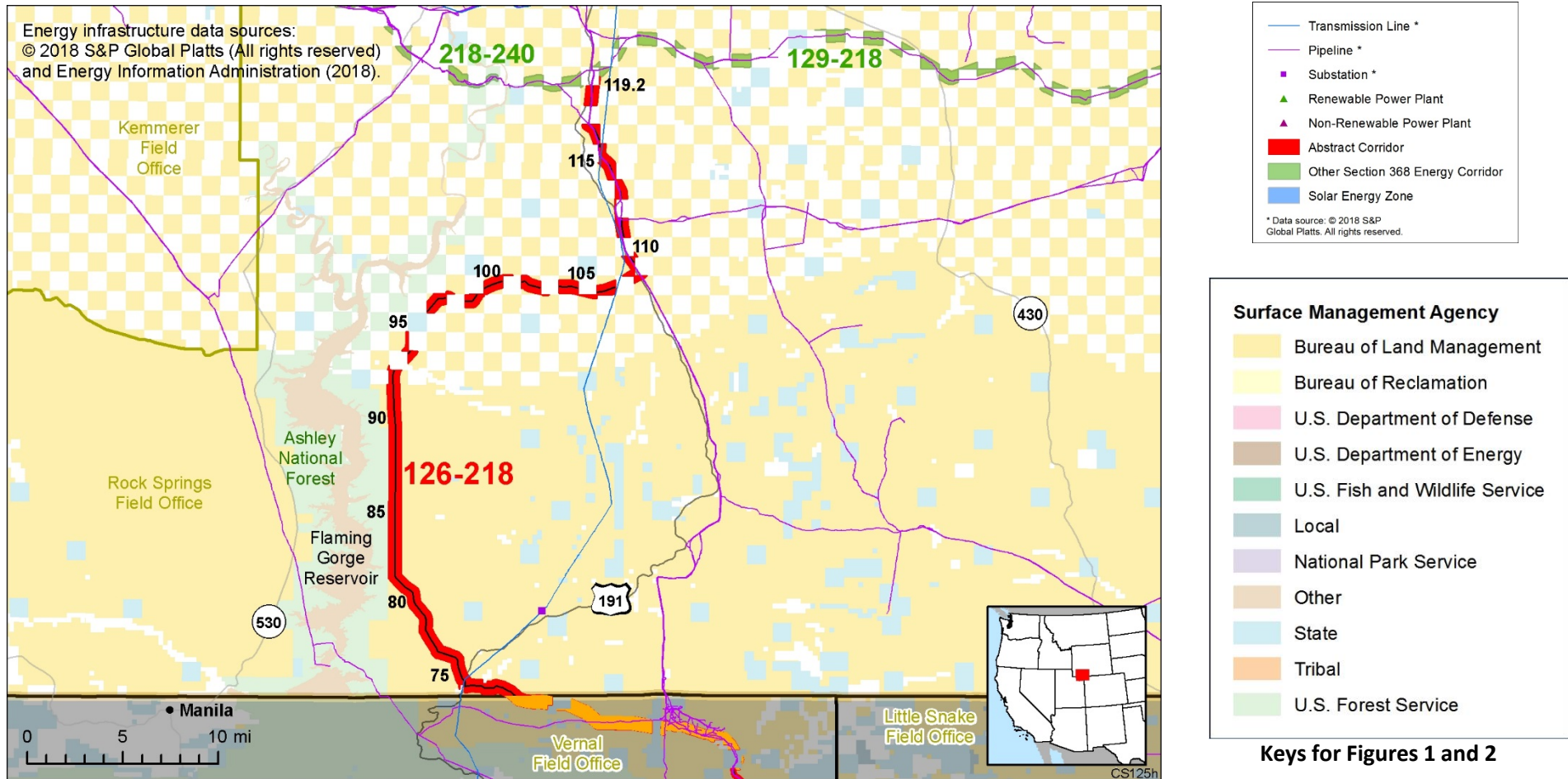


Figure 2. Corridor 126-218 and nearby electric transmission lines and pipelines

Conflict Map Analysis

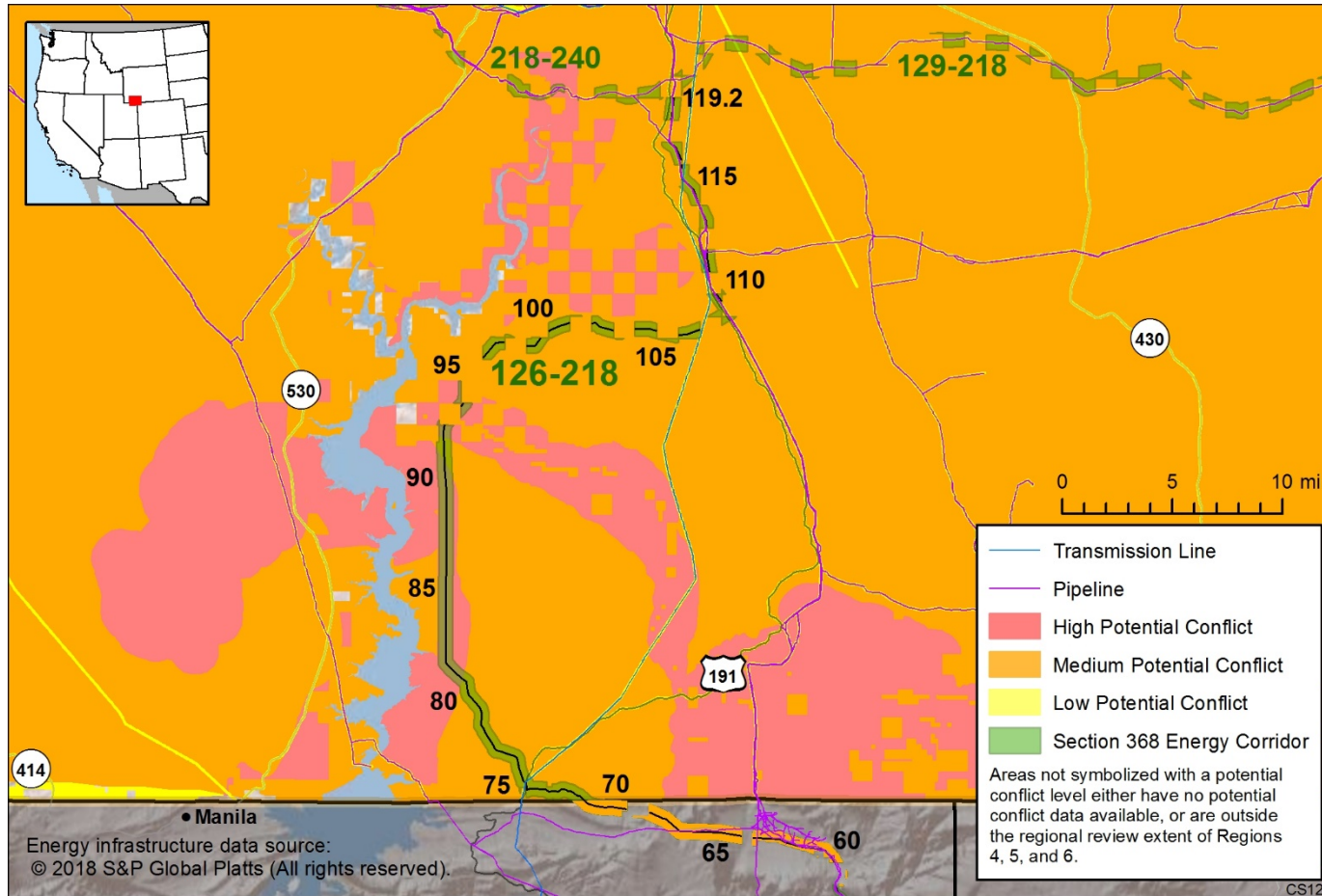


Figure 3. Map of Conflict Areas in Vicinity of Corridor 126-218

Figure 3 reflects a comprehensive resource conflict assessment developed to enable the Agencies and stakeholders to visualize a corridor’s proximity to environmentally sensitive areas and to evaluate options for routes with lower potential conflict. The potential conflict assessment (low, medium, high) shown in the figure is based on [criteria](#) found on the WVEC Information Center at www.corridoreis.anl.gov. To meet the intent of the Energy Policy Act and the Settlement Agreement siting principles, corridors may be located in areas where there is potentially high resource conflict; however, where feasible, opportunity for corridor revisions should be identified in areas with potentially lower conflict.

Visit the 368 Mapper for a full view of the potential conflict map (<https://bogi.evs.anl.gov/section368/portal/>)

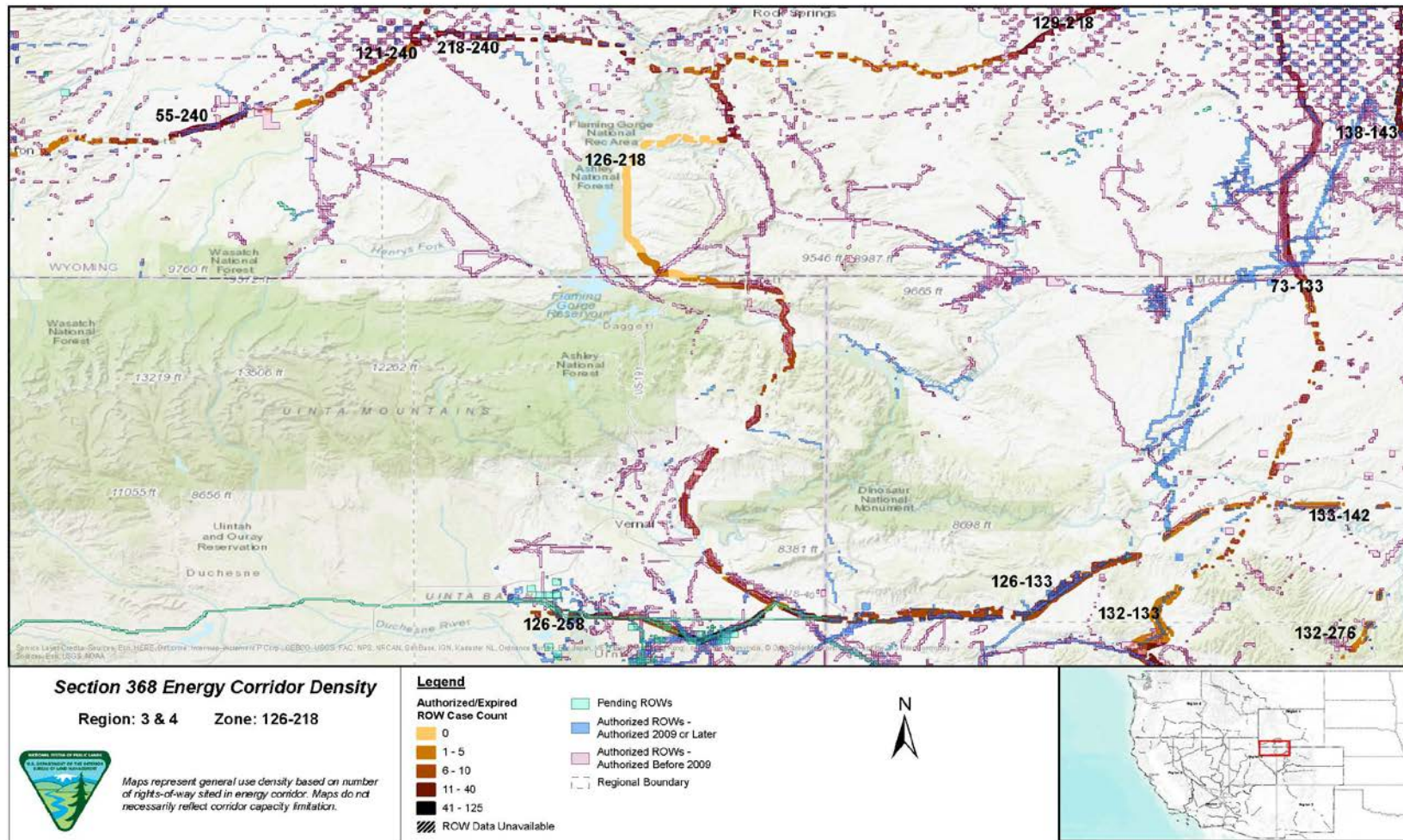


Figure 4. Corridor 126-218, Corridor Density Map

Figure 4 shows the density of energy use to assist in evaluating corridor utility. ROWs granted prior to the corridor designation (2009) are shown in pink; ROWs granted after corridor designation are shown in blue; and pending ROWs under current review for approval are shown in turquoise. Note the ROW density shown for the corridor is only a snapshot that does not fully illustrate remaining corridor capacity. Not all ROWs have GIS data at the time this abstract was developed. BLM and USFS are currently improving their ROW GIS databases and anticipate more complete data in the near future.

Corridor Review Table

Designated energy corridors are areas of land prioritized for energy transmission infrastructure and are intended to be predominantly managed for multiple energy transmission infrastructure lines. Other compatible uses are allowable as specified or practicable. Resource management goals and objectives should be compatible with the desired future conditions (i.e., responsible linear infrastructure development of the corridor with minimal impacts) of the energy transmission corridor. Land management objectives that do not align with desired future conditions should be avoided. The table below identifies serious concerns or issues and presents potential resolution options to better meet corridor siting principles.

The preliminary information below is provided to facilitate further discussion and input prior to developing potential revisions, deletions, or additions.

CORRIDOR 126-218 REVIEW			
POTENTIAL COMPATIBILITY ISSUES or CONCERNS TO EXAMINE	MILEPOST (MP)¹	STAKEHOLDER INPUT and OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION	POTENTIAL RESOLUTIONS BASED ON SITING PRINCIPLE ANALYSIS²
<i>BLM Jurisdiction: Rock Springs Field Office</i>			
<i>Agency Land Use Plan: Green River RMP (1997)</i>			
VRM Class II area and the corridor intersect – The RMP states that management actions for VRM Class II areas must be designed to blend into and retain the existing character of the natural landscape. The objective of VRM Class II designation is to retain the existing character of the landscape.	MP 81 to MP 95	There is no existing infrastructure within this portion of the corridor.	This portion of the corridor borders the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area within the Ashley National Forest. Areas within the VRM Class II designation may not be compatible with future overhead transmission line development in an area without existing infrastructure. However, because this portion of the corridor is underground only, potential visual impact on the VRM Class II area from future development would be minimized. The Agencies could also consider a change in the VRM class designation or the corridor could be shifted to BLM-administered lands to the east to avoid the VRM Class II areas.
Greater Red Creek ACEC and the corridor intersect – The RMP states that the ACEC will, in general, be managed as an avoidance area for ROWs. The management objectives are to improve watershed condition; improve riparian areas; repair, improve, or maintain Colorado River cutthroat habitat; provide opportunities for dispersed recreation; maintain important wildlife habitat; preserve scenic resources; and reduce the amount of sediment to the Green River.	MP 92 to MP 106	<p>Comment on abstract: re-route to avoid the Greater Red Creek ACEC.</p> <p>Comment on abstract: Greater Red Creek ACEC (Currant Creek Watershed) ACEC overlaps 405 and 1,313 acres of corridor.</p> <p>Comment on abstract: delete this corridor in order to avoid impacts.</p>	ROW avoidance areas are not compatible with the corridor’s purpose as a preferred location for infrastructure. From MP 100 to MP 106, future infrastructure could be located in the northern portion of the corridor or the corridor shifted to the north to avoid the ACEC. The corridor cannot be easily re-routed to avoid the ACEC from MP 92 to MP 100. The Agencies could consider shifting the corridor to the east along an existing pipeline, but that route would cross an ACEC and PHMA and would be adjacent to a WSA and lands with wilderness characteristics.

CORRIDOR 126-218 REVIEW

POTENTIAL COMPATIBILITY ISSUES or CONCERNS TO EXAMINE	MILEPOST (MP)¹	STAKEHOLDER INPUT and OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION	POTENTIAL RESOLUTIONS BASED ON SITING PRINCIPLE ANALYSIS²
<p>Four Trails Feasibility Study and the corridor intersect. The RMP does not include the Four Trails Feasibility Study Trail since it pre-dates the 2009 legislation designating the Study Trail (Public Law 111-11).</p>	<p>MP 94</p>	<p>There is no existing energy infrastructure in the corridor at this location.</p> <p>The Act (Public Law 111-11; 2009) directs the Secretary of the Interior to revise the original feasibility studies of the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California, and Pony Express NHTs.</p> <p>BLM Manual 6280 directs the BLM to maintain the values, characteristics, and settings for which the trail is being studied or for which the trail was recommended as suitable.</p> <p>Comment on abstract: relocate the corridor by shifting the corridor 0.5 mi NNW of current location to cross NHT and NST at an angle to minimize impact. Moving the corridor NNW also avoids the GRSG PHMA.</p>	<p>At MP 94 the corridor intersection with the trail is approximately perpendicular (minimizing potential impacts). This portion of the corridor is underground only, so potential visual impacts on the Study Trail from future development would be minimized. The corridor does not cross a NHT.</p> <p>Agencies could consider a new IOP for NSTs and NHTs to enhance BMPs for proposed development within the energy corridor.</p>
<p>USFS Jurisdiction: Ashley National Forest Land Use Plan: Ashley NF LMP (1986) and Plan Amendments</p>			
<p>0401018 Roadless Area is adjacent to the corridor – The LMP does not prescribe restrictions for areas adjacent to the roadless area.</p>	<p>MP 82</p>	<p>The Roadless Area Conservation Rule (2001) prohibits road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvest in inventoried roadless areas.</p>	<p>The corridor is not located in the roadless area and development and management inside of the corridor would not be affected. Because management prescriptions prevent new roads in roadless areas, the opportunity to expand or shift the corridor would be limited.</p>
<p>0401021 Roadless Area is adjacent to the corridor - The LMP does not prescribe restrictions for areas adjacent to the roadless area.</p>	<p>MP 87 to MP 89</p>	<p>The Roadless Area Conservation Rule (2001) prohibits road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvest in inventoried roadless areas.</p>	<p>The corridor is not located in the roadless area and development and management inside of the corridor would not be affected. Because management prescriptions prevent new roads in roadless areas, it is possible that the opportunity to expand or shift the corridor would be limited.</p>

CORRIDOR 126-218 REVIEW

POTENTIAL COMPATIBILITY ISSUES or CONCERNS TO EXAMINE	MILEPOST (MP)¹	STAKEHOLDER INPUT and OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION	POTENTIAL RESOLUTIONS BASED ON SITING PRINCIPLE ANALYSIS²
		Comment on abstract: re-route to the adjacent roadless area at MP 82, MP 87, and MP 89.	
BLM Jurisdiction: Rock Springs Field Office Agency Land Use Plan: Wyoming GRSG ARMPA – March 2019			
GRSG GHMA and the corridor intersect – The 2019 ROD/ARMPA indicates that collocating new infrastructure within existing ROWs and maintaining and upgrading ROWs is preferred over the creation of new ROWs or the construction of new facilities in all management areas. Existing designated corridors, including Section 368 energy corridors, will remain open in all habitat management areas.	MP 71 to 82 and MP 97 to MP 119	Comment on abstract: re-route to avoid GRSG GHMA wherever possible.	The GHMA encompasses a broad area surrounding the corridor which cannot be avoided and there are no management prescriptions preventing future development within GHMA areas of the corridor
GRSG PHMA (ROW avoidance area) and the corridor intersect – The 2019 ROD/ARMPA indicates that collocating new infrastructure within existing ROWs and maintaining and upgrading ROWs is preferred over the creation of new ROWs or the construction of new facilities in all management areas. Existing designated corridors, including Section 368 energy corridors, will remain open in all habitat management areas.	MP 82 to MP 97	Comment on abstract: re-route to avoid GRSG PHMA wherever possible.	ROW avoidance areas are not compatible with the corridor’s purpose as a preferred location for infrastructure. The Agencies could consider shifting the corridor to the east along an existing pipeline. The corridor would still intersect PHMA but it would intersect at the boundary of the PHMA. This route would also cross an ACEC and would be adjacent to a WSA and lands with wilderness characteristics.

¹ Mileposts are rounded to the nearest mile

² Siting Principles include: *Corridors are thoughtfully sited to provide maximum utility and minimum impact on the environment; Corridors promote efficient use of landscape for necessary development; Appropriate and acceptable uses are defined for specific corridors; and Corridors provide connectivity to renewable energy generation to the maximum extent possible, while also considering other generation, in order to balance the renewable sources and to ensure the safety and reliability of electricity transmission.* Projects proposed in the corridor would be reviewed during their ROW application review process and would adhere to Federal laws, regulations, and policy.

Additional Compatibility Concerns

The issues and concerns listed below are not explicitly addressed through agency land use plans or are too general in nature to be addressed without further clarification. Although difficult to quantify, the concerns listed have potential to affect future use and/or development within this designated corridor. The Agencies have provided a preliminary general analysis. The information below is provided to facilitate further discussion during stakeholder review.

Potential Corridor Revisions:

- Relocate the corridor by shifting the corridor 10 mi east to fall within existing transmission corridor (comment on abstract).

Analysis: For sections of the corridor that do not follow existing infrastructure, potential adjustments to the corridor could be considered to minimize impacts. The Agencies could consider shifting the corridor to the east along an existing pipeline. This route would cross an ACEC and PHMA and would be adjacent to a WSA and lands with wilderness characteristics.

Corridor Utility:

- There has not been a clearly defined economic need or market that this corridor would serve (comment on abstract).

Analysis: The corridor provides a north-south interstate pathway for energy transport from Utah to Wyoming and connects multiple Section 368 energy corridors, creating a continuous corridor network across BLM- and USFS-administered land. Demonstrating an economic need for the corridor is beyond the scope of the regional reviews.

Specially Designated Area:

- Flaming Gorge - Green River Basin Scenic Byway intersects corridor at MP 74 to MP 75, MP 108 to MP 112, and MP 118 to MP 119.

Analysis: The Wyoming Department of Transportation administers the Scenic Byway, and future development in the corridor would require coordination with this agency.

Ecology:

- Large portions of this corridor do not follow existing disturbance, and development in the corridor would lead to unnecessary impacts to undeveloped lands and fragmentation of existing wildlife habitats in a place highly valued for its undeveloped nature. It is imperative the Agencies delete this corridor in order to avoid these impacts (comment on abstract).
- Comment on abstract: Sweetwater County anglers, hunters, wildlife enthusiasts, and statewide conservation groups have expressed their desire for more stringent habitat protection measures for the GLMA in an effort to prevent industrialized levels of energy related development from occurring and negatively impacting this wildlife-rich landscape. The area between Little Mountain and Flaming Gorge Reservoir is a popular area for recreation, fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing. It has been described as the "Yellowstone of Sweetwater County," highlighting its importance among the citizens of not only Sweetwater County, but also Wyoming as a whole (comment on abstract).
- Crucial winter range for the South Rock Springs elk herd unit and the South Rock Springs mule deer herd unit (comment on abstract).
- Demand for big game hunting permits in this area are extremely high, and drawing odds for both South Rock Springs deer (HA I 02) and South Rock Springs elk (HAs 30, 31, and 32) are among the most difficult to draw in Wyoming, further highlighting this area's popularity. More than 15,000 fishing

licenses sold annually in Sweetwater County with anglers spending over \$48.4 million in the last 5 years. Big game hunters in GLMA spent over \$12.7 million in the last 5 years (comment on abstract).

- The corridor runs directly through the GLMA. This unique high desert habitat region is considered by biologists and resource managers to be some of the most sensitive fish and wildlife habitat in Wyoming (comment on abstract).

Analysis: Existing IOPs and BMPs would be required. For sections of the corridor that do not follow existing infrastructure, potential adjustments to the corridor could be considered to minimize impacts. The Agencies could consider an IOP for habitat connectivity so that transmission projects within Section 368 energy corridors are sited and designed in a manner that minimizes impacts on habitat connectivity.

Ecosystem:

- Issues related to the watershed could be a concern in the Rock Springs FO.
- Proximity of the corridor to Flaming Gorge, multiple springs and recharge areas associated with this area suggest that deeper regions of shallow groundwater may be encountered with disturbance and development (comment on abstract).
- Issues related to soils could be a concern in the Rock Springs FO.
- The area referred to as the Little Mountain Ecosystem represents a unique set of habitat associations that yield a distribution of species unique to the state of Wyoming, more similar to areas associated with desert and pinyon-juniper habitats in the southwest. In fact, this is the only portion of Wyoming with a pinyon pine-juniper habitat type, and its associated species (comment on abstract).
- Delete corridor. If a pipeline ruptured within MP 71 to MP 108, it could cause irreparable damage to the world class fisheries of the Flaming Gorge Reservoir, valuable wildlife habitat and scenic resources. This could cause an economic loss to the multi-million dollar recreation industry of the region (comment on abstract).
- Increasing demands for energy development and other land uses along the east side of Flaming Gorge Reservoir cumulatively may threaten water quality and physical characteristics in this crucial habitat. Land disturbances can yield heavier sediment and phosphorus loading to Flaming Gorge Reservoir encouraging eutrophic aquatic conditions and/or accelerated sediment deposition that deteriorate habitat quality for aquatic wildlife. Moreover, threats of large-scale industrial chemical or petroleum spills from pipelines constructed in this corridor could negatively affect water quality and fisheries due to its proximity to Flaming Gorge (comment on abstract).

Analysis: Adherence to existing IOPs for wildlife, water resources and soils would be required.

Abstract Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACEC = area of critical environmental concern; ARMPA = Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; BMP = best management practice; FO = field office; GHMA = general habitat management area; GIS = geographic information system; GLMA = Greater Little Mountain area; GRSG = Greater Sage-grouse; IOP = interagency operating procedure; MP = milepost; NHT = National Historic Trail; NST = National Scenic Trail; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; PHMA = priority habitat management area; RFI = request for information; RMP = resource management plan; ROD = Record of Decision; ROW = right-of-way; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; VRM = visual resource management; WSA = Wilderness Study Area; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor.