

Corridor 47-68

Four Corners-Las Vegas Corridor

Corridor Rationale

The corridor was sited consistent with a locally designated corridor and was designated to provide connectivity with Corridor 47-231 in Region 1 for electrical transmission from Four Corners Generating Station to Las Vegas, Nevada. During scoping for the WWEC PEIS, routes generally following this corridor were suggested by the American Wind Energy Association; the Arizona Public Service Electric Company; National Grid; the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department; and the Western Utility Group. The Platts data indicate a planned electric transmission line project that would follow the entire length of the corridor centerline. Currently, there are no other pending or authorized ROWs within or intersecting the corridor.

Corridor location:

Arizona (Coconino Co.)

USFS: Kaibab National Forest

Regional Review Region(s): Region 2

Corridor width, length:

Width 3,500 ft

19 miles of designated corridor

19 mile-posted route, including gaps

Sec 368 energy corridor restrictions: (N)

- corridor is multi-modal

Corridor of concern (N)



Corridor history:

- Locally designated corridor prior to 2009 (Y)
- Existing infrastructure prior to 2009 (Y)
 - Electric transmission:
 - 500 kV (MP 0 to MP 19)
- Energy development near the corridor (N)
- Corridor changes since 2009 (N)

Figure 1. Corridor 47-68

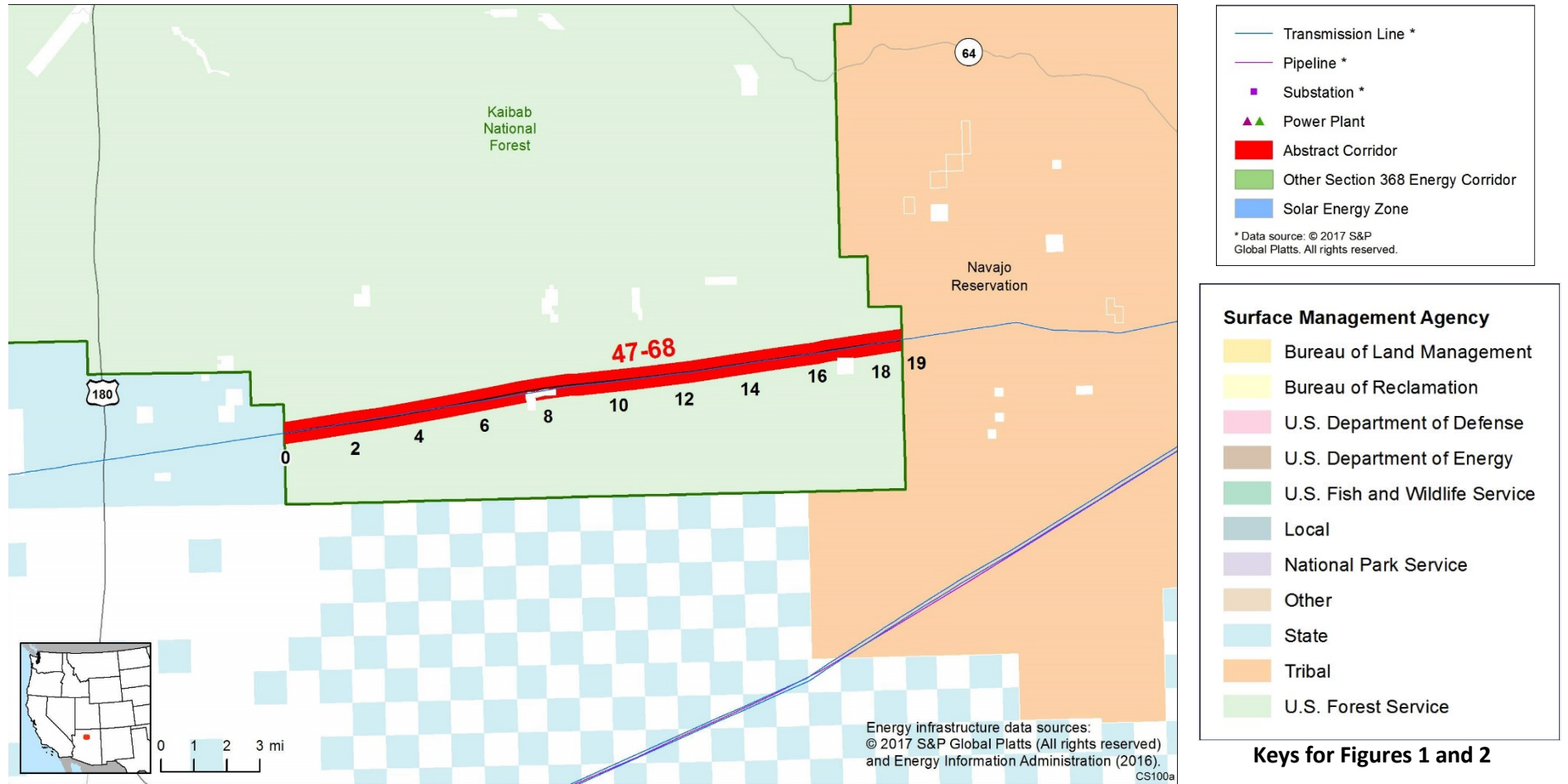


Figure 2. Corridor 47-68 and nearby electric transmission lines and pipelines

Conflict Map Analysis

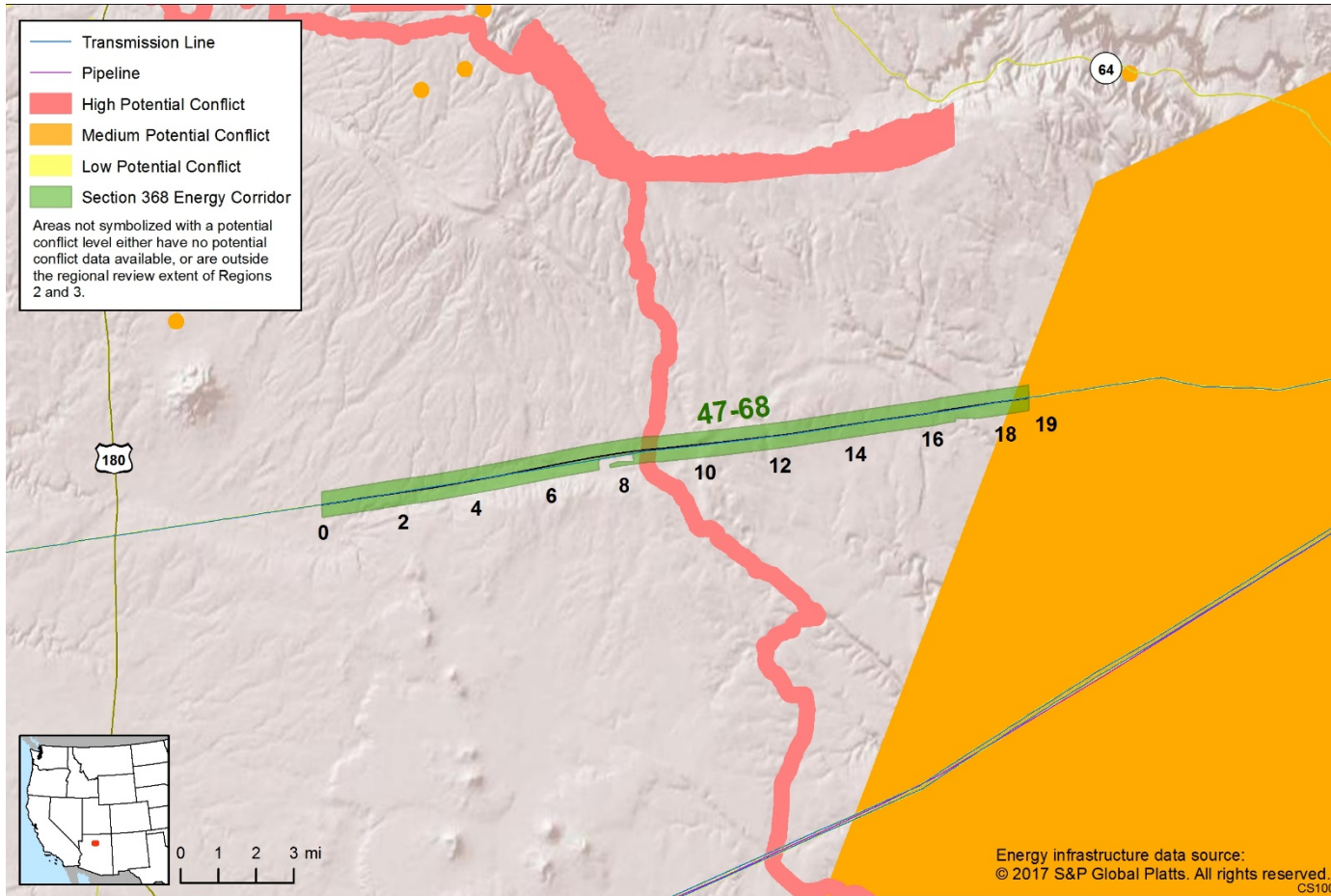


Figure 3. Map of Conflict Areas in Vicinity of Corridor 47-68

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
[\(https://bogi.evs.anl.gov/section368/portal/\)](https://bogi.evs.anl.gov/section368/portal/)

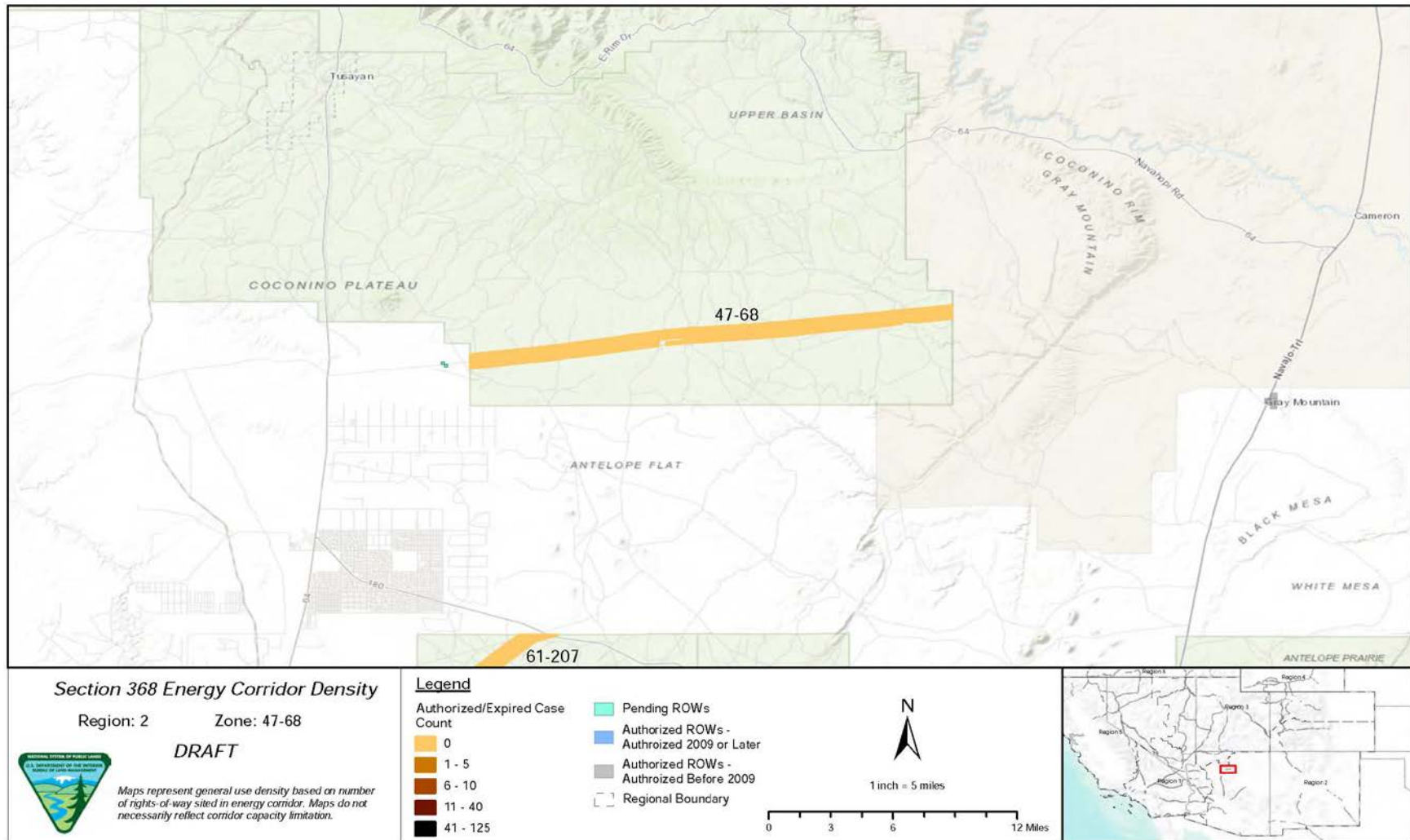


Figure 4. Corridor 47-68, Corridor Density Map

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

Stakeholders did not provide specific input on corridor utility.

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 47-68 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> | | | | | | | |
| 47-68 .001 | USFS | Kaibab National Forest | Coconino, AZ | Grand Canyon National Park | MP 0 to MP 16 | GIS Analysis: the corridor is 12 mi south of Grand Canyon National Park. | <p>Visual impacts on the Grand Canyon are a concern. The current 500-kV line crosses the route to the South Rim. The Kaibab National Forest LRMP designated the current power line as “Roaded Modified” in the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum and a Scenic Integrity Objective of both Moderate and Low, depending on the area. Neither of these designations would preclude development in or potential expansion of the energy corridor.</p> <p>The corridor is not in the Grand Canyon National Park. Coordination with the NPS is needed to identify impacts of corridor development on the park and its visitors. There is an opportunity for the Agencies to consider revisions to the existing IOP related to Visual Resources to ensure appropriate consideration occurs with proposed development within the energy corridor. (2)</p> |

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| 47-68 .002 | USFS | Kaibab National Forest | Coconino, AZ | Arizona National Scenic Trail (NST) | MP 8.7 to MP 8.8 | GIS Analysis: the NST and the corridor intersect. GIS Analysis: the National Designated Area intersects the corridor. | There is an opportunity for the Agencies to consider adding an IOP for NSTs and NHTs as well as adding an IOP related to Visual Resources to ensure appropriate consideration occurs with proposed development within the energy corridor. (2) |
| Visual Resources | | | | | | | |
| 47-68 .003 | USFS | Kaibab National Forest | Coconino, AZ | Recreation Opportunity Spectrum-Roaded Modified | MP 0 to MP 18.9 | GIS Analysis: roaded-modified areas intersect corridor. | Roaded-modified areas characterize a predominantly modified environment. Roaded-natural areas are adjacent but do not intersect the corridor. The existing corridor location best meets the siting principles. (1) |
| 47-68 .004 | USFS | Kaibab National Forest | Coconino, AZ | Recreation Opportunity Spectrum-Roaded Natural | MP 0 to MP 8.8 | GIS Analysis: roaded-natural areas are adjacent to corridor. | |
| Cultural Resources | | | | | | | |
| 47-68 .005 | USFS | Kaibab National Forest | Coconino, AZ | Heritage sites | Not specified. | Agency Input: there is a known high density of pre-historic heritage sites within and adjacent to the corridor. | The potential for cultural resources is a concern for the Agencies that cannot be resolved during corridor-level planning. Existing IOPs specific to cultural resources and tribal consultation would be followed in connection with any proposed energy project in the corridor. (3) |
| Tribal Concerns | | | | | | | |
| 47-68 .006 | BIA | Navajo Reservation | Coconino, AZ | Tribal lands | MP 19 | GIS Analysis: corridor ends at the Navajo Reservation boundary. | Development within tribal lands would require proponent negotiations with the Navajo Nation, Navajo Nation Tribal Trust and Navajo Nation Allotted lands and the BIA. Proponents would have to work with the tribe for a tribal resolution consenting to the grant of ROWs (by BIA). BIA cannot grant ROWs without tribal consent. (3). Existing IOPs specific to tribal consultation would be followed in |

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| | | | | | | | connection with any proposed energy project in the corridor. (3) |
| Land Use Concerns | | | | | | | |
| Military and Civilian Aviation | | | | | | | |
| 47-68 .007 | USFS | Kaibab National Forest | Coconino, AZ | Special Use Airspace | MP 18.7 to MP 19 | GIS Analysis: eastern end of corridor is within special use airspace | The concern related to MTRs is noted and the adherence to existing IOP regarding coordination with DoD would be required to ensure this potential conflict is considered at the appropriate time. In addition, there is an opportunity to consider a revision to the existing IOP to include height restrictions for corridors in the vicinity of DoD training routes and special use airspace. (2) |
| Other noted land use concerns | | | | | | | |
| 47-68 .008 | NA | Private | Coconino, AZ | Private land | MP 7.4 to MP 7.5 | GIS Analysis: two private land parcels belonging to Stilo Development Group reduce width of a small segment of corridor. | USFS can only authorize projects on USFS-administered lands. Development in corridor gaps would require coordination outside of the Agencies. (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

BIA= Bureau of Indian Affairs; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; DoD = Department of Defense; FO = Field Office; GIS = geographic information system; IOP = Interagency Operating Procedure; IR = instrument route; IRA = Inventoried Roadless Area; MP = milepost; MTR = Military Training Route; NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act; NHT = National Historic Trail; NWA = National Wilderness Area; PAC = Priority Area for Conservation; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; PHMA = Priority Habitat Management Area; RFI = request for information; RMP = Resource Management Plan; ROW = right-of-way; TCP = Traditional Cultural Property; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; VRM = Visual Resource Management; WVEC = West-wide Energy Corridor.