

Corridor 220-221

North Rock Springs Corridor

Corridor Purpose and Rationale

The corridor provides an east-west pathway north of Rock Springs, Wyoming. The corridor connects to multiple Section 368 energy corridors, creating a continuous corridor network across southern Wyoming across BLM and USFS administered land. Input regarding alignment from multiple organizations¹ during the WWEC PEIS suggested following this route. Wyoming has potential for significant renewable energy; however, transmission is not currently available to deliver these resources to western load centers. The Wyoming Pipeline Corridor Initiative (WPCI) is proposed along this corridor. WPCI is a proposed pipeline ROW network designed to connect sources of CO₂ to existing oil fields to support further extraction of oil/gas reserves while sequestering CO₂ in the ground.

Corridor location:

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

Corridor width, length:

Width 3,500 ft
15 miles of designated corridor
35 miles of posted route, including gaps

Designated Use:

- corridor is electric only

Corridor of concern (N)

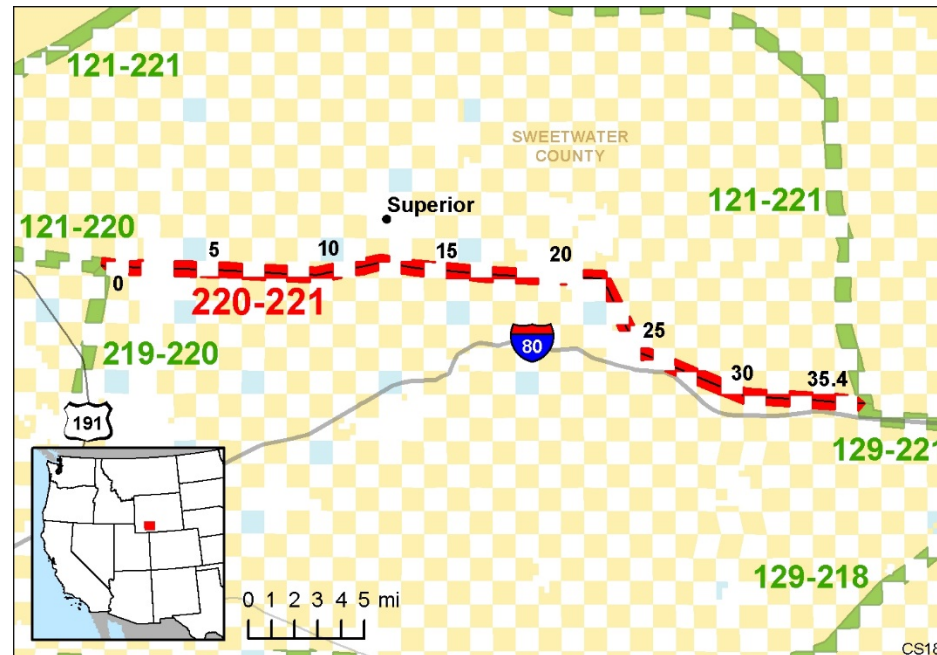


Figure 1. Corridor 220-221

Corridor history:

- Locally designated prior to 2009 (N)
- Existing infrastructure (Y)
 - Three 345- and two 230-kV transmission lines are within the corridor.
 - Multiple natural gas pipelines follow the corridor.
- Energy potential near the corridor (Y)
 - Coal power plant is within 1 mi of MP 22.
 - 1 substation is within the corridor and 4 more substations are within 5 mi of the corridor.
- Corridor changes since 2009 (N)

¹ Frontier Line, Idaho Power Company, National Grid, PacifiCorp, Rocky Mountain Area Transmission Study, Western Utility Group, and Wyoming Natural Gas Pipeline Authority

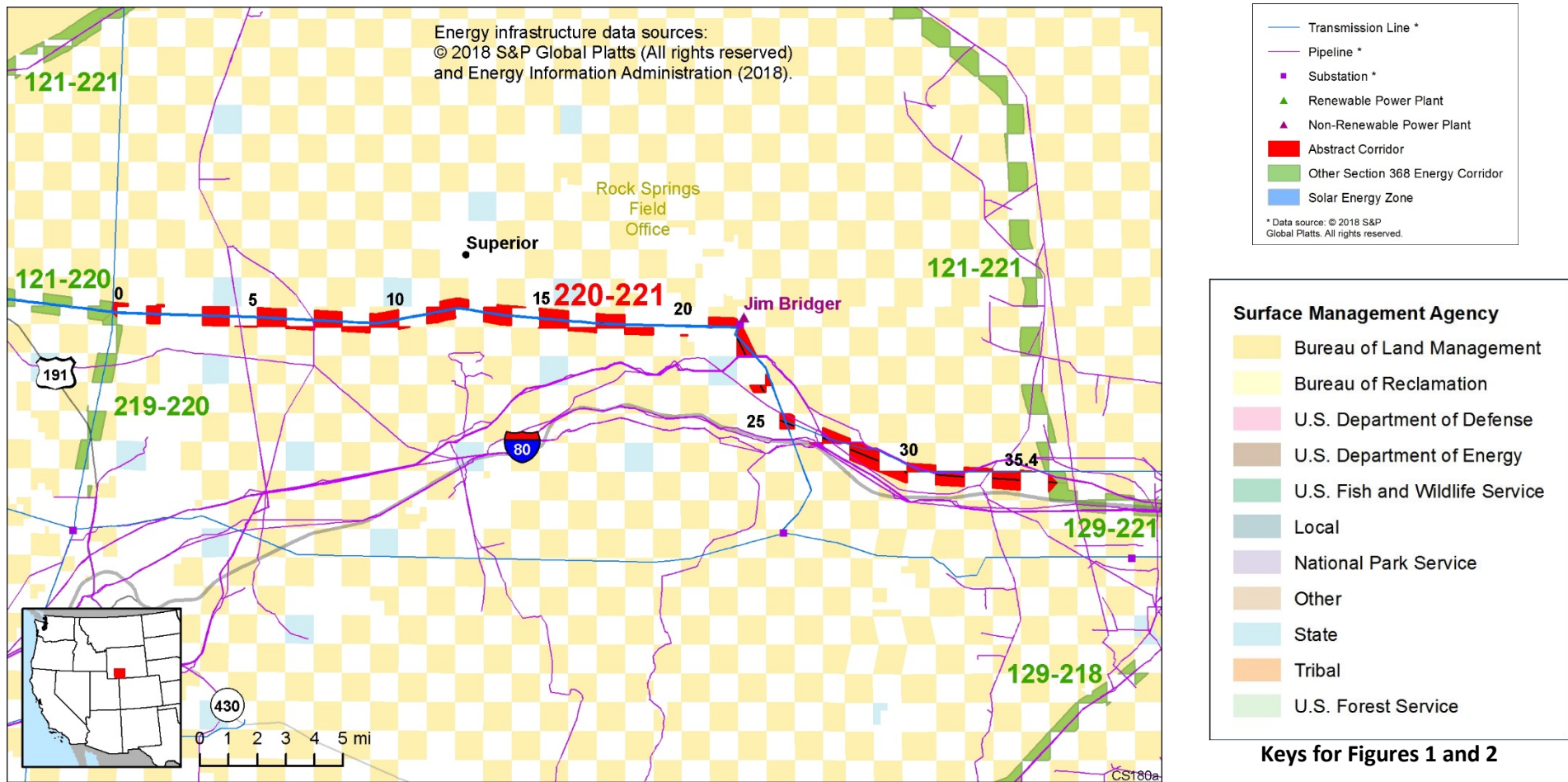


Figure 2. Corridor 220-221 and nearby electric transmission lines and pipelines

Conflict Map Analysis

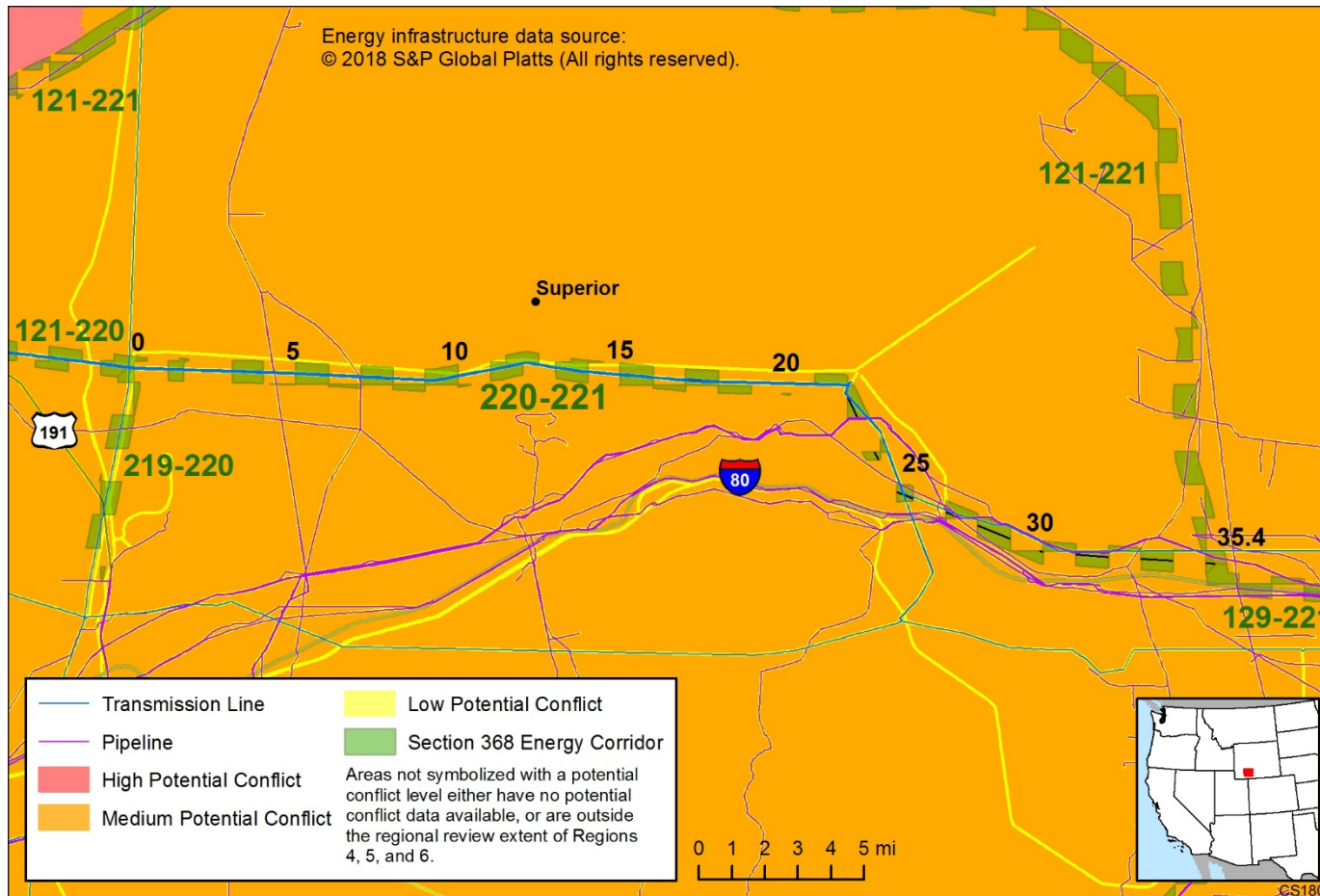


Figure 3. Map of Conflict Areas in Vicinity of Corridor 220-221

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/>)

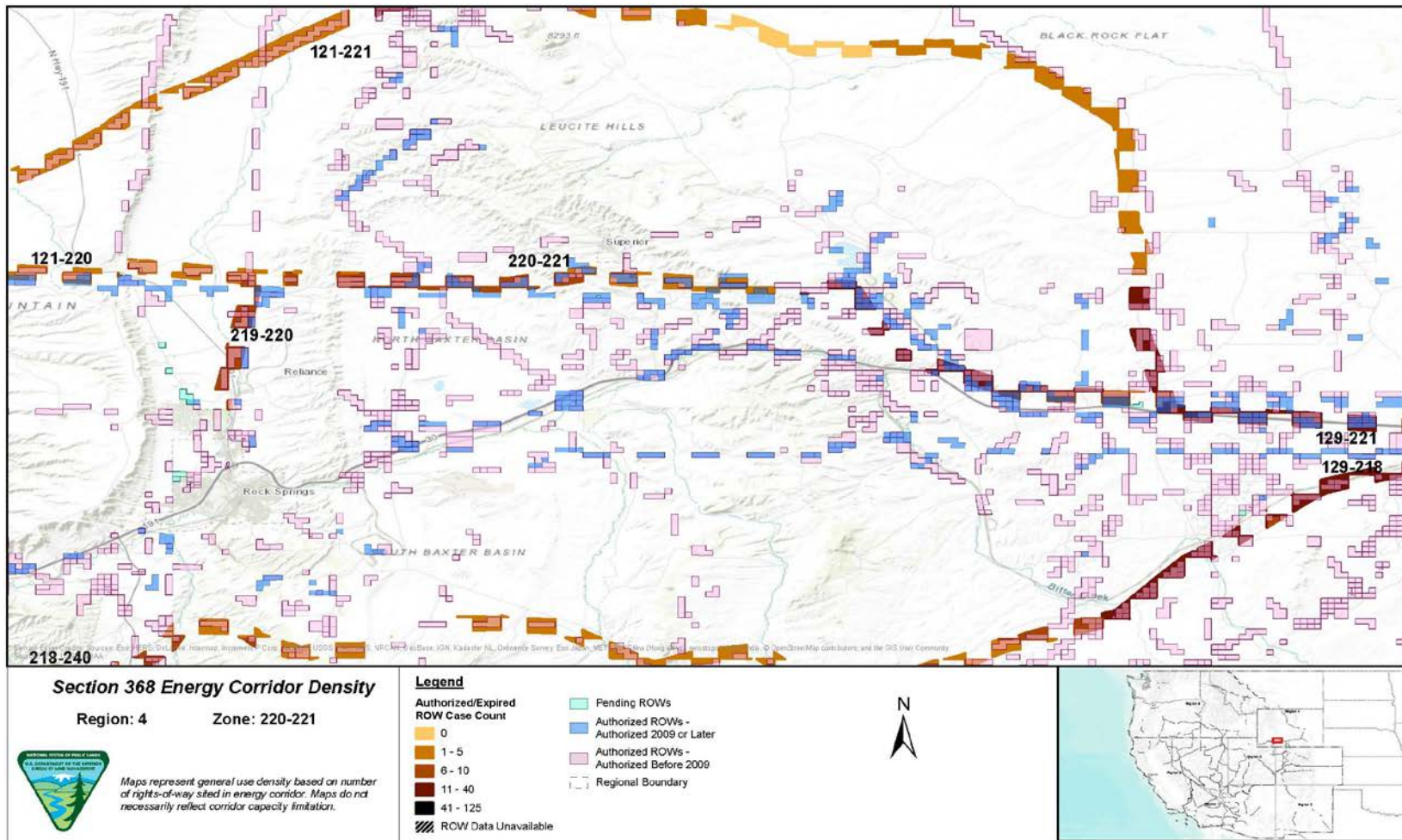


Figure 4. Corridor 220-221, Corridor Density Map

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 220-221 REVIEW | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---|---|
| POTENTIAL COMPATIBILITY ISSUES or CONCERNS TO EXAMINE | MILEPOST (MP)¹ | STAKEHOLDER INPUT and OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION | POTENTIAL RESOLUTIONS BASED ON SITING PRINCIPLE ANALYSIS ² |
| BLM Jurisdiction: Rock Springs Field Office Agency Land Use Plan: Green River RMP (1997) | | | |
| Other than the GRSG GHMA intersection discussed below, no issues related to resource intersections with the corridor in the Rock Springs FO have been identified. | | | |
| BLM Jurisdiction: Rock Springs Field Office Agency Land Use Plan: Wyoming GRSG ROD and 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 0 to MP 35 (entire corridor) | RFI comment: use full mitigation hierarchy to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts within four miles of important GRSG breeding areas. | The location appears to best meet the siting principles because collocation is preferred and the corridor is collocated with existing transmission lines. The GHMA encompasses a broad area surrounding the corridor which cannot be avoided. |

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:

- Remove the currently designated corridor and work with the states of Wyoming and Idaho, local governments, industry, landowners, the BLM, USFWS (Cokeville Meadows National Wildlife Refuge) and NPS (Fossil Buttes National Monument) to find and designate an acceptable 368 energy corridor between the Jim Bridger Power Plant and Populus and Midpoint, Idaho (RFI comment).

Analysis: The intent of the regional reviews is to review all Section 368 energy corridor and provide potential corridor deletions, revisions, and additions. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide potential corridor revisions to ensure that the Section 368 energy corridors meet the siting principles identified in the Settlement Agreement.

Jurisdictional Concerns:

- The Four Trails Feasibility Study Trail is located on private lands between MP 26 and MP 28. The logical extension of the corridor between the designated corridor segments would cross and could potentially impact the trail.

Analysis: Section 368 energy corridors cannot be designated on private land. If future development was located along the private land segments, the intersection of a future transmission line or pipeline with the Four Trails Feasibility Study Trail would be at an angle (minimizing impact on trail values). An IOP for NSTs, NHTs and Feasibility Study Trails would further reduce impacts on these resource values.

Ecology:

- Wyoming addressed sage grouse conservation through a series of Governor executive orders (EOs) and designation of sage grouse core areas. These EOs provided specific routing criteria for transmission lines through sage grouse core areas in the state. Some of the current designated 368 energy corridors are inconsistent with provisions of the EOs. These inconsistencies need to be addressed by the review team (RFI comment).

Analysis: Sage-grouse core areas identified by the State of Wyoming correspond to the GRSG habitat management areas identified in by the BLM. The corridor is collocated with existing transmission lines, minimizing disturbance to sage grouse core areas.

Abstract Acronyms and Abbreviations

ARMPA = Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; EO = executive order; FO = field office; GHMA = general habitat management area; GIS = geographic information system; GRSG = Greater Sage-grouse; IOP = interagency operating procedure; MP = milepost; NHT = National Historic Trail; NPS = National Park Service; NST = National Scenic Trail; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; RFI = request for information; RMP = resource management plan; ROD = Record of Decision; ROW = right-of-way; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; WPCI = Wyoming Pipeline Corridor Initiative; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor.