
From: coridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2008 1:59 AM
To: mail_coridoreisarchives; coridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WVEC50550

Attachments: Oregon_Sierra_CLub_PEIS_Corridor_comments__2_14_WVEC50550.doc



Oregon_Sierra_CLu
b_PEIS_Corrid...

Thank you for your comment, Ivan Maluski.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WVEC50550. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 15, 2008 01:58:31AM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WVEC50550

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Attachment: C:\Documents and Settings\Ivan Maluski\Desktop\Oregon Sierra CLub PEIS
Corridor comments_2_14.doc

Comment Submitted:
Please find attached comments from the Oregon Chapter Sierra Club.

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at:
coridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster
at (630)252-6182.

**Oregon Sierra Club Comments on the Draft Programmatic
Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Energy
Corridors**

February 14, 2008

The Oregon Chapter Sierra Club and its High Desert Committee have several concerns and comments regarding the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Designation of Westwide Energy Corridors. With nearly 24,000 members located across the state, the Oregon Chapter Sierra Club is among the largest and most geographically widespread conservation organizations in Oregon. Our members visit and enjoy many of the public lands most affected by the PEIS across Oregon, including the Mt. Hood National Forest, BLM lands in southeast Oregon's High Desert, and the south Cascades and Siskiyou Mountains. The Oregon Chapter Sierra Club's High Desert Committee (HDC), established in April 1989, has over the years visited all eastern Oregon BLM Wilderness Study Areas and has led over 100 trips for the public to some of these areas. These comments are meant as a locally specific addendum to comments the Sierra Club has also submitted with The Wilderness Society and Western Resource Advocates.

Previously, the Sierra Club submitted comments during the scoping phase for this EIS (November 2005) as well as during the comment period on draft maps (July 2006). We also testified at the public meeting held in Portland, OR on January 8.

In previous input on this EIS and draft maps, we raised very specific concerns regarding the designation of new and expanded energy corridors. Several of these concerns remain unaddressed by the current Draft EIS:

1. **Both the maps and the EIS continue to be inadequate by not fully addressing the range of specific environmental impacts associated with new or expanding energy corridors.**

While newer draft maps are more specific than previous ones, the PEIS offers few specifics on localized, anticipated environmental impacts associated with proposed corridor routes. Additionally, the PEIS fails to provide detailed information regarding the types of environmental impacts anticipated from both the initial construction, as well as ongoing maintenance of these corridors. The PEIS also fails to discuss in detail the specific types of energy that will be transported across specific corridors and where this energy will be generated. Information regarding proposed new or expanding energy production that will be associated with these corridors should be more thoroughly and clearly discussed in the Final EIS, particularly if there are potential and anticipated impacts to public lands.

In addition to these basic concerns, the following is a list of more site-specific issues regarding impacts from corridors around Oregon.

50550-001

A. Northern Oregon

- a. How specifically will corridor 230-248 affect the Soosap Meadows Area of Critical Environmental Concern? The DEIS indicates that energy corridors will be constructed with reduced width in order to 'minimize' impacts to the Soosap Meadows ACEC. The DEIS needs to be more specific on what these impacts will be to this important, rare alpine meadow on the Salem District BLM.
- b. How specifically will corridor 230-248 affect the threatened northern spotted owl and Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Mt. Hood National Forest? This corridor clearly bisects the national forest yet no specific environmental impacts are discussed.

50550-002

B. Southern Oregon

- a. How will corridors 7-11 and 7-24 affect the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument? This does not appear to be discussed in the DEIS, and this National Monument's location is not identified on the maps provided.
- b. How will corridors 7-11 and 7-24 affect the wildlife migration on Siskiyou Crest? This Siskiyou Crest is an important wildlife migration corridor connecting the southern Cascades and eastern Oregon to roadless areas in southwest Oregon and northern California.

50550-003

C. Southeast Oregon's High Desert

- a. Sage grouse - Sage grouse numbers are plummeting across the west. Proposed Corridor 7-24 bisects areas that are strongholds for sage grouse in Oregon, due to the number of active leks, i.e. north of Troutcreek Mountains and south east of Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge. If the future corridor accommodates transmissions lines, they will serve as perches for raptors that will disturb sage grouse on the leks and prey both on adults and chicks. Soil disturbance during construction, both from transmission lines or pipelines, will impact leks, feeding and rearing areas.
- b. Pronghorn - Large numbers of Pronghorn migrate between Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge and Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada. Corridor 7-24 bisects the migration path between the two Refuges, and both construction and maintenance of the corridors would impact pronghorn movement. In addition, if the corridor is an above ground pipeline, their migration would be negatively impacted indefinitely.
- c. Noxious weeds - Noxious weeds are degrading natural ecosystems across the west and vast amounts of taxpayer dollars are allocated on an on-going basis to eradicating, or at a minimum, controlling them. Construction of energy corridors in near pristine areas would facilitate the invasion of

50550-004

invasive alien species and degrade the natural habitat on which many species depend.

- d. ORVs - The energy corridors and their associated right of ways would be tempting new routes for unscrupulous drivers of Off Road Vehicles. They could also serve as entryways into areas that so far were not accessible to these vehicles. ORVs would further degrade the natural habitat by establishing new and illegal tracks and importing noxious weeds in their treads.
- e. WSAs - A number of Wilderness Study Areas would be impacted by the energy corridors, chiefly among them Bowden Hills (3-118), Alvord Peak (2-83), and to some lesser extent, Rincon (2-82), Spaulding (1-139) and Guano Creek (1-132).
1. Bowden Hills: A large number of pronghorn and mule deer winter in the WSA and their migration to their summer feeding areas might be adversely affected by the corridor. The WSA is also home of the kit fox, which is on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&W) list of threatened species.
 2. Alvord Peak: Species potentially impacted by the corridor are: mule deer, pronghorn, and sage grouse. Unique to this WSA is the fact that it is used by the only migratory herd of bighorn sheep in Oregon.
 3. Rincon: Sage grouse are found throughout most of the northern part of the WSA which also comprises crucial deer and pronghorn winter ranges, as well as habitat for bighorn sheep and kit fox.
 4. Spaulding: Located between Hart Mountain and Sheldon, this area is home to many mule deer and pronghorn. The southern half of the WSA is spring kidding ground for pronghorn. Sage grouse is present in relatively large numbers. Some areas of the WSA are undisturbed and corridor construction would potentially introduce non-native grasses. A petroglyph art site would be at risk of defacing by increased numbers of visitor due to easy access to ORVs.
 5. Guano Creek: Guano creek is a perennial stream, home to both the Sheldon Tui Chub, and Redband trout. Corridor 7-24 would cross the creek and construction could disturb riparian vegetation and cause sedimentation. Guano Creek WSA is used in the winter by sage grouse and one lek has been identified.

50550-004
(cont.)

50550-005

<p>f. <u>Other Wildlands</u> - Proposed corridor 7-24 would bisect areas that although not designated as WSAs by the BLM, do have wilderness qualities and are recommended to be designated as wilderness by conservation organizations. Specifically, the corridor would go through the Proposed Hart-Sheldon Sage Grouse National Conservation Area.</p>	<p>50550-005 (cont.)</p>
<p>D. Inventoried Roadless Areas Statewide</p> <p>a. The DEIS mentions that two inventoried roadless areas in Oregon will be impacted by proposed energy corridors, yet no further information is provided. Which inventoried roadless areas are these, which corridors will impact them, and how?</p>	<p>50550-006</p>
<p>2. The DEIS fails to discuss cumulative impacts including associated new energy production and development on or near public land associated with proposed corridors.</p> <p>A theme in previous Sierra Club comments was the need to analyze the cumulative impacts associated with creating new energy corridors or intensifying use of existing corridors. Simply put, the footprint of the energy corridors is much larger the actual acreage they take up. The PEIS fails to identify or analyze the extent to which these corridors and the types of energy expected to flow across them (whether oil, gas, hydrogen or electricity) lead to or encourage additional energy production, development and extraction on public lands, or whether additional energy production proposals associated with these corridors are reasonably anticipated. <i>Thus, potential new energy developments and the expansion of existing developments should be clearly noted on the maps and in the DEIS and their potential environmental impacts should be identified and disclosed.</i> This type of big picture analysis is exactly the type of issue a Programmatic EIS should address, and if specific information exists, it should be disclosed.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Ivan Maluski Conservation Coordinator Oregon Chapter Sierra Club</p> <p>High Desert Comments Irene Vlach Oregon Chapter Sierra Club, High Desert Committee Member</p>	<p>50550-007</p>

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2008 3:41 AM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives; corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WVEC50551

Attachments: 080214-Marshall_Magruder_draft_PEIS_letter_WVEC50551.doc



080214-Marshall_M
agruder_draft...

Thank you for your comment, Marshall Magruder.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WVEC50551. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 15, 2008 03:41:12AM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WVEC50551

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Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Attachment: C:\Documents and Settings\Marshall Magruder\Desktop\1221\080214-Marshall Magruder draft PEIS letter.doc

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at:
corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster
at (630)252-6182.

Marshall Magruder
PO Box 1267
Tubac, AZ 85646

14 February 2008

To Whom it May Concern:

Subject: Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Utility Corridors on Western Federal Lands, Comments Concerning

In general, the overall process followed by the various agencies has touched on many of the issues involved with siting multi-purpose utility corridors on western federal lands. As many have already commented, a starting point has been reached. The full NEPA process remains as the existent PEIS needs specific tailoring before any rights of way can be determined. An Environmental Assessment for non-significant projects should NEVER be assumed based on the preliminary information in this PEIS, since all projects covered by this PEIS will have SIGNIFICANT Environmental Impacts.

50551-001

Some detailed comments.

1. **Variable Corridor Widths.** In the Scoping document, in footnote 1, a pre-Section 368 corridor was determined by using Section 503 of the FLPMA. This corridor segment, number 234-235, was designated for one transmission line and one natural gas pipeline. This prior to Section 368 action did not consider three transmission, two gas and two liquid pipelines, thus, if an additional utility is planning on using this corridor, then, NEPA considerations remain critical. An option in this pre-Section 368 corridor was provided so that it just skirted a designated roadless area. If a 3,500 foot wide corridor is used, as implied in Table A (Appendix A), then the precept for its determination (avoid the roadless area) would be violated. Such action does not appear reasonable, thus, in certain parts of corridor 234-235, its width will have to be considerably narrower than 3,500 feet. This flexibility MUST be included in the Final PEIS, for all corridors, as environment background and local details are critical elements in all land use decisions, even after designated in the Final PEIS.

50551-002

2. **Alternatives and Completeness.** There is very little emphasis on Alternatives that must be presented for all NEPA projects. The PEIS website has some references that clearly show reasonable Alternatives. For example, the Argonne National Laboratory report, ANL/EVS/TM/08-4, "The Design, Construction, and Operation of Long-Distance High-Voltage Electricity Transmission Technologies," provides a basic framework for elements to make significant options available. For example, any corridor of 50 or more miles should consider both AC and DC with many environmental differences between these two forms of electrical generation. Further, information provided in this document briefly discusses dozens of elements that all projects must consider and must be considered when performing the NEPA analysis. A better solution would be a very detailed "checksheet" of required facts necessary for decision makers prior to making a Record of Decision. This checksheet should be used as a cross-reference to determine if an applicant has required information PRIOR to scoping for review by the public,

50551-003

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|---|----------------------|
| government and regulatory agencies. The Applicant should show where in his proposal contains the information required by the checksheet. | 50551-003
(cont.) |
| <p>3. <u>Project Information.</u> Some <u>utilities do not provide the public</u> and impacted stakeholders <u>with information necessary</u> to gain local confidence or acceptance. This results in negative public pre-conceived views. If the public only hears comments given at a Scoping Meeting without prior background information, especially from the applicant, local citizens will not receive the best information. Thus, highly recommend that the applicant be required to hold local meetings with all parties impacted, that detailed briefings and handouts be provided, that FAQs and websites be populated with ACCURATE information that explain why the project is important, how it meets requirements, what was considered and rejected and why, how it will be build and schedules of key milestones. These basic facts must be clear, honest and complete in advance of a Scoping Meeting. This may seem basic but when continually overlooked, negative perceptions will continue. The public isn't as dumb at some utilities assume. Education maybe necessary to again acceptance, especially, when they are the ratepayers and have to pay for the project.</p> | 50551-004 |
| <p>4. <u>Cumulative Effects involving Water and Air.</u> In the West, water is a dominate natural resource and must be considered <u>comprehensively</u> for all decisions. When performing the NEAP Cumulative Effects analyses, it is critical that the impact on the whole water cycle be considered for the project. A natural gas pipeline or transmission line has very little direct impact on water resources; however, each may have significant indicted impacts. A 100 MW transmission line that will support another 50,000 families needs to consider the water resource impacts that the line will for these new families using this energy. At 200 gallons per day per captia, over 250,000,000 gallons are required. If the end users do not have that water, where will it come from? How much water is required to generate that 100 MW, based on the logical generation anticipated for this community? If the community is already in an EPA non-attainment area, how will the additional "exurban" commuters change the quality of air? Both ends and intermediate points along the "system" must be assessed and extrapolated for the life-cycle of the project, usually 50 or more years into the future. Anything less is an irresponsible, incomplete, and misleading environmental assessment.</p> | 50551-005 |

Sincerely,

Marshall Magruder
marshall@magruder.org
 520.398.8587

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2008 7:57 AM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WVECD50552

Thank you for your comment, Mark Lewis.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WVECD50552. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 15, 2008 07:56:24AM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WVECD50552

First Name: Mark
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Comment Submitted:

We support the notion that AZ residents are connected to the 10 western states grid and must have more transmission options both going and coming into AZ. | 50552-001

A portion of the transmission line corridor needs to support the construction of transmission lines that could be reserved for non - carbon based energy transfers in and out of the southwestern grid served by WAPA, SWAT membership and others.

The Southwestern portion of Maricopa County, and parts of La Paz County could generate 4,200 MW of solar power, 2,000 additional MW of 3rd Generation Nuclear Power, as well as other traditional power generation supplies. | 50552-002

We should give an equal reservation of transmission access, for non-carbon based generation plants as corridors are developed through Western AZ.

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at:
corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: coridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2008 11:13 AM
To: mail_coridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WVECD50553

Thank you for your comment, .

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WVECD50553. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 15, 2008 11:12:35AM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WVECD50553

First Name:
Last Name:
Address:
City:
State: UT
Zip:
Country: USA
Email:
Privacy Preference: Withhold name and address from public record

Comment Submitted:

The modified routing of the Millard Energy corridor as proposed by the Millard County officials is a much better routing than the proposed route following highway 257. The route following hwy 257 crosses many private land owners property, the Servier river 3 times, and runs very close to Delta City and surrounding areas that are set for future development. The Millard county proposed re-routing is in an area that will not affect future growth, says away from the river, and does not affect many private land owners. There are many good articles and arguments for this re-routing that the Millard county commissions have presented.

50553-001

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at:
coridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2008 11:14 AM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WVEC50554

Thank you for your comment, BETSY PAHUT.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WVEC50554. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 15, 2008 11:13:57AM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WVEC50554

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Comment Submitted:

As a life-long citizen of Anaconda Deer Lodge County and the President of the Anaconda Main Street Program, I have a deep concern for the future of our community. I strongly support the energy corridor be situated in Deer Lodge County. We may never see an opportunity to bring revenue to our community from this land again. Due to the contamination issues surrounding this location, we will never see anything of value located on this land and it is the prefect site for this project.

50554-001

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at:
corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster
at (630)252-6182.

From: coridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2008 3:14 PM
To: mail_coridoreisarchives; coridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WVEC50555

Attachments: PLAccommentsenergycorridors_WVEC50555.doc



PLAccommentsenerg
ycorridors_WVEC...

Thank you for your comment, Claire Moseley.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WVEC50555. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 15, 2008 03:13:28PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WVEC50555

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Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment: F:\cmoseley document files\DOCS\FEDERAL\PLAccommentsenergycorridors.doc

Comment Submitted:

Dear Sirs: I attempted to fax my comments on the Western Corridors yesterday but the fax failed. Following is the report I received back regarding the failure.

FAX FAILED

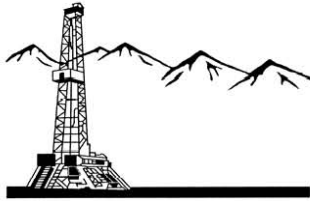
Customer No. : 246303
Reference No. : 135472846
Billing Code : 246303
Your Fax To : 18665425904
 To: Western Corridors DPEIS
Sent At : 02/14/2008 04:15:05 PM (GMT-7:00)
Has Failed Because : No Answer

Report Version : 2.00

I have attached the comments as faxed and request that you consider them in your deliberations on comments received because an effort was made to submit them on time. Please contact me at 303-750-3333 if there is a problem with this request.

Thank you.

Claire Moseley
Executive Director
Public Lands Advocacy
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February 14, 2008

West-wide Energy Corridor DEIS
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S. Cass Avenue
Building 900, Mail Stop 4
Argonne, IL 60439

VIA Fax: (866)542-5904

RE: West-wide Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of Public Lands Advocacy (PLA), following are comments on the West-wide Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS). PLA is a nonprofit trade association whose members include independent and major oil and gas producers as well as nonprofit trade and professional organizations that have joined together to foster environmentally sound exploration and production on public lands. PLA supports Congressional recognition in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that the current energy transmission and oil and gas pipeline infrastructure is seriously inadequate. It must also be recognized by the federal government and the public alike that expanded oil and gas pipeline capacity will be needed in the next 10 to 15 years to meet increasing demands of the US consumer. Specifically, we support the acknowledgment that additional pipeline capacity is critically needed to transport new supplies of natural gas throughout the Mountain West and beyond.

BARRIERS TO ROW DEVELOPMENT

The DPEIS identifies existing barriers to infrastructure development in the western states, such as *"inconsistent agency procedures for granting ROWs; inconsistent agency views on whether proposed energy infrastructure projects would address near- or long-term energy needs; a lack of coordination among agencies that administer contiguous tracts of land when responding to applications for a ROW across their respective jurisdictions; and the lack of coordination within agency offices regarding the appropriate geographic locations of corridors or ROWs."*

The DPEIS also states, *"Upon signing Records-of-Decision (RODs), the BLM, FS, USFWS, and, if applicable, the DOD would amend their respective affected land use plans to incorporate the corridor designation. Corridor designation on these federal lands would be defined by a centerline and width to accommodate future proposed energy transport projects."*

50555-001

Comment: Despite the intent of the process, there is another significant barrier to energy infrastructure development in the western states that has not been identified in the DPEIS. Federal land management agencies' (LMA) have demonstrated an overwhelming lack of recognition of the need for additional ROW corridors for oil and gas pipelines in their land use planning documents. While the DPEIS indicates that *"all public lands, unless otherwise designated, segregated, or withdrawn, are available for ROW authorization under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLMPA) by the appropriate*

land management agency,” LMAs routinely restrict new ROW development across public lands without adequate justification. We recognize that in granting new ROW corridors the agencies must also take into account other resource values; however, in general, they fail to recognize the unobtrusive nature of pipelines, particularly those that are buried, and their limited impacts on other sensitive values. Therefore, in addition to identifying preferred energy corridors, we recommend that the final EIS specify that LMAs are required to fully consider the need for improved access and development of new ROW corridors in their land use plans. Moreover, it is critical that this consideration not be limited only to corridors established under this process.

50555-001
(cont.)

CORRIDOR DESIGNATIONS

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, there would be approximately 6,055 miles of Section 368 energy corridors designated in the West. The Proposed Action incorporates about 2,359 miles of existing, locally designated energy corridors (or portions of these corridors) that are currently identified in federal land use plans.

Comment: It is unclear why the Proposed Action incorporates only 2,359 miles of existing energy corridors. In our previous comments, it was recommended that the DPEIS designate existing pipeline corridors as energy corridors since it is probable that future expansion of existing pipeline infrastructure would utilize existing routes. Those comments also identified several new projects that should be included. While the DPEIS states on page ES-17 that the *“unrestricted conceptual energy transport network corridors were moved to take advantage of existing ROWs that could be expanded to accommodate federal energy corridors without conflicting with other location factors,”* the concern remains that the Proposed Action has not gone far enough in identifying corridors where permit application would be facilitated. It is critical that all existing power and energy transportation assets be included in these proposed corridors to eliminate protracted delays in permitting currently being experienced by the energy industry.

50555-002

In addition, with respect to oil pipelines, the FPEIS needs to make clear that the designated corridors do not represent a preferred location. While the designated corridors may be preferred locations for some electricity transmission facilities, this is not a feasible approach for oil and gas pipelines. In particular, the unique characteristics of these pipelines and their related markets will make it nearly impossible to identify all preferred locations through the PEIS process because it is currently unknown where new development may occur. Therefore, we recommend that flexibility be maintained to allow individual oil and gas pipelines to proceed without undue process delays.

CORRIDOR WIDTH

According to the DPEIS, *“a corridor width of 3,500 feet was selected by the Agencies for the Section 368 energy corridors because this width would provide sufficient room to support multiple energy transport systems.”*

Comment: PLA’s members are concerned that the proposed corridor width of 3,500 feet may not always be adequate to provide for all intended uses. In this finite space it is possible there would not be enough room to accommodate all facilities. For example, to ensure safety, 15 feet of space is required between various ROWs. It is imperative to carefully consider safety and integrity when co-locating facilities. While electrical transmission lines and pipelines can often co-exist within corridors, several safety factors must be considered, such as:

50555-003

- High voltage electricity transmission lines can induce currents in pipelines that can interfere with the cathodic protection system that protects pipelines from corrosion.

- Surface loads on pipelines from service vehicles for transmission lines can damage pipelines.
- Adequate width is necessary to offset pipeline relief valves to avoid accidental ignition.
- In certain areas the corridor may be narrower due to local designations, topographic constraints, endangered species habitat or poor suitability of land in which case co-location will be impractical.

50555-003
(cont.)

CORRIDOR LOCATION

The DPEIS indicates, "As specified in Section 368 [EPA Act 2005], these energy corridors would be designated only on federal lands, not private lands. Applicants would be required to identify preferred project-specific routes across and plan for gaining authorization to cross private lands. Project applicants would secure authorizations across private lands in the same manner that they currently do, independent of the application process for corridors on federal lands."

50555-004

Comment: We recognize that federal agencies are reluctant to designate energy corridors on private lands. Consequently, the proposed energy corridors are severely disjointed as depicted on the DPEIS maps. We are concerned that diverse property ownership within the corridor will cause delay and difficulty for any entity wishing to build assets within the corridor.

ROWS OUTSIDE DESIGNATED CORRIDORS

The DPEIS recognizes that the agencies do not have the authority to mandate that energy infrastructure must be developed only within designated corridors.

Comment: However, the DPEIS has indicated that designated corridors will be deemed "preferred" routes. It is impossible to predict where all potential oil and gas development will occur and the ROWs required for delivery of the product to market. Consequently, designation of "preferred" routes in the DPEIS must not preclude new ROWs outside these corridors in the future and must fully address the fact there **WILL** be many ROW needs outside designated corridors. We urge that the FPEIS recognize and disclose that:

50555-005

- Companies require flexibility to build pipelines in an appropriate place that will enable them to deliver the resource to the consumer based upon market conditions
- Companies need flexibility within projects and corridors to expand and reduce pipelines as the market demand fluctuates
- Designation of specific energy corridors without flexibility could pose a significant threat to national security
- ROWs outside existing corridors must also be facilitated and permitted without delays

CORRIDOR PRIORITY

The DPEIS emphasizes that designation of energy corridors would not result in any approvals of site-specific projects and that new projects within these corridors will still be subject to NEPA analysis and the current approval process.

Comment: Despite the fact that no site-specific projects will be approved as a result of adoption of the Record of Decision that will accompany the FPEIS, we strongly recommend that ROW activities within the established corridors be designated "high priority" uses and that such priority must be recognized by the LMAs. Without assurances that ROW projects have already been deemed appropriate within the designated corridors, the exercise of preparing a PEIS will serve no purpose. In other words, while a NEPA analysis will still be necessary to address technical and environmental issues, therefore it should be unnecessary to prove the need for a ROW project.

50555-006

PLA Comments on West-wide Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
Page 4 of 4
February 4, 2008

CONCLUSION

PLA appreciates this opportunity to provide you with our comments and concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Claire Moseley".

Claire M. Moseley

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2008 3:29 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives; corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50556

Attachments: EPA_Comment_Letter_WWECD50556.pdf



EPA_Comment_Lett
æ_WWECD50556....

Thank you for your comment, Anne Miller.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50556. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 15, 2008 03:28:42PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50556

First Name: Anne
Last Name: Miller
Organization: US EPA
Address: 1200 Penna Ave NW
City: Washington
State: DC
Zip: 20460-0001
Country: USA
Email: suriano.Elaine@epa.gov
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment: E:\Elaine's Documents\EPA_Comment_Letter.pdf

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at:
corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster
at (630)252-6182.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 15 2008

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

West-wide Energy Corridor PEIS
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S. Cass Ave., Bldg. 900, Mail Stop 4
Argonne, IL 60439

Dear Sir/Madame:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Department of Energy's (DOE) and the Department of Interior's (DOI) draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (draft EIS) for the Designation of Energy Corridors on Federal Land in the 11 Western States. Our general concerns are highlighted below with detailed comments enclosed for your consideration

The draft EIS evaluates the environmental impacts of designating energy transport corridors on federal lands in eleven western states in accordance with Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The coordinated effort of all the relevant land management agencies is aimed at expediting future sitings of oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution on federal lands in western states, and to address growing energy needs in this region. When approved, the action will universally provide an amendment to 165 land use or resource management plans. Pursuant to Section 368, the agencies are expected to develop interagency operating procedures (IOPs) for implementing the approval of Rights-of-Way (ROW) for energy corridors to expedite future upgrades to the energy grid.

To meet the goals described above, the draft EIS evaluated a No Action Alternative, that would not designate land as energy corridors pursuant to Section 368, and the Proposed Alternative, that would designate 6,055 miles of energy corridor in the Western US. These corridors are based on environmental, engineering, and land use screens to reduce potential environmental and land use conflicts. The Proposed Alternative is

50556-001

considered to be the best approach to achieve new and upgraded infrastructure, improved reliability and reduced congestion and the approval of ROWs for energy transport projects across the Western States. Corridors are proposed to be 3,500 feet wide to support multiple energy projects unless otherwise specified based on environmental or management constraints.

The draft EIS evaluated the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives and removed from consideration eight other alternatives. Taken individually those alternatives do not meet the purpose and need; we believe, however, that DOE/DOI should consider combining in the final EIS meritorious elements from the rejected alternatives that could offer a third, reasonable, alternative that would better satisfy the requirement of analyzing a full range of alternatives.

The draft EIS states that the designation of energy corridors and amendments to approximately 165 land use and resource management plans does not constitute a final action; approval of ROWs and other on-the-ground actions would require additional NEPA analysis. We agree with this approach. However, the final EIS should state whether the categorical exclusions (CEs) established by section 390 of the 2005 Energy Policy Act, or existing reality CEs or other CEs, apply to land use or resource management plans that are amended by the ROD.

The draft EIS concludes that direct impacts to "Waters of the US" (waters) would not occur as a result of the implementation of either of the alternatives presented in the draft EIS (Appendix N-8). It appears, however, that this conclusion is based on outdated or inappropriately scaled maps. For example, the Map Atlas provided in Volume III is at such a large scale that it cannot be relied upon to accurately disclose the extent of waters within the energy corridors under consideration. We believe that the information used in the draft EIS should be updated and validated, if necessary with the use of aerial photography and field analysis, and included in the final EIS. In a related matter, the draft EIS states that the designated energy corridors will meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA); we suggest that the final EIS provide more detail on how the specific requirements of section 404 of the CWA apply to, and will be met by, future actions.

Section 368 charges the Secretaries with developing procedures to expedite actions to construct pipelines and electric transmission and distribution facilities. Similarly, the action agencies are charged with developing IOPs. These procedures will be critical for implementing energy corridor designations. The final EIS should give more detail about how these procedures would be developed, when they will be completed, and if this will be a process that will be open to public review and comment.

50556-001
(cont.)

50556-002

50556-003

50556-004

Based on the potential for the underestimation of wetlands in the designated corridors and the need for additional information, especially related to a wetlands inventory and maps, EPA is rating the draft EIS as Environmental Concerns - Insufficient Information (EC-2). The staff contact for this review is Elaine Suriano (202 564-7162).

50556-005

Sincerely,



Anne Norton Miller
Director
Office of Federal Activities

Enclosure

**EPA's Detailed Comments
Designation of Energy Corridors in the 11 Western States**

Calculation of Intersections and/or Proximity Events and Summary Tables 3.9-1, 3.9-2, and 3.9-3

It appears that the summary tables understate the number of features with corridor intersections and/or proximity events. Tables calculate when designated corridors intersect a particular Visual Resource Area (VRA) or other type, and not the multiple numbers of times a designated corridor may actually intersect the same VRA. For example, by reference to Appendix P-1, a designated corridor intersects the "Old Spanish Trail", a national historic trail in Colorado in four separate places or Western WY Energy Corridor segments (130-274, 132-136, 139-277, and 87-277). Table 3.9-2 and Table 3.10-5 report only a single feature, i.e., the "Old Spanish Trail" has an intersection with a corridor. The final EIS should determine how often the VRA will be intersected. Optimally, tables should reflect both when and how often special resources are intersected.

50556-006

Designation of Section 368, 2005 Energy Policy Act Corridors and Existing ACECs

Although Table 2.2-3 indicates that no locally designated areas of critical concern (ACECs) have been incorporated into the corridors proposed for Wyoming, it appears that some ACECs were included in the proposed corridor designations. The draft EIS acknowledges the possibility of corridor designations conflicting with sensitive resources (Text Box 2.2-3 [page 2-13]); we recommend this apparent conflict be resolved in the final EIS.

50556-007

Recommendations and Resources for your consideration:

We recommend that the following be reflected, as appropriate, in the final EIS:

- *Renewable Energy Atlas of the West: Guide to the Region's Resource Potential* (<http://www.energyatlas.org/>) - to update the maps displaying renewable energy resources on pages 2-17 and 2-20.
- Idaho National Laboratory Geothermal Energy Maps (<http://geothermal.inl.gov/maps/index.shtml>).
- recent publication on Renewable Energy Transmission Needs in Nevada referenced at:
www.nctimes.com/articles/2008/01/26/news/state/14_20_491_25_08.txt

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 17, 2008 6:08 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WVECD50557

Thank you for your comment, Sharon Schrock.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WVECD50557. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 17, 2008 06:07:47PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WVECD50557

First Name: Sharon
Last Name: Schrock
State: OR
Country: USA
Privacy Preference: Withhold address only from public record

Comment Submitted:

I have just discovered this project and the fact that my 20-acre farm in Oregon's Willamette Valley is possibly in line to be crossed by the energy corridor. Public comment time is closed? How do we know to comment if we don't even know this is going on? The maps look like a connect-the-dots puzzle and one can only imagine where the corridor crosses private land. I suspect whoever is making these maps is in cahoots with energy speculators, i.e. Palomar, Northstar, and their buddies, as the maps look to be serving their LNG proposals, using Oregon as the gateway to California. It is unfair to private landowners to leave them out of this process. We need to see complete maps with notification of each of us that will be affected. Thank you.

50557-001

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at:
corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Monday, February 18, 2008 12:44 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WVECD50558

Thank you for your comment, j... johnstone.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WVECD50558. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 18, 2008 12:43:47PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WVECD50558

First Name: j...
Middle Initial: .
Last Name: johnstone
City:
State: CA
Zip:
Country: USA
Privacy Preference: Withhold address only from public record

Comment Submitted:
Re: West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic

There is no place for this forced landuse designation. W.E.C.Programmatic is a foul bureaucratic control scheme to override grandfathered land use designations, regardless of ownership & uniqueness, which reeks of old Mafia or perhaps Hitler's dream schemes. Scratch this scheme now please.

We've seen the likes of W.E.C.Programmatic before: just say NO to this malconceived dictate over America...even if currently proposed as a western states LAND ABUSE scheme. Think about it. Bye.

50558-001

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at:
corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

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From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Monday, February 18, 2008 4:26 PM
To: mail_corridoreisarchives
Subject: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WVECD50560

Thank you for your comment, Richard Musser.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WVECD50560. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 18, 2008 04:25:25PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WVECD50560

First Name: Richard
Last Name: Musser
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Comment Submitted:

Dear Sir,

I would like to comment on the energy corridors that will harm sage grouse populations. Sage grouse habitat is already very fragmented, and these corridors will further erode it. Not only will habitat be reduced, but the support system for electrical conductors provides perfect elevated perching places for raptors that prey on sage grouse. Please don't place elevated perches in sage grouse habitat---go around it, even if that alternative is more expensive. Sincerely, Richard Musser

50560-001

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at:
corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: coridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2008 9:54 AM
To: coridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Receipt: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WVECD50561

Thank you for your comment, JOANNA KIRKPATRICK.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WVECD50561. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 24, 2008 09:53:50AM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WVECD50561

First Name: JOANNA
Last Name: KIRKPATRICK
Address:
City:
State: ID
Zip:
Country: USA
Email:
Privacy Preference: Withhold address only from public record

Comment Submitted:

The new Western Transmission Grid Should be Built through DOE-Mapped areas of HIGH RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES: OF WIND, GEOTHERMAL, AND SOLAR!

50561-001

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at: coridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 4:38 PM
To: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Receipt: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WVEC50562

Thank you for your comment, Dominic DiPaolo.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WVEC50562. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 25, 2008 04:38:16PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WVEC50562

First Name: Dominic
Middle Initial: A
Last Name: DiPaolo
Organization: Southern Oregon Land Conservancy
Address: 84 Fourth St.
City: Ashland
State: OR
Zip: 97520
Country: USA
Email: dominic@landconserve.org
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Comment Submitted:

The Southern Oregon Land Conservancy holds conservation easements on several properties that have the potential to be impacted by the proposed West Wide Energy Corridor. Our organization strongly requests that the proposed corridor be sited away from properties with conservation easements. Doing otherwise would negate much of the hard work and sacrifice of these landowners, this organization and the citizens of southwest Oregon to ensure permanent protection of these lands. It would also counter Federal government support for such voluntary land conservation initiatives that come in the form of Internal Revenue Code 170(h), donation of a qualified real property interest (a conservation easement) to a qualified organization (a land trust). The IRS has granted tax benefits to several of the landowners whose properties may be impacted because their donations significantly benefit the public by providing wildlife habitat and open space. Please site the West Wide Energy Corridor away from properties possessing conservation easements. Thank you for hearing these comments.

50562-001

Kind Regards,

Dominic DiPaolo
Conservation Coordinator
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at:
corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster
at (630)252-6182.

From: coridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 6:29 PM
To: coridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Receipt: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WVECD50563

Thank you for your comment, Donald Clary Clary.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WVECD50563. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 25, 2008 06:28:28PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WVECD50563

First Name: Donald Clary
Middle Initial: M
Last Name: Clary
Organization: Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians
Address: c/o Holland & Knight, LLP
Address 2: 633 West Fifth Street
Address 3: Suite 2100
City: Los Angeles
State: CA
Zip: 90071-2040
Country: USA
Email: donald.clary@hklaw.com
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment: C:\Documents and Settings\dclary\My Documents\West-wide Energy Corridor PEIS letter.pdf

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at:
coridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster
at (630)252-6182.

Holland+Knight

Tel 213 896 2400
Fax 213 896 2450

Holland & Knight LLP
633 West Fifth Street, 21st Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071-2040
www.hklaw.com

February 25, 2008

Donald M. Clary
213 896 2473
Donald.clary@hklaw.com

West-wide Energy Corridor PEIS
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S. Cass Avenue
Building 900, Mail Stop 4
Argonne, IL 60439

Re: West-Wide Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

The Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians ("Tribe") provides the following comments upon the Draft West-Wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft PEIS). The Tribe appreciates this opportunity to comment upon the Draft PEIS and notes that as consumers, developers of electricity projects, and, increasingly, operators of utilities, tribes have an important interest in confirming that the development of the Nation's transmission system is successful. The Tribe looks forward to cooperation with all other parties to assure this success.

However, the Tribe believes that the PEIS process and, accordingly, the Draft PEIS, have not adequately considered tribal concerns regarding the development of the western transmission system. In this regard, the Tribe is troubled by statements that have been made by involved staff indicating that that they had been specifically directed to make sure that any of the contemplated transmission paths avoid reservations. The maps that have been included in the Draft PEIS indicate that this direction has been implemented. The Tribe believes that the resulting failure on the part of those completing the PEIS to consider both the needs and concerns of Native Americans in this process will potentially lead to unnecessary conflict and difficulties in the maintaining of existing transmission facilities and the construction of future facilities.

50563-001

The Tribe notes that its reservation is not shown as being directly impacted by the paths outlined in the current Draft Map. However, the Tribe notes that its reservation has been consistently identified by a Southern California utility, San Diego Gas & Electric Company ("SDG&E") as a potential location for future electric transmission lines. As a matter of fact, the Tribe was recently involved in a long and costly dispute with SDG&E over the construction of a transmission line over its reservation.

50563-002

SDG&E failed to consider the significant impacts that the transmission line would have had upon the historical and cultural resources of the Tribe. When these resources were threatened, the Tribe took the necessary steps to protect those resources (and was successful in doing so). The negative outcome of that project can therefore be directly traced to the proponent's failure to consider and address the concerns of the Tribe. Failure to consider similar issues in the context of the PEIS may lead to future conflicts and difficulties.

West-wide Energy Corridor PEIS
February 25, 2008
Page 2

Moreover, it is apparent to the Tribe that the proposed corridors expressly contemplated in the Draft Map are proximate to (but do not expressly include) many transmission paths that may be currently contemplated by local utilities and that may impact many reservations. Upon completion of the PEIS (as contemplated in the Draft Map), these adjacent paths will then become arguably more justifiable. It is only fair and appropriate to consider the potential impact that these additional lines will have when contemplating the Draft Map.

50563-002
(cont.)

It is the Tribe's concern that, if these concerns and the other concerns of Native Americans are not expressly incorporated and addressed in the PEIS, and the participation of all potentially impacted tribes in the transmission planning process is not assured, substantial problems and delays will be encountered in future projects. It is our sincere hope that this will not be the case.

The primary concerns that the Tribe has for this process are as follows:

- Tribal sovereignty over reservation lands has not been adequately considered. This has been demonstrated by an evident failure to incorporate Tribal input in the location of the planned corridors. Although consultation was initiated with some tribes (including Pechanga), there has been no apparent follow-up or attempt to incorporate the tribes' comments into the PEIS. For example, Pechanga, in its comments stated that, as tribes are also responsible for their development and economies, the location of transmission facilities on reservations should not be categorically excluded from consideration during this process. Tribes should be consulted concerning their willingness and desire to have corridors located on their reservations. However, the Tribe has seen no indication that these types of inquiries have been attempted.
- To the extent it is anticipated that tribal lands may be designated as part of any corridors, it must be determined (before such designation) that the economic terms of such designation are acceptable to the potentially impacted Tribe.
- Over the years, Native Americans' energy needs have frequently not been met, even though major generation and transmission projects are often actually located on reservations. On many reservations, power has been unavailable, even though high voltage wires run overhead. This has had an extremely negative impact upon the economic development of many reservations. By avoiding reservations and not engaging in consultations with tribes during this process, the DOE has perpetuated this deprivation in the context of the PEIS, and the Draft Map.
- Tribal concerns related to the impact transmission projects will have on historical and cultural resources, particularly sacred sites, have not been adequately sought and certainly have not been recognized during this

50563-003

West-wide Energy Corridor PEIS
February 25, 2008
Page 3

process. While these points may have been discussed in initial consultation, we are unaware of any follow-up on these matters. In this regard, it should be noted that the companies and agencies dealing with these issues often delegate them to consultants who are not concerned with the tribe's interests, and who do not make the tribes partners in their assessments. This has led to reluctance on the part of tribes to permit transmission development on their reservations, and sometimes provided a motivation on the part of the tribes to oppose development off their reservations. As tribes develop the resources to contest such development, such potential conflicts will become increasingly important.

50563-003
(cont.)

In order to respond to these concerns, the Tribe believes that the PEIS process must be broadened to include the following considerations:

- The Final PEIS and Map must be developed through an inclusive process, a process that provides government-to-government consultation and specific assurance to Indian Tribes and others that their reasonable concerns will be addressed in this process. This particularly includes the consideration of historic and cultural resources in the Final PEIS and Map.
- The process needs to be remedied to acknowledge that tribal governments are sovereigns and that tribal leadership needs to be consulted and their approval obtained throughout the planning, construction and operation of transmission projects.
- If Tribal cooperation for Transmission projects is to ever be expected, the PEIS and the actual plans for each project must accommodate energy needs on reservations, as well as the providing of transmission on reservations for energy projects to be developed there.
- The PEIS needs to recognize the need to provide transmission service off the reservation to tribes, particularly as tribes develop generation projects and form their own utilities to serve their traditionally underserved reservations.
- Tribes should be actively involved in all of the cultural and historical resource work issues relating to the PEIS and construction of transmission lines. This should include the retention of Native American contractors that have approved by the tribe to undertake such work.
- The PEIS needs to recognize the important role that the development of renewable energy on reservations will play in the nation's energy future and needs to provide for necessary transmission for these projects.

50563-004

50563-005

West-wide Energy Corridor PEIS
 February 25, 2008
 Page 4

- The PEIS must recognize that, although important, transmission is only one of the many planning considerations that communities face. If they are to be constructed at all, transmission projects will need to be consistent with the developmental aspirations of the communities in which they will be located, and not constitute a threat to cultural or historical resources.
- The PEIS should recognize that resources will often need to be provided to tribes so that their adequate participation in the transmission planning process can be assured.
- Many tribes have either formed, or are considering the possible formation of tribal utilities. It can be expected that this trend will continue in the future. The formation of these tribal utilities raises many questions with regard to how they will be integrated into the existing transmission system. The PEIS needs to expressly note this potential, and to provide for the accommodation and participation of these tribal utilities in the transmission planning process.
- The PEIS and Final Map must take into account that the proposed corridors expressly contemplated in the Draft Map are proximate to (but do not expressly include) many transmission paths that may be currently contemplated by local utilities. The PEIS and Final Map must address these contemplated connecting paths and consider the significant impact that these additional lines will have on tribes and the environment.

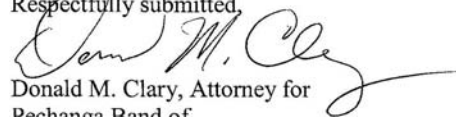
50563-005
 (cont.)

Finally, the Tribe requests consultation with the Department of Energy concerning the PEIS and the Final Map in order that these significant concerns can be addressed. Moreover, in order to assure that the PEIS process is successful and can withstand legal scrutiny, we encourage the Department to seek such consultation with other Tribes as well.

50563-006

We thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments to you.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald M. Clary, Attorney for
 Pechanga Band of
 Luiseño Mission Indians

DMC/gcl
 Copy: John Macarro, Esq.
 James Cohen, Esq.

5149223_v1

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2008 2:50 PM
To: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Receipt: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WVECD50564

Thank you for your comment, Andrew Bullen.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WVECD50564. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 27, 2008 02:50:20PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WVECD50564

First Name: Andrew
Middle Initial: J
Last Name: Bullen
Organization: Individual
Address: 10222 Councell Road
City: Cordova
State: MD
Zip: 21625
Country: USA
Email: abullen@earthdatainc.com
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment: H:\My Documents\UtilityCorridor\CmtsCCPowerltr0208.doc

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at:
corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster
at (630)252-6182.

10222 Councell Road
Cordova, MD 21625

February 27, 2008

Subject: NorthWestern Energy's Proposed Utility Corridor – Crooked Creek, Idaho

Dear Sirs:

Please accept these comments for consideration on the proposed power transmission corridor through the Crooked Creek Valley in Eastern Idaho. Although I understand the need to transmit electrical power from where it is produced to where it is in greatest demand, the route of the proposed utility corridor passes right through a very ecologically sensitive area. Consequently, I am strongly opposed to NorthWestern Energy's proposal to build a utility corridor through the Crooked Creek Valley in Eastern Idaho.

The Crooked Creek and Myers Creek valleys contain the last remaining healthy population of greater sage grouse in the State of Idaho. The sage grouse population in the western States had declined dramatically in the past thirty years due primarily to habitat loss and degradation. The habitat loss has resulted largely from the conversion of sage brush rangeland into irrigated agricultural land. Degradation of the habitat has been due chiefly to energy development on public lands. Sage grouse are very sensitive to the type construction required to erect the transmission lines for the utility corridor. More importantly, studies have shown that, once installed, the power lines cause significant sage grouse mortality through collisions. Please consider other routes, such as the I-15 corridor, for the proposed transmission lines.

50564-001

Thank you for considering the above comments on propose utility corridor through Crooked Creek Valley in Eastern Idaho. If you would care to discuss these comments further, please feel free to contact me at (410) 758-8160.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Bullen

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2008 6:14 PM
To: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Receipt: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WVECD50565

Thank you for your comment, Kimberly Kaal.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WVECD50565. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 27, 2008 06:14:09PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WVECD50565

First Name: Kimberly
Middle Initial: J
Last Name: Kaal
Organization: Colorado Division of Wildlife
Address: 711 Independent Ave.
City: Grand Junction
State: CO
Zip: 81505
Country: USA
Email: kimberly.kaal@state.co.us
Privacy Preference: Withhold name and address from public record
Attachment: C:\Documents and Settings\kaalk.WILDLIFE\My Documents\Oil and gas\Energy corridors EIS 0208\Energy corridors PEIS comment letter CDOW 0208.pdf

Comment Submitted:

We apologize that these comments are being submitted past the due date. Please accept these comments on behalf of the State of Colorado, Colorado Division of Wildlife. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at (970) 255-6127. Kim Kaal CDOW Energy Liaison

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at:
corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.

STATE OF COLORADO

Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Thomas E. Remington, Director
6060 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80216
Telephone: (303) 297-1192
wildlife.state.co.us



February 13, 2008

Argonne National Laboratory
9700 South Cass Ave., Building 900, Mail Stop 4
Argonne, IL 60439

Re: Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, Designation of Energy Corridors on Federal Land in the 11 Western States (DOE/EIS 0386)

Dear Argonne,

The Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), for the Designation of Energy Corridors on Federal Land in the 11 Western States (DOE/EIS 0386), October 2007 Draft. CDOW recognizes the mandate of this PEIS to comply with the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to delineate potential future lands for west wide energy transmission.

CDOW acknowledges there could be a benefit of this PEIS if energy development activity is optimized through consolidation of energy corridors. However, consolidation is only beneficial provided that the width doesn't expand so much that wildlife movements are impaired. Designation of the energy corridor could be beneficial if it provides a mechanism for transmission of energy from renewable resources. CDOW also acknowledges that designating areas for energy transmission may be important to maintain safe and reliable energy transmission throughout the west. However, if designating these energy corridors telegraphs into 20 years of chronic disturbance within the energy corridors, then CDOW will likely have significant concerns for wildlife in proximity to the energy corridors.

50565-001

Because the PEIS only considers federal lands and no impacts were directly evaluated, it is challenging to compile comments with great specificity regarding impacts to wildlife and natural systems. Many of the private lands contain important habitat such as: riparian areas, winter range, sage-grouse habitat, etc. which are extremely valuable to wildlife and often equally as important as their habitats on federal lands. CDOW intends to engage in review of site specific proposals for energy transmission authorizations as they are made available to ensure critical and important habitats are not irreparably harmed, are not subject to continual disturbances, and that unreclaimed habitat losses are ultimately compensated for.

50565-002

CDOW has several primary concerns regarding this PEIS:

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, Harris D. Sherman, Executive Director
WILDLIFE COMMISSION, Tom Burke, Chair • Claire O'Neal, Vice Chair • Robert Bray, Secretary
Members, Dennis Buechler • Brad Cours • Jeffrey Crawford • Tim Glenn • Roy McAnally • Richard Ray
Ex Officio Members, Harris Sherman and John Stulp

The *first* CDOW concern involves the PEIS National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes in general, the proposed alternatives, and purpose and need statement. The impacts of this proposal were difficult to analyze because there is insufficient detail regarding the nature and extent of potential future impacts resulting from development within energy corridors.

50565-003

Only two alternatives were scoped in the PEIS- the no action and proposed action alternatives. Two alternatives appears to be an inadequate range of potential actions. Especially since the proposed action would conceivably delineate the preferred location for potentially numerous future energy right-of-way (ROW) authorizations. Furthermore, the proposed action evaluates "mitigation and minimization" measures, but does not evaluate "avoidance." Specifically an alternative that contemplates and analyzes "avoidance" of critical, economically important, sensitive and unique wildlife habitats would be highly beneficial, and subsequently aligned with the CDOW's perceived objectives of NEPA. The PEIS does state, however, that sensitive areas such as national parks, wilderness study areas, historic trails, etc. were avoided. While this is advantageous, CDOW strongly encourages evaluation and analysis of sensitive and irreplaceable wildlife habitats at a much finer programmatic scale and should include at a minimum: wetlands, riparian areas, black-footed ferret reintroduction areas, greater sage-grouse leks, breeding and nesting habitat, big game winter ranges, migration corridors, parturition areas, etc.

50565-004

CDOW has developed a composite map of these sensitive wildlife habitats (**See Attachment 1**) to delineate the areas of greatest wildlife value, and therefore concern of CDOW. A significant number and lineal extent of the proposed corridors are coincident with these sensitive areas. The species and seasonal activity used to develop this map are described more fully in the High Priority Habitat table attached to this letter (**See Attachment 2**). Those species or seasonal activity areas which receive scores of 9 or 10 (Very High) are shown in blue on the attached composite map. An alternative that evaluates more fully "avoidance" and less bifurcation of these important habitats would result in a more comprehensive analysis than is currently scoped by the proposed action.

50565-005

The PEIS states that energy transport system redundancy and system failures are of concern. Perhaps an alternative should scope consideration of larger, more singular pipeline systems and processing plants.

50565-006

No Action Alternative. The process of designating a corridor does not have an effect and there will be no direct environmental impacts; however, the final outcome will likely have an impact on the landscape and wildlife. Repeatedly throughout the PEIS it is implied that the No Action alternative will have a greater impact on ecological resources than the proposed action alternative.

50565-007

Proposed Action Alternative. "For multiple projects, potential project impacts may occur at fewer locations and over a smaller geographic area than under the no action alternative." However, multiple projects developed at the same or nearby locations over a period of time produce impacts on ecological resources which collectively accumulate. The PEIS does not adequately address how cumulative impacts will be assessed and ultimately mitigated for. It is not stated if project proponent performance (for example reclamation success or weed mitigation) will factor into approval of future ROW authorizations. Or, whether future ROW authorizations simply continue to undergo an administrative review and are afforded an expedited approval process. Will cumulative impacts be evaluated on a project by project basis, or does the PEIS circumvent future NEPA project scoping through federal agency administrative review and eliminate future opportunity for public comment?

50565-008

CDOW reacted strongly to the statement that designation of an energy corridor has "no impact." Although a corridor designation in and of itself does not immediately translate to a

50565-009

ground disturbance, the corridors are areas where future ground disturbance is encouraged and consequently "expedited." It is almost as if the energy corridor designation condemns the lands to repeated future disturbance. This could be problematic from a wildlife management standpoint if the disturbances are chronic and not properly mitigated.

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There are no data to specifically suggest that the proposed action alternative is more beneficial than the no action alternative. However, one of the stated objectives is to expedite or improve the efficiency of future actions, and improve coordination. CDOW encourages improved coordination and routinely participates in projects such as these as a cooperating agency. The PEIS states that future utilities are not required to be built within the energy corridor. There are many pros and cons to this and it seems to be counterproductive if the purpose of the designation is to increase efficiencies. The advantages of co-location of utilities (to lessen ecological impacts) would be negated if extensive disturbances associated with energy corridor construction are permitted within and outside of the designated energy corridor.

50565-010

Since no actual data are included in the PEIS/NEPA analysis, the potential magnitude of a corridor that is 3,500 to 26,000 feet wide are not adequately addressed with respect to the influence of that much disturbance to wildlife and other natural systems. Furthermore the PEIS states that "the scope of the analysis in the PEIS includes an assessment of any positive and negative environmental, social and economic impacts of the alternatives." The analysis in the PEIS appears to fall short of this mark. For example, CDOW acknowledges advantages of predictability of future energy related authorizations; however, this also means the areas are almost predisposed to repeated perturbations. Consolidation of energy corridors could prove valuable if it serves to consolidate ROWs. CDOW recommends that disturbances be replaced and compensated for through in kind or greater replacements (for example replace wetland vegetation at a 2:1 ratio and mitigate disturbance within winter range at 10:1 ratio).

The PEIS did not consider corridors located on private lands. Therefore, all contemplated impacts to ecological systems are **greatly** underestimated in this PEIS. Private lands in Colorado often provide critical and irreplaceable wildlife habitat. Although CDOW acknowledges the difficulty of this, the analysis could be flawed if private lands ROW agreements cannot be obtained, causing a shift in the corridor location. Furthermore, it is apparent that the energy corridors would likely cross four State of Colorado State Wildlife Areas (SWA): Escalante, Piceance, Junction Butte, and Bitterbrush. Data must be extrapolated to determine where corridors cross private lands, but it is evident the energy corridors are planned to cross these SWAs.

50565-011

A **second** major CDOW concern includes the expediting of future ROW authorizations. CDOW is concerned that the identification of energy corridors in this PEIS will effectively condemn the lands under consideration. The PEIS states that "applicants would not be required to follow corridors, but if they did then projects would be expedited." This is disturbing because specificity is lacking in the PEIS yet, apparently there is sufficient detail to "expedite" future authorizations. It is unclear whether the PEIS conveys an almost automatic legal right to develop an area within the corridor?

50565-012

A **third** major CDOW concern includes excessive ROW widths stipulated in the PEIS. It is unclear whether gas carrying agreements or pipeline consolidation will be one of the outcomes encouraged by this PEIS. The project could be beneficial if facilities were streamlined and disturbances consolidated. **However, in many cases, the energy corridor width is excessive and could therefore negatively impact wildlife.** The PEIS indicates that corridor widths can vary from 200 feet to 5.5 miles. For example, in Colorado a 200 foot corridor is proposed near the Williams Fork, and conversely, a corridor width of 26,000 feet is proposed near the western flank of Grand Mesa. This appears to be a great range of widths.

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Further, a 26,000 foot energy corridor on the western flank of the Grand Mesa near Palisade Colorado is excessive and unacceptable, as this area includes big game elk winter range, critical winter range, and transitional range. Presence of extensive utilities could become a barrier to movement by wildlife.

50565-014

In addition, two of the energy corridors in Colorado have variable widths. Section #126-133 has a width spanning from 3,500 to 9,000 feet and section #132-133 has a width ranging from 2,250 to 10,500 feet. The wide degree of width variability makes assessing impacts resulting from ground or noise disturbance, on sensitive species and big game habitat problematic. CDOW implores DOE/DOE to narrow the energy corridor width as much as possible within the State of Colorado.

50565-015

Furthermore, it seemed like an omission that the I-70 corridor (where there might be view shed issues) was not considered for designation of an energy corridor. This area is the location of so many utilities and extensive disturbance has already and continues to occur. Conversely an energy corridor is designated within the Gunnison Basin, which has not experienced much disturbance. The PEIS indicates that this corridor could represent an "unrestricted" west-wide conceptual network of energy transport paths.

50565-016

A **fourth** major CDOW concern includes issues with performance standards. Performance based standards need to be established ahead of site specific project approval which:

- a. Establish desired conditions that should be maintained or restored post-development.
- b. Assist in assurance that the desired conditions are being met.
- c. Establish potential mitigation options to offset unavoidable impacts.
- d. Establish a plan for monitoring efficacy of mitigation measures.
- e. Establish a mechanism for applying adaptive management principles if objectives are not achieved.

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The PEIS does not disclose what the long term expected surface use or anticipated surface condition of the lands will be within these energy corridors. The PEIS "encourages consultation with other agencies," and CDOW encourages consultation whenever possible. Likewise biological assessments and opinions prepared for energy development projects should also be made available to CDOW for review and comment. The PEIS indicates that the BLM and Forest Service have "active wildlife management programs which include 1) maintaining, improving, and enhancing wildlife species diversity, and 2) restoring disturbed and altered habitat to obtain desired native plant communities." The increase in energy development projects landscape-wide prioritizes the need for such programs now more than ever.

50565-018

CDOW is concerned about the nebulous but inevitable future connected actions likely to result from this PEIS. These connected actions elevate the importance of reclamation standards and methods for reclamation success assessment to manage the impacts of multiple energy development projects. Reclamation is often challenging, especially in the midst of persistent drought conditions. Soils within the State of Colorado often contain a high salt content and topsoil is often sparse. Conservation of available topsoil is imperative for successful reclamation, and soil amendments may be necessary to achieve successful reclamation. Furthermore, suitable seedbed material may need to be imported in order to accelerate reclamation.

50565-019

Many of the Bureau of Land Management's Resource Management Plans (RMPs) are outdated and consequently undergoing revision. For example several local RMPs are dated: Little Snake RMP 1989, Kremmling RMP 1984, White River RMP 1997, San Juan/San Miguel RMP 1985, and Uncompahgre Basin RMP 1989. Because these RMPs are outdated most energy

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corridor widths will likely default to 3,500 feet, which is intolerable for some habitats (riparian areas) and species (sage-grouse).

None of the RMPs have adequately quantified cumulative impacts of ongoing energy-related development. Cumulative impacts must truly be evaluated and assessed within temporal and spatial boundaries of the defined energy corridors. The discussion in the cumulative impacts section within the draft PEIS lacks sufficient detail and analysis to evaluate how the cumulative impacts to wildlife resources will be assessed by future site-specific projects.

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A **fifth** major CDOW concern includes impacts to sensitive resources and species, new science regarding sensitivity of species and encroachment on roadless areas.

To reiterate, all assessed impacts described below are likely to be greatly underestimated since the information provided in the PEIS was inadequate to determine which private lands would be affected by the proposed corridor and to evaluate the resulting degradation and loss of wildlife habitat.

50565-021

It seems a generous conclusion of the PEIS to profess a "no effect" determination on Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). However, some of the listed impacts to ecological resources include: "habitat fragmentation, wildlife disturbance, habitat loss and modification." Furthermore, the PEIS states that 390 miles of surface waters would be crossed and intersected in the State of Colorado. This seems excessive.

The PEIS indicates that the scale is not defined enough to determine roadless areas that may be impacted, and is assumed to not evaluate which species or habitats could be impacted. The PEIS needs to consider federal and state listed threatened and endangered and sensitive species. Some of the species being evaluated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for a listing decision that would be impacted by development within the corridors include white-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys leucurus*), greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), Gunnison's sage-grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*), and Gunnison prairie dog (*Cynomys gunnisoni*). Federal, state and local conservation plans have been completed or are being completed for many of Colorado's threatened and endangered and sensitive species impacted by the proposed energy corridor. They include: greater sage-grouse, Gunnison sage-grouse, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus columbianus*), lesser prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*), river otter (*Lontra canadensis*), Colorado River cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki pleuriticus*), humpback chub (*Gila cypha*), bonytail chub (*Gila elegans*), razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*), Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*) and boreal toad (*Bufo boreas boreas*).

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The proposed corridor location and width will have many impacts on wildlife species across Colorado including: habitat fragmentation, loss and degradation, potential for invasive weed establishment, and potential animal movement barriers. Increased human disturbances can be expected. With increased human activity from corridor construction and maintenance there can be an expected increase in noise, vehicle (trucks and off-road) use, and potential access to areas. Any industry that is largely comprised of a transient workforce can increase poaching incidents. ROWs can also create a path of least resistance for predators to access prey more easily.

Gunnison and Greater Sage-Grouse. The proposed corridors, identified on public lands, cross valuable habitat and specifically breeding grounds of the greater and Gunnison sage-grouse. Both species are considered sensitive species by BLM and species of special concern by CDOW. Both have been petitioned for listing under the ESA in recent years. USFWS listing decisions for greater and Gunnison sage-grouse are being challenged in court. Neither greater nor Gunnison sage-grouse became a major conservation issue until well after the

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completion of local RMP documents were written. BLM participated in the development of and is a signatory to the Gunnison Sage-grouse Rangewide Conservation Plan, completed in 2005 and the Colorado Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan, completed January 2008 and awaiting signature. Both plans call for expansion of current sage-grouse protections [e.g., 0.6 mile no surface occupancy (NSO) around leks and expansion of nesting habitat limiting limitations within a 4-mile radius]. The CDOW and BLM have invested substantial resources to protect and improve habitat for these species.

Within the identified corridor is valuable breeding, nesting, summer and winter habitat for both grouse species. The corridor travels thru the heart of the greater sage-grouse occupied range for Parachute/Piceance/Roan, Northwest and Middle Park populations. Five active greater sage-grouse leks are directly crossed by the corridor. Specifically, 3,100 acres within lek protection NSO areas (within 0.6 miles of an active lek), 27,162 acres of winter range and 40,709 acres of overall range for Greater sage-grouse coincide with the proposed energy corridor.

Two active Gunnison sage-grouse leks are crossed by the proposed corridor and 2,600 acres within lek protection NSO areas, 18,838 acres of winter range and 21,802 acres of overall range are within the corridor. Populations impacted include Gunnison, Cero/Cimarron/Sims and San Miguel; specifically, the Miramonte and Hamilton sub-populations within the San Miguel population. Corridor segments that cross Gunnison sage-grouse occupied range includes 130-274, 136-277 and 87-277.

At BLM request, CDOW analyzed and developed greater sage-grouse core areas (that area encompassing 50% of the breeding males in each population) and proposed using these areas as temporary refuges to maintain sage-grouse populations while oil and gas development proceeded in less important adjacent habitats. Several corridor segments cross core areas identified for greater sage-grouse: 126-133, 132-133, 73-133, 138-143, and 144-275. The energy corridors located within sage-grouse core areas would make application of the core area concept difficult, especially if other development disturbances are added to the total disturbance cap recommendation.

Available evidence indicates that sage-grouse are highly sensitive to even low-intensity disturbance associated with energy development, particularly on leks and breeding areas but also on winter range. Impacts to sage-grouse from the proposed corridor may include (1) increased ground and aerial predation; (2) direct habitat loss from range condition changes; (3) direct mortality during development and collisions with power lines; (4) loss of breeding grounds; and (5) increased disturbance during breeding and brood-rearing seasons.

CDOW recommends timing restrictions on disruptive surface activities during the lekking, nesting and brood-rearing period, minimizing human presence using available technology and timing restrictions, and restore native vegetation to disturbed areas. Additional recommendations and strategies for grouse in relation to energy corridors and disturbances are located within the Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan, specifically in the Strategy Section and Appendix B: Greater sage-grouse Disturbance Guidelines (2008) and in the Gunnison Sage-grouse Rangewide Conservation Plan (2005).

Recommendations for corridor development in sage-grouse range include:

- No surface occupancy (NSO) within 0.6 miles of a sage-grouse lek.
- No development or construction activity within winter range from 1 December to 15 March.
- No development or construction activity during the nesting period of 1 March through 30 June within 4 miles of a lek.

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- Operation and maintenance activities near leks should not occur between 3:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. during breeding season (1 March to 15 May) to prevent disturbance to birds on leks.
- Core areas are not be developed at greater that a 1% surface disturbance.

Columbian sharp-tailed Grouse. Columbian sharp-tailed grouse in Colorado are currently located only in Routt, eastern Moffat, and northern Rio Blanco counties. The species has twice been petitioned for federal protection under the ESA. Additional listing petitions are likely. The Columbian sharp-tailed grouse is considered a sensitive species by BLM and a species of special concern by CDOW. The Columbian sharp-tailed grouse conservation plan is currently being updated to develop strategies to reduce impacts from unexpected levels of oil and gas development.

The Columbian sharp-tailed grouse occupied range is fragmented by a north/south and west/east running corridor (segments 132-276, 138-143, 144-275). The corridor coincides with 5,919 acres of occupied range and 2,988 acres of winter range. Similar to sage-grouse, sharp-tailed grouse are sensitive to noise and ground disturbances. Impacts to sharp-tailed grouse from the proposed corridor may include (1) increased ground and aerial predation; (2) direct habitat loss from range condition changes; (3) direct mortality during development and collisions with power lines; (4) loss of breeding grounds; and (5) increased disturbance during breeding and brood-rearing seasons.

Recommendations for corridor development in Columbian sharp-tailed range include:

- NSO within 0.4 miles of a lek.
- No development or construction activity within winter range from 1 December to 15 March.
- No development or construction activity during the nesting period of 1 March through 30 June within 1.25 miles of a lek.
- Operation and maintenance activities should not be conducted near leks between 3:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. during breeding season (1 March to 15 May) to prevent disturbance to birds on leks.

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Boreal Toads. The boreal toad occurs from 7,000 – 12,000 feet in elevation throughout the Southern Rocky Mountains. Once common, they have experienced a dramatic decline in population over the past two decades. The boreal toad is presently listed as an endangered species by the state of Colorado. The USFWS had classified the species as "warranted but precluded" for ESA listing. However, this designation was recently removed while the distinctness of the Southern Rocky Mountain population is reevaluated. Boreal toad habitat coincides with the energy corridor in Grand and Summit Counties. It is recommended in these areas that the narrowest width possible is applied.

Recommendations for corridor development in boreal toad range include:

- NSO within ½ mile of identified breeding sites.

Black-footed Ferrets. The black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) is considered the rarest mammal in North America and is listed by the USFWS under the ESA as an endangered species. Colorado is one of several states involved with the recovery of black-footed ferrets. 237 animals have been released in Coyote Basin and Wolf Creek in northwestern Colorado from 2001 – 2007. The reintroduction effort in northwest Colorado and northeast Utah has been a cooperative effort between BLM, CDOW, USFWS and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. In 2007, 16 individuals were confirmed during surveys; including five kits from four different litters. The proposed energy corridor bisects the black-footed ferret Wolf Creek reintroduction area in Colorado. Approximately, 7,200 acres are impacted by the energy corridor. This segment, 126-133, includes a variable width from 3,500 to 9,000 feet.

Recommendations for corridor development in black-footed ferret reintroduction areas include:

- Avoid prairie dog colonies that have documented black-footed ferret sightings.
- Limit development of new roads with the Wolf Creek and Coyote management areas.
- Limit speed limit to 25 mph from dusk to dawn.
- Close any new roads created by energy transmission projects within the corridors to unauthorized travel.

White-tailed and Gunnison's Prairie Dog. Both prairie dog species were petitioned for listing under the ESA; white-tailed prairie dog in 2002, and Gunnison's prairie dog in 2004. Following 2 years of review for each petition, the USFWS determined that both petitions lacked substantial scientific information to warrant listing and negative 90-day findings were submitted. However, in 2006 and 2007, lawsuits were filed to challenge the USFWS's 90-day findings for both species. As a result of the lawsuits, the USFWS reconsidered its decision and has agreed to conduct a 12 month status review on white-tailed prairie dogs in 2009. A court ordered settlement on Gunnison's prairie dog resulted in the USFWS conducting a 12 month status review for the species in late 2007. The final federal register notice on this decision was published February 5, 2008 with the result that the montane portion (mostly in central and southwestern Colorado) of the Gunnison's prairie dog range is "warranted" for listing as a threatened or endangered species under the ESA but precluded by higher listing priorities. This decision results in the Gunnison's prairie dog being a "candidate" species for listing. Annual reviews will be conducted on the status of the species.

Approximately 68,000 acres of white-tailed prairie dog and 32,000 of Gunnison's prairie dog occupied range will be potentially impacted by the energy corridor. The corridor bisects the montane portion of Gunnison's prairie dog populations in Colorado. The USFWS determined that in this portion of the Gunnison's prairie dog range, threats are of a high magnitude and are imminent.

Possible direct adverse impacts to prairie dogs associated with pipeline development include (1) clearing and crushing of vegetation; (2) reduction in available habitat due to construction and road and pipeline development; (3) fragmentation of available habitat; (4) displacement and killing of animals; (5) alteration of surface water drainage; and (6) increased compaction of soils.

Indirect effects of energy development on prairie dogs and their ecosystem include (1) increased exposure to shooters and OHV users because of improved access into remote areas; (2) invasion of habitat by invasive and noxious weeds; (3) behavior alteration; and (4) effects on associated species. Shooting pressure is most likely to increase due to easier road access, as compared to more remote colonies.

Recommendations for pipeline development in white-tailed prairie dog or Gunnison's prairie dog range include:

- Minimize current and future Gunnison's prairie dog and white-tailed prairie dog habitat loss and degradation using temporal and spatial planning; include components related to connectivity.
- Develop potential mitigation measures (e.g. speed limits, seasonal road closures) to improve habitat connectivity within Gunnison's prairie dog and white-tailed prairie dog range.
- Minimize impacts to Gunnison's prairie dog and white-tailed prairie dog by adjusting size, location, and pipeline construction based on topographic features and prairie dog colony location.

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- Ensure rapid interim reclamation and revegetation with native weed-free seed in Gunnison's prairie dog and white-tailed prairie dog habitat.
- Maintain reclaimed areas as weed-free sites within Gunnison's prairie dog and white-tailed prairie dog habitat.
- Avoid construction on or in prairie dog colonies wherever possible.
- Avoid constructing pipelines in Management Emphasis Areas described in the Colorado statewide conservation plan (currently being written).
- Avoid construction activities within and over active prairie dog colonies from 1 March to 30 June.

Kit-Fox. The kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*) is listed as endangered in Colorado, and is considered one of the state's most vulnerable animals. Though probably never very common in the state, survey work completed in the mid-1990s estimated a population of less than 100 individuals (Fitzgerald 1996). Follow-up surveys ending in 2000 (Beck from 1997-2000) suggested that the already small kit fox population in Colorado had declined substantially and the species was close to extirpation. In 2007 CDOW completed a track-plate survey of the species and found only one track during a survey effort of 700 trap nights. In the past, the kit fox was subject to multiple threats including bounty hunting, carcass poisoning, and unregulated hunting. Today, threats include habitat loss, interspecific competition with coyotes and red foxes, disturbance from off-road vehicle use, decline in prey abundance, and urban encroachment (Mearney et al. 2006).

The energy corridor in Mesa and Delta Counties bisects over 14,200 acres of kit-fox occupied range. The segment 132-136, in Mesa County, has a width of 21,120 feet, while the adjoining segment 132-136 has a width of 3,500 feet. Segment 132-136 is excessively wide. Corridor width should be restricted to the narrowest width possible. Impacts of the corridor on kit fox may include (1) increased mortality from vehicular collisions; (2) habitat degradation; and (3) potential for behavioral change due to increased human disturbances.

Recommendations for corridor development in kit fox range include:

- Pre-development surveys in the development area to locate den and foraging sites to avoid disturbances.
- At den sites, no construction or development activity within ¼ mile of den sites between 1 February and 1 May.

Big Game. The majority of the proposed energy corridors in Colorado coincide with mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), elk (*Cervus canadensis*), bighorn sheep (*Ovis Canadensis*) and/or pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*) winter range and migratory corridors, particularly sensitive habitats for these economically and recreationally important species. Development impacts in migratory corridors have magnified effects beyond the local area due to use by migrating animals from considerable distances away. The energy corridors north and west of Rangely (variable width, from 3,500 up to 9,500 and 10,200 feet) and on the western flank of Grand Mesa (26,000 feet wide) are excessively wide overlays of big game winter range. The majority of the proposed corridors is considered elk and mule deer overall range. Critical mule deer ranges impacted include 189,459 acres of winter range, 73,437 acres of winter concentration areas, 91,623 acres of severe winter range and 115,772 acres of summer range. Critical elk ranges crossed by the corridor include 182,647 acres of winter range, 59,029 acres of winter concentration area, 59,178 acres of severe winter range and 8,744 acres of production areas. Big horn sheep and pronghorn antelope are affected to a lesser extent with 1,347 and 39,812 acres of winter range, respectively.

Generally, the timing of disturbances, reclamation practices, widths, and long term use (i.e. timing, duration, type, and amount of ROW traffic) of these corridors will be critical in determining the impacts to big game. Construction and installation of utilities on these

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pipelines during the months of July through September would have the least amount of impacts to big game. Due to animal fidelity to winter ranges, big game winter ranges are irreplaceable and are habitats consistently occupied by animals during winter months therefore mitigation is very important. Disturbances within winter range can significantly impact the carrying capacities of these herds and have lasting, long term population level effects as to how these herds are managed. Winter range is not easily replaced or recreated therefore mitigation is very important. This is an extremely important consideration given the economic importance of big game animals to the state of Colorado.

Recommendations for corridor development in big game range include:

- Avoidance of surface disturbance to and construction activities on elk, mule deer or pronghorn antelope winter range from 1 January to 15 April.
- Avoidance of surface disturbance to and construction activities on bighorn sheep winter range from 1 November to 15 April.
- Avoidance of surface disturbance to and construction activities on elk and mule deer production areas from 15 May to 15 June.
- NSO within Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Production Areas.
- Identify critical vegetative cover types and adjust development sites to avoid these areas.

Aquatic Species. Habitats for several fish species of federal and state concern may be impacted by the proposed corridor. The species include the federally endangered and state threatened Colorado pikeminnow and humpback chub, the federally endangered and state endangered bonytail chub and the state species of special concern and BLM sensitive species Colorado River cutthroat trout, Colorado roundtail chub (*Gila robusta*), bluehead sucker (*Catostomus discobolus*) and flannelmouth sucker (*Catostomus latipinnis*). Federally listed critical habitats for many of the species have been designated. The State of Colorado has invested heavily to ensure the suitability of river habitat for these aquatic species. The CDOW is concerned about cumulative impacts to these resources and how this may affect our ability to make significant progress in the recovery and eventual delisting of these species in Colorado. CDOW and BLM are signatories to the Rangewide Conservation Agreement for Roundtail Chub, Bluehead Sucker, and Flannelmouth sucker (Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Resources, Publication Number 06-18, 2006). In addition, both agencies are also signatories to the Conservation Agreement for the Colorado River Cutthroat Trout in the States of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming (CRCT Conservation Team 2006).

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Recommendations for corridor development within critical fish habitat include:

- Collect and analyze water samples to monitor water quality before, during and after occupation and document data and changes.
- Design stream crossings to minimize the total number of crossings and so that crossings are at or as near to 90 degrees to the direction of stream flow.
- Construct stream crossings should be "in the dry".
- Avoid impacts to trout during spawning and hatching periods.
- Restrict trucks from crossing streams and utilize appropriate and effective culverts during construction activities, which don't preclude upstream movement of fish.
- Avoid using low water crossings.
- Consult with CDOW to determine locations for bridges or culverts that permit fish passage at appropriate stream crossings.
- Control erosion and sedimentation, and manage storm water runoff; reclaim sites as quickly as possible to restore vegetation.
- Control weeds along riparian corridors and manage livestock access to stream crossings to maintain riparian corridor health.
- Consider fencing riparian areas.

- Avoid changes to water quality and quantity.
- Repair incised channels where excessive erosion and sedimentation is occurring.
- Consider directional boring of pipeline crossings of perennial streams.
- Replace non-native riparian vegetation such as tamarix and Russian olive with appropriate native plantings such as cottonwood or willow.

Wildlife Summary. In summary, the proposed project will affect numerous wildlife species across the state of Colorado. The DOW maps and tracks species occurrence and habitat use in Colorado for a number of species of interest. Of those species mapped, 27 are directly impacted by the proposed corridor on public lands (**see Attachment 3**). Many critical habitats, such as breeding areas, brood and calving areas, nest sites and important winter range, are traversed by the proposed corridor. The geographical scale and extent of the project make it impossible to avoid sensitive habitats. It also makes it impossible to apply one recommended option to protect these important habitats. It is critical to work with local agency personnel during the planning phase and to put effort forth to avoid impacting species of greatest concern. The wildlife of Colorado is experiencing habitat impacts at an unprecedented rate, with increased human development, recreational opportunities and energy development.

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General recommendations for corridor development in wildlife habitat include:

- Reclaim corridors with native seed mixes and establishing a monitoring protocol to determine the success of such reclamation and assess noxious weed invasions is critical.
- Minimize corridor width to maximum extent possible to reduce the impacts to wildlife populations and their habitats.
- Minimize the widths of these corridors to expedite the reestablishment of native communities from the adjacent undisturbed native communities.
- Restrict, minimize, and limit seasonal use of vehicle traffic along the ROW that will be needed for maintenance of the utilities in these corridors to lessen the impacts to wildlife.
- Limit repeated disturbances. Repeated disturbances can have great and lasting effects on wildlife behavior, habits and population carrying capacities.
- Conduct habitat assessments, prior to development and disturbances, to establish a baseline vegetation condition and inventory and to provide a basis for potential habitat improvement projects if applicable and as a basis for monitoring.

A **sixth** major CDOW item includes comments on Interagency Operating Procedures (IOPS).

Energy Corridor IOP and Mitigation Issues

- 1) CDOW feels that the IOPS and Mitigation Measures (MMs) contained in the document will not be sufficient to protect wildlife resources in Colorado unless they contain mandatory non-discretionary requirements, and include clear references to state-specific recommended practices to protect wildlife resources. For energy development activities such as energy corridors, CDOW has developed the following non-discretionary seasonal timing restrictions and no surface occupancy buffer zones:

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SEASONAL TIMING LIMITATIONS:

- Mule Deer Winter Range—no development activity between 1 January and 15 April
- Elk Winter Range—no development activity between 1 January and 15 April
- Pronghorn Antelope Winter Range—no development activity between 1 January and 15 April
- Bighorn Sheep Winter Range—no development activity between 1 November and 15 April

- Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, plains sharp-tailed grouse nesting habitat (areas within 1.25 miles of active lek sites) – no development activity between 1 March and 30 June.
- Elk Production Areas—no development activity between 15 May and 15 June.
- Greater prairie chicken nesting habitat (areas within 2.2 miles of active lek sites) – no development activity between 1 March and 30 June.
- Greater sage-grouse and Gunnison sage-grouse nesting habitat (areas within 4 miles of active lek sites)—no development activity between 1 March and 30 June.
- Greater sage-grouse, Gunnison sage-grouse, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, plains sharp-tailed grouse, greater prairie chicken and lesser prairie chicken winter habitat—no development activity between 1 December and 15 March.
- Kit Fox Den Sites—no construction activity within 1/4 mile of den sites between 1 February and 1 May.
- Lesser prairie chicken nesting habitat (areas within 2.2 miles of active lek sites) – no development activity between 15 March and 15 July.
- Swift Fox Den Sites—no construction activity within 1/4 mile of den sites between 15 March and 15 June.
- Prairie Dog (Black-tailed, White-tailed, Gunnison's)—no development activity in active colonies between 1 March and 30 June
- Black-Footed Ferret Release Areas—no seismic or other development activity between 1 March and 1 July in Prairie Dog colonies where Black-Footed Ferrets have been released or documented since 2001
- Raptors (variable by species—defined in Craig 2001)—no development activity within nest buffers or roost sites during the defined nesting or roosting dates
 - Bald Eagle Nest Sites—no development activity within 1/2 mile of active Bald Eagle Nest Sites between 15 November and 31 July
 - Bald Eagle Winter Roost Sites—no development activity within 1/2 mile of Bald Eagle Winter Roost Sites between 15 November and 15 March except for periodic visits such as oil maintenance and monitoring work within the buffer zone after development which should be restricted to the period between 10:00am and 2:00pm.
 - Bald Eagle Winter Concentration Areas – no human disturbance within any mapped winter concentration areas between November 15 and March 15
 - Ferruginous Hawk Nest Sites and Alternate Nest Sites – no human disturbance within 1/2 mile of Ferruginous Hawk Nest Sites or Alternate Nest Sites between February 1 and July 15
 - Golden Eagle Nest Sites—no development activity within 1/4 mile of active Golden Eagle Nest Sites between 15 December and 15 July
 - Mexican Spotted Owls—no development activity within and adjacent to Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers (PAC's) between 1 March and 31 August
 - Osprey Nest Sites—no development activity within 1/4 mile of active Osprey Nest Sites between 15 December and 15 July
 - Peregrine Falcon Nest Sites—no development activity within 1/2 mile of active Peregrine Falcon Nest Sites between 15 March and 31 July
- Least Tern Foraging Areas—no development activity within 1/2 mile of known least tern production areas
- Piping Plover Foraging Areas—no development activity within 1/2 mile of known Piping Plover production areas

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NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY (NSO) AREAS:

- Areas within Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Production Areas
- Areas within Desert Bighorn Sheep Production Areas
- Areas within Mountain Goat Production Areas

- Areas within 0.6 miles of any greater sage-grouse, Gunnison sage-grouse, greater prairie chicken and lesser prairie chicken leks (strutting grounds)
- Areas within 0.4 miles of any Columbian sharp-tailed grouse or plains sharp-tailed grouse leks (strutting grounds)
- Areas within Prairie Dog colonies with documented Black-Footed Ferrel sightings
- Areas within USFWS designated critical habitat for Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse
- Areas within Lynx breeding habitat
- Areas within 300 feet of high water mark of mapped Least Tern nesting habitat
- Areas within 300 feet of high water mark of mapped Piping Plover nesting habitat
- Areas within 1/4 mile of active, inactive or historic Bald Eagle nest sites
- Areas within 1/4 mile of active Bald Eagle winter roost sites
- Areas within 1/4 mile of active Ferruginous Hawk nests or alternate nest sites
- Areas within 1/4 mile of active, inactive or historic Golden Eagle nest sites
- Areas within designated Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers (PAC's)
- Areas within 1/4 mile of active, inactive or historic Osprey nest sites
- Areas within 1/2 mile of active, inactive or historic Peregrine Falcon nest sites
- Areas within 300 feet of Southwest Willow Flycatcher nest sites and within 300 feet of potential Southwest Willow Flycatcher habitat
- Areas within 1/4 mile of Townsend's Big Eared Bat, Fringed Myotis, and Mexican Free-Tailed Bat roost sites
- Areas within 300 feet of any water within a Designated Cutthroat Trout Habitat area
- Areas within aquatic buffers defined in the species prioritization document (variable from 300 feet to 900 feet depending on stream classification)
- Areas within 1/2 mile of standing water bodies
- Areas within 1/2 mile of identified Northern Leopard Frog and Boreal Toad breeding sites

Please include the above-referenced seasonal timing restrictions and no surface occupancy buffer zones as mandatory IOPs and/or mitigation measures for all phases of energy corridor development activities in Colorado. To facilitate this, please replace the 6th bullet on p. 3-231 with the following:

"ROW development, construction, operation and maintenance activities will be subject to state and locally established wildlife and/or habitat protection provisions. Exceptions or modifications to spatial buffers or timing limitations established by state and local agencies will be evaluated on a site-specific basis with concurrence from the federal administrator and state and local wildlife agencies."

This mitigation measure should appear as an IOP and be repeated in the preconstruction, construction, operation and maintenance phases for wildlife mitigation. Note that where an existing BLM Resource Management Plan contains a more restrictive seasonal timing limitation or no surface occupancy standard for one of the resources identified, CDOW will defer to the local BLM office recommendation and the more restrictive standard.

- 2) The majority of the IOPs and MMs are currently worded in such a way that they are optional. Whether or not they would apply to a particular project during implementation appears to be up to the applicant or action agency for that particular project. For example, IOP No. 2, Section 2.4.3 (p. 2-33), states that "Project staff should avoid harassment or disturbance of wildlife, especially during reproductive courtship, migratory, and nesting seasons." This statement is not protective of wildlife resources because it is optional. CDOW recommends replacing this statement with a commitment that the applicant will avoid harassment and disturbance of wildlife by following the avoidance recommendations of applicable state wildlife agencies.

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- 3) CDOW recommends that all IOPS and MMs regarding wildlife resources, wildlife habitats, reclamation, noxious weed control, stream crossings, and water resources be modified to remove discretionary language such as "could," "would," and "should." Discretionary language in the IOPs and MMs should be replaced with non-discretionary language such as "will" or "must." Without the removal of discretionary language in the IOPs and MMs, the proposed action will not ensure adequate protection of wildlife resources and habitats as individual project are implemented in the contemplated energy corridors in Colorado.
- 4) The following SOPs and MMs are critical to protecting wildlife resources in Colorado. CDOW recommends that the optional requirements in these SOPs and MMs should be mandatory for all projects implemented in the contemplated energy corridors in Colorado:
 - a. Section 2.4.1, IOP 9, 11, 12, 13, 16
 - b. Section 2.4.2, IOP 1, 3, 6, 8
 - c. Section 2.4.3, IOP 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
 - d. Section 3.8.4.2, Mitigation Measures, all bullets on pages 3-221 through 3-235
- 5) CDOW recommends including the following MMs as a modification and replacement of the MMs that they cross-reference:
 - a. Directional boring will be used to place pipelines at river and stream crossings whenever possible to reduce surface disturbance and the need for construction activities in riparian habitat. Low-water fords and/or trenching at stream and river crossings will be used only as a last resort, and if used, will be constructed at the driest time of the year. If low-water fords and/or trenching is used, the pre-existing stream channel, including bed and banks, will be restored to pre-existing conditions (replaces second bullet right hand column p. 3-223; last bullet and third to last bullet p. 3-227).
 - b. Any pipelines crossing streams or rivers will have remotely actuated block or check valves on both sides of the stream or river. In addition, pipelines will be double-walled pipe at river crossings and include spill/leak detection and a spill/leak contingency plan that includes timely notification to the appropriate state wildlife agency and local USFWS ecological service office (replaces second to last bullet p. 3-227; last bullet p. 3-235).
 - c. During pre-construction planning, project proponents will identify important, sensitive, or unique habitat and biota in the vicinity of a proposed project in consultation with state and local wildlife agencies. Once these resources are identified, project proponents will design the project to avoid potential impacts if possible. Where impact avoidance is not possible based on the best available technology, project proponents will plan to minimize and mitigate the anticipated impacts to these resources per guidance from appropriate federal agencies, and state and local wildlife agencies. Off-site compensatory mitigation may be considered as a last resort in concurrence with state and local wildlife agencies (replaces second and last bullet, right hand column p. 3-228; first full bullet p. 3-229).
 - d. Refueling services for construction, operation, and maintenance will be located a minimum of 500 feet from wetlands, rivers, streams, springs, seeps, riparian areas, lakes, ponds, drainages, and other receiving waters. The location of refueling areas will be designated for each phase of construction, operation and maintenance for all classes of equipment and service vehicles. Refueling locations will be designed to include impermeable secondary containment for

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accidental releases, regardless of the applicability of SPCC regulations (replaces third bullet p. 3-227).

- e. Sanitation services will be provided for construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities in the energy corridors. The location of sanitation services will be designated for each phase of construction, operation, and maintenance, and will comply with specified 500-foot buffer requirement for wetlands, rivers, streams, springs, seeps, riparian areas, lakes, ponds, drainages, and other receiving waters.

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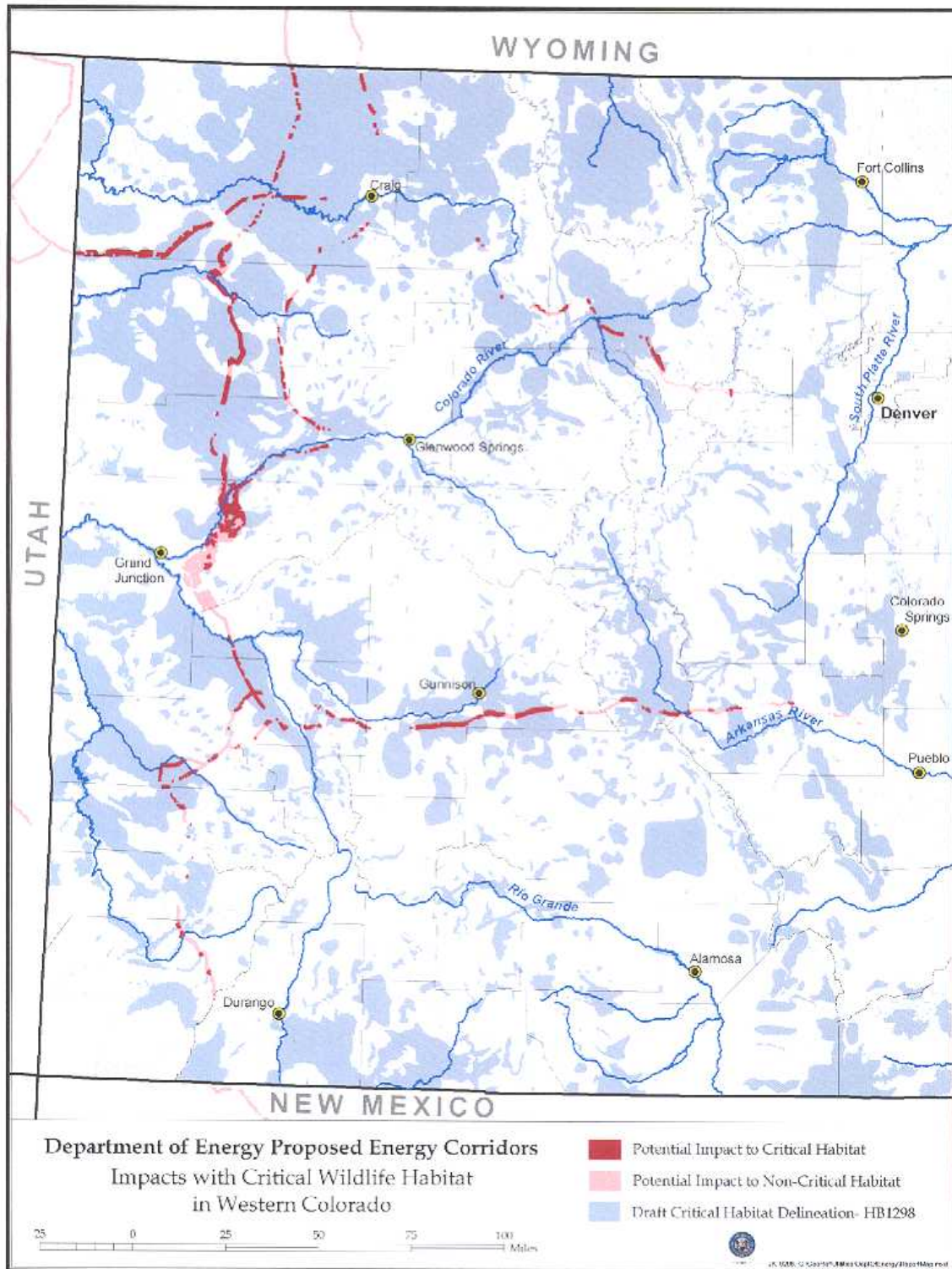
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important west wide energy corridors designation PEIS.

Sincerely,

Alvin G. Cezem for Thomas E. Remington

Thomas E. Remington
Director

cc: R. Velarde
L. Speeze
J. Holst
K. Kaal
B. Pelch
J. Broderick
S. Hebein
M. Cowardin



CRITICAL HABITAT POTENTIALLY IMPACTED BY ENERGY CORRIDORS

Consultation Species and Seasonal Activity Areas

(CDOW will consult on oil and gas development occurring in any individual or combination of the species or seasonal activity areas listed below.)

HIGH PRIORITY HABITAT ECONOMIC SPECIES AND SPECIES AT RISK (RARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED) WEIGHTING FACTORS, REVISED January 29 th , 2008					
SPECIES	ACTIVITY AREA AND DEFINITION	IMPACT FACTOR	STATUS FACTOR	TOTAL	FINAL RANKING
Bald Eagle	Active Nest Site A specific location in which a pair of bald eagles have at least attempted to nest within the last five years. Any nest location that can be directly tied to courtship, breeding, or brooding behavior is considered active. A buffer zone extends .5 miles around a known active nest.	5	4	9	Very High
	Roost Site Groups of or individual trees that provide diurnal and/or nocturnal perches for less than 15 wintering bald eagles. Includes a buffer zone extending 1/4 mile around these sites. These trees are usually the tallest available trees in the wintering area and are primarily located in riparian habitats.	5	4	9	Very High
Bighorn Sheep	Production Area That part of the overall range of bighorn sheep occupied by pregnant females during a specific period of spring. This period is May 1 to June 30 for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and February 28 to May 1 for desert bighorn sheep.	5	4	9	Very High
	Severe Winter Range That part of the overall range where 90% of the individuals are located when the annual snow-pack is at its maximum and/or temperatures are at a minimum in the two worst winters out of ten.	5	4	9	Very High
	Winter Concentration Area That part of the winter range where densities are at least 200% greater than the surrounding winter range density during the same period used to define winter range in the average five winters out of ten.	5	4	9	Very High
Black-footed Ferret	Overall Range/Release Site Those areas defined by USFWS where Black-footed Ferrets have been released into the wild.	5	5	10	Very High
Columbian Sharp-tailed	Production Area An area that includes 90% of sharp-tailed grouse nesting and	5	4	9	Very High

Grouse	brood rearing habitat. This is mapped as a buffer zone of 1.25 miles around dancing grounds.				
Elk	Production Area That part of the overall range of elk occupied by the females from May 15 to June 15 for calving. (Only known areas are mapped and this does not include all production areas for the DAU).	5	4	9	Very High
	Migration Corridor A specific map-able site through which large numbers of animals migrate and loss of which would change migration routes.	5	4	9	Very High
Greater Sage Grouse	Lek Site Areas known to be used by sage-grouse within the last 10 years from the date of mapping. "Use" is defined as 1) radio telemetry locations, 2) confirmed observations of birds or sign by reliable sources 3) documented use reported in unpublished reports or publications. (mapped by field biologists). Buffered at 0.6 miles.	5	4	9	Very High
	Production Areas An area that would include the majority of important sage grouse nesting habitat. Mapped as a buffer zone of 4 miles around an active lek.	5	4	9	Very High
Gunnison Sage Grouse	Lek Sites Areas known to be used by sage-grouse within the last 10 years from the date of mapping. "Use" is defined as 1) radio telemetry locations, 2) confirmed observations of birds or sign by reliable sources 3) documented use reported in unpublished reports or publications. (mapped by field biologists). Buffered to 0.6 miles.	5	4	9	Very High
	Production Areas An area that would include the majority of important sage grouse nesting habitat. Mapped as a buffer zone of four miles around an active lek.	5	4	9	Very High
Mule Deer	Migration Corridor A specific mapable site through which large numbers of animals migrate and loss of which would change migration routes.	5	4	9	Very High
	Critical Winter Range Definition pending.	5	4	9	Very High
Pronghorn	Migration Corridor	5	4	9	Very High

<p>Antelope</p>	<p>A specific mapable site through which large numbers of animals migrate and loss of which would change migration routes.</p>				
<p>Western Boreal Toad</p>	<p>Field Sighting (Buffered) All locations where a documented observation of any life stage of the boreal toad (toads, tadpoles, and/or eggs) has taken place. These locations are represented as point data and are buffered by 600ft for protection purposes.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Very High</p>
<p>Aquatic Habitats</p>	<p>Recovery/conservation waters Lakes and river reaches containing non-salmonid and native salmonid species currently under management for population conservation and recovery, buffered to 100m. Includes native cutthroats, endangered big-river species, eastern plains native fish, three-species (flannelmouth sucker, bluehead sucker, roundtail chub) and mountain sucker. Category 100, 101, 201, 202.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Very High</p>

Non-Consultation Wildlife Species and Seasonal Activity Areas
 (These species and seasonal activity areas do not trigger consultation on their own. However, CDOW reserves the right to make recommendations on these species and seasonal activity areas when consultation is triggered by another species or seasonal activity area or when consultation occurs pursuant to a requested waiver of any Standard Operating Practice.)

HIGH PRIORITY HABITAT ECONOMIC SPECIES AND SPECIES AT RISK (RARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED) WEIGHTING FACTORS, REVISED January 29 th , 2008					
SPECIES	ACTIVITY AREA AND DEFINITION	IMPACT FACTOR	STATUS FACTOR	TOTAL	FINAL RANKING
Bald Eagle	Inactive Nest Site A former active nest location in which neither courtship, breeding, or brooding activity has been observed at any time during the last 5 years. A buffer zone of .5 mile extends around an inactive nest.	4	4	8	High
	Nest of Unknown Status A nest that is inactive for at least 10 years and has not been checked.	3	4	7	High
	Winter Concentration Area Areas (tree islands, etc) within an existing winter range where eagles concentrate between November 15 and March 15. These areas may be associated with roost sites.	4	4	8	High
Bighorn Sheep	Overall Distribution The area which encompasses all known seasonal activity areas within the observed range of a bighorn sheep population.	2	4	6	Moderate
	Summer Concentration Area Those areas where bighorn sheep concentrate from mid-June through mid-August. High quality forage, security, and lack of disturbance may be characteristic of these areas to meet the high energy demands of lactation, lamb rearing, horn growth, and general preparation for the rigors of fall and winter.	4	4	8	High
Black Bear	Summer Concentration Area That portion of the overall range of the species where activity is greater than the surrounding overall range during that period from June 15 to August 15.	2	4	6	Moderate
	Fall Concentration Area That portion of the overall range occupied from August 15 until September 30 for the purpose of ingesting large quantities of mast and berries to establish fat reserves for the winter hibernation period.	4	4	8	High
	Movement Corridor A subjective indication of the general direction of black bear movement between seasonal use areas.	3	4	7	High

Black-tailed Prairie Dog	Active Colonies An area where a colony has become established and has been documented to be active within the past 10 years.	4	4	8	High
	Inactive Colonies An area where a colony has become established and has been documented to be inactive within the past 10 years.	2	4	6	Moderate
Brazilian Free-Tailed Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Fringed Myotis	Roosting Area A place occupied by Bats, including a 1/4 mile buffer, that provides shelter from the physical elements, and protection from predation. Roost sites for Brazilian Free-Tailed Bats typically are established in caves or abandoned mines, rock crevices, and buildings. There are two different types of roosts used by Brazilian Free-Tailed Bats, depending on the season of use, and activity that occurs at the roost. These different types of roosts are listed below. <u>Day Roost:</u> A roost occupied by males or non-reproductive females, during periods of torpor or inactivity, during the warm seasons. <u>Maternity Roost:</u> A roost occupied by pregnant or nursing bats, and young of the year, that can gather in large numbers during the late spring and summer seasons.	5	2	7	High
Burrowing Owl	Potential Habitat Known PD colonies > 5acres, restrictions between 3/1 and 8/15	5	3	8	High
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse	Winter Range Observed winter range of sharp-tailed grouse usually in a tall shrub vegetative type (greater than or equal to 2 meters) within 3 miles of lek sites. Shrub height should allow feeding on buds by birds above normal snow depths.	3	4	7	High
EIK	Winter Range That part of the overall range of a species where 90 percent of the individuals are located during the average five winters out of ten from the first heavy snowfall to spring green-up, or during a site specific period of winter as defined for each DAU.	2	4	6	Moderate
	Severe Winter Range That part of the range of a species where 90 percent of the individuals are located when the annual snow-pack is at its maximum and/or temperatures are at a minimum in the two worst winters out of ten. The winter of 1983-84 is a good example of a severe winter.	4	4	8	High
	Winter Concentration Area That part of the winter range of a species where densities are at least 200% greater than the surrounding winter range density during the same period used to define winter range in the average five winters out of ten.	4	4	8	High

Greater Sage Grouse	Winter Range Observed Winter Range	2	4	6	Moderate
	Severe Winter Range That part of the winter range where 90 percent of the individuals are located when annual snowpack is at its maximum and/or temperatures are at a minimum in the two worst winters out of ten. The winters of 1983-84, or 96-97 are good examples.	3	4	7	High
	Core Range That range surrounding populations considered by the Terrestrial Section to be most important to population stability. Production areas with the highest population numbers were linked with large patch-size sagebrush habitat, and extended to include 80% of nesting habitat for at least 50% of a population.	4	4	8	High

Greater Prairie Chicken	Lek Site An area where greater prairie chickens are known to have displayed and bred in the past 10 years. Current activity may be active, inactive or unknown. Lek sites typically, although not always, are located on open ridges, grass knolls, or slight rises in topography where vegetation is sparse. Buffered at 0.6 miles.	8	4	8	High
	Production Area An area which includes all nesting and brood rearing habitat of the greater prairie chicken. Currently defined as a 2.2 mile buffer zone around each active lek.	8	4	8	High
	Winter Range Areas where greater prairie chickens concentrate during the winter to feed on small grain crops.	3	4	7	Moderate

Greater Sandhill Crane	Nesting Area Site locations where greater sandhill cranes were found to be nesting during field surveys.	4	3	7	High
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Gunnison's Prairie Dog	Active Colonies An area where a colony has become established and has been documented to be active within the past 10 years.	4	4	8	High
	Inactive Colonies An area where a colony has become established and has been documented to be inactive within the past 10 years.	2	4	6	Moderate
	Management Focus Area Draft areas developed for the in-progress conservation plan.	2	4	6	Moderate

Gunnison Sage Grouse	Winter Range Observed winter range.	2	4	6	Moderate
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	Severe Winter Range That part of the winter range where 90 percent of the individuals are located when annual snowpack is at its maximum and/or temperatures are at a minimum in the two worst winters out of ten. The winters of 1983-84, or 96-97 are good examples.	3	4	7	High
Kit Fox	Overall Range Areas known to be utilized by kit fox in Colorado.	2	4	6	Moderate
Lesser Prairie Chicken	Winter Range Areas where lesser prairie chickens concentrate during the winter to feed on small grain crops.	3	4	7	High
Lynx	Potential Range Areas having the highest potential of lynx occurrences in the state. These areas usually contain positive, probable, or possible reports.	3	5	8	High
	Occupied Range That part of the potential Range where populations of Lynx are known to exist. Distributions of Lynx are determined through tracking of radio-collar signals.	3	5	8	High
Massasauga	Overall Range Overall Range for Massasauga (<i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>) in Colorado. Overall Range is defined as an area that encompasses all known seasonal activity areas within the range of a population of Massasauga. Massasauga are typically associated with short-grass prairie habitats at elevations below 1,675m (5,500ft.) in southeastern and east-central Colorado.	3	3	6	Moderate
Moose	Summer Range That part of the overall range where 90% of the individuals are located during the summer months. This summer time frame will be delineated with specific start/end dates for each moose population within the state (ex: May 1 to Sept 15). Summer range is not necessarily exclusive of winter range.	2	4	6	Low
	Concentration Area That part of the range of a species where densities are 200% higher than the surrounding area during a specific season.	2	4	6	Moderate
	Priority Habitat Habitat types associated with the food and cover requirements of moose. Significant loss of these habitats would change moose distribution and/or would adversely affect the population. These habitat types include but are not limited to willow dominated riparian areas, sub-climax coniferous forest mixed with shrub lands, and dense climax coniferous forests.	3	4	7	High

Mountain Goat	Overall Range An area which encompasses all known seasonal activity areas within the observed range of a population of mountain goat.	2	4	6	Moderate
	Concentration Area That part of the overall range where densities are at least 200% greater than the surrounding area.	3	4	7	High
	Production Area That part of the home range of a species occupied by the females during a specific period of spring. This period is May 15 to June 30 for mountain goats.	4	4	8	High
Mountain Plover	Suitable Habitat Shortgrass w/ bare ground? See Vicki/Nicole	4	3	7	High
Mule Deer	Winter Range That part of the overall range where 90 percent of the individuals are located during the average five winters out of ten from the first heavy snowfall to spring green-up, or during a site specific period of winter as defined for each DAU.	2	4	6	Moderate
	Severe Winter Range That part of the overall range where 90% of the individuals are located when the annual snowpack is at its maximum and/or temperatures are at a minimum in the two worst winters out of ten.	4	4	8	High
	Winter Concentration Area That part of the winter range where densities are at least 200% greater than the surrounding winter range density during the same period used to define winter range in the average five winters out of ten.	5	4	8	High
Northern Leopard Frog	Field Sighting (Buffered) All locations where a documented observation of any life stage of the Northern Leopard Frog has taken place. These locations are represented as point data and are buffered by 200 meters for protection purposes.	5	3	8	High
Peregrine Falcon	Active Nest Site A site where peregrine falcons nested or attempted to nest within the previous 5 years. The nest site itself is identified by a point location on the map. A ¼ mile buffer zone is drawn around this point and is intended to be a zone protected from disturbance or habitat alteration.	5	3	8	High
	Nesting Area An area which includes good nesting sites and contains one or more active or inactive nest locations. The boundaries are drawn based on professional judgment to include most known nesting habitat in the vicinity. Usually these areas are mapped as polygons around cliffs and include a ¼ mile buffer surrounding the cliffs.	5	3	8	High
Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse	Lek Site Usually an open area or area of low vegetative cover, usually on a ridge or knoll where sharp-tailed grouse traditionally display and breed. Current activity may be active, inactive or	8	4	8	High

	unknown. Buffered at 0.4 miles.				
	Production Area An area that includes 90% of sharp-tailed grouse nesting and brood rearing habitat. This is mapped as a buffer zone of 1.25 miles around dancing grounds.	8	4	8	High
	Winter Range Observed winter range of sharp-tailed grouse usually in a tall shrub vegetative type (greater than or equal to 2 meters); within 3.0 miles of lek sites. Shrub height should allow feeding on buds by birds above normal snow depths.	3	4	7	High
Pronghorn Antelope	Winter Range That part of the overall range where 90 percent of the individuals are located during the average five winters out of ten from the first heavy snowfall to spring green-up, or during a site specific period of winter as defined for each DAU.	2	4	6	Moderate
	Severe Winter Range That part of the overall range where 90% of the individuals are located when the annual snowpack is at its maximum and/or temperatures are at a minimum in the two worst winters out of ten.	4	4	8	High
	Winter Concentration Area That part of the winter range where densities are at least 200% greater than the surrounding winter range density during the same period used to define winter range in the average five winters out of ten.	4	4	8	High
Raptors	Active Nest Sites A site where raptors nested or attempted to nest within the previous 5 years. The nest site itself is identified by a point location on the map. A ½ mile buffer zone is drawn around this point and is intended to be a zone protected from disturbance or habitat alteration.	5	3	8	High
River Otter	Overall Distribution An area which encompasses all mapped seasonal activity areas within the observed range of a population of river otters.	4	4	8	High
	Concentration Area Areas where otters are known to concentrate. Otter sightings and signs of otter activity are higher in these areas than in overall range.	8	4	8	High
Swift Fox	Overall Distribution The area which encompasses the probable range of swift fox in Colorado. These areas are currently modeled utilizing the following criteria: areas on the East Slope of Colorado less than 7000 feet in elevation; associated with shortgrass, midgrass prairie, or sadsage/bluestem prairies occurring on less sandy/friable soils buffered two miles into adjacent land use types; and with fragmented habitats less than 4 square miles eliminated.	3	3	6	Moderate

SW Willow Flycatcher	<p>Potential Significant Habitat: Areas having the highest potential of southwestern willow flycatcher occurrences in the state. These habitats are currently modeled as follows: those areas on the west slope of Colorado, south of the Colorado River, and in the San Luis Valley that are less than or equal to 8500 feet in elevation and are within 300ft of a stream. These habitats include areas that have been surveyed for flycatchers as well as areas that have not been surveyed.</p> <p>NOTE: MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: The SW willow flycatcher is a Federal Endangered Species and is under protection by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Consultation with the USFWS needs to occur prior to federal project development. Avoidance of a site reported as containing flycatchers is recommended and may be required during the breeding season (April 30-August 15).</p>	2	5	7	High
White-tailed Prairie Dog	<p>Active Colonies An area where a colony has become established and has been documented to be active within the past 10 years.</p>	4	4	8	High
	<p>Inactive Colonies An area where a colony has become established and has been documented to be inactive within the past 10 years.</p>	2	4	6	Moderate
	<p>Management Focus Area Draft areas developed for the in progress conservation plan.</p>	2	4	6	Moderate
White-tailed Ptarmigan	<p>Overall Range Overall Range is defined as the probable range of White-tailed Ptarmigan in Colorado as determined from the following criteria: Areas greater than 10,800 feet in elevation, Colorado GAP vegetation types Mixed Tundra, Meadow Tundra, Prostrate Shrub Tundra, Bare Ground Tundra, Exposed Rock, Shrub Dominated Wetland/Riparian, and Graminoid/Forb Dominated Wetland.</p>	2	4	6	Moderate
	<p>Winter Range Winter Range is defined as an area utilized in winter most frequently where drainage basins at or above treeline and stream courses below treeline from 8,500 to 12,500ft elevation where food (willow) and roosting sites (soft snow) are readily available. Winter range is typically defined from late October thru mid-April.</p>	3	4	7	High
Wild Turkey	<p>Production Area Those area(s) that are used by turkeys for nesting during the period from March 15 to August 15. Human activity should be restricted in these areas during this period.</p>	4	4	8	High
	<p>Roosting Area Ponderosa pine and cottonwood trees of at least 10" dbh used by turkeys for diurnal and nocturnal perches.</p>	4	4	8	High
	<p>Winter Range That part of the overall range where 90% of the individuals are located from November 1 to April 1 during the average five winters out of ten.</p>	3	4	7	High
	<p>Winter Concentration Area</p>	4	4	8	High

	That part of the winter range where densities are at least 200% greater than the surrounding winter range density.				
Aquatic Habitats	Recreation waters Lakes and river reaches managed for cold-water and warm water sport fishing. Category 301 - 507	5	2	7	High
	Non-managed waters Lakes and river reaches with mixed species or not managed. Category 600 - 700	4	2	6	Moderate
Wetlands	Wetland Habitat Delineation to be determined	4	4	8	High

STATUS FACTORS	
A weighting assigned to each species based upon the following criteria	
NUMERIC RANK	Status
5	Federal Threatened or Federal Endangered Species
4	State Endangered, State Threatened, State Species of Economic Importance
3	Federal Candidate/Petitioned or State Special Concern
2	Biological/Management Indicator Species or Sensitive Wildlife Species
1	All Other Species

IMPACT FACTORS

Impact Factor is a subjective ranking used by C/DOW biologists to assess the relative sensitivity of species or seasonal activity areas to impact/disturbance by oil and gas activities. The ranking scale runs from 1 (low potential for impact) to 5 (high potential for impact). Sensitivity to impact includes a combination of species life history and behavior, including tolerance of disturbance; the relative abundance of seasonal habitat areas, including whether the habitats are fixed points or not; differential susceptibility to disturbance between seasons of the year; and other biological factors.

TOTAL FACTOR RANKING VALUES	
NUMERIC RANK	POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT
1-4	Low
5 - 6	Moderate
7-8	High
9-10	Very High

DIGITAL DATA DISCLAIMER:

This wildlife distribution map is a product and property of the Colorado Division of Wildlife, a division of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. Care should be taken in interpreting these data. Written documents may accompany this map and should be referenced. The information portrayed on these maps should not replace field studies necessary for more localized planning efforts. The data are typically gathered at a scale of 1:24000 or 1:50000, discrepancies may become apparent at larger scales. The areas portrayed here are graphic representations of phenomena that are difficult to reduce to two dimensions. Animal distributions are fluid; animal populations and their habitats are dynamic.

The Colorado Department of Natural Resources is not responsible and shall not be liable to the user for damages of any kind arising out of the use of data or information provided by the Department, including the installation of the data or information, its use, or the results obtained from its use.

ANY DATA OR INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IS PROVIDED "AS IS" WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. Data or information provided by the Department of Natural Resources shall be used and relied upon only at the user's sole risk, and the user agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Department of Natural Resources, its officials, officers and employees from any liability arising out of the use of the data or information provided.

The map values are based on the following species, impact and status factors. Each Activity Area is defined as stated below.

SPECIES	MAPPED ACTIVITY	ACRES
Abert's Squirrel	Abert's Squirrel Overall Range	7,720
Bald Eagle	Bald Eagle Nest Sites	198
	Bald Eagle Roost Sites	2,333
	Bald Eagle Summer Forage	7,387
	Bald Eagle Winter Concentration	4,050
	Bald Eagle Winter Forage	34,761
	Bald Eagle Winter Range	106,871
Bighorn Sheep	Bighorn Sheep Summer Range	4,619
	Bighorn Sheep Winter Range	1,347
Black Bear	Black Bear Fall Concentration	13,572
	Black Bear Summer Concentration	16,269
	Black Bear Overall Range	212,019
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse	Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Production Area	316
	Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Winter Range	2,988
	Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Overall Range	5,919
Elk	Elk Migration Corridors	3,913
	Elk Production Area	8,744
	Elk Summer Concentration Area	2,519
	Elk Summer Range	71,544
	Elk Severe Winter Range	59,178
	Elk Winter Concentration Area	59,029
	Elk Winter Range	182,647
Elk Overall Range	236,102	
Great Blue Heron	Great Blue Heron Nesting Area	1,459
	Great Blue Heron Foraging Area	6,304
Geese	Geese Foraging Area	2,546
	Geese Production Area	4,560
	Geese Winter Range	7,502
Greater Sage-grouse	Greater Sage Grouse Brood Area	2,679
	Greater Sage Grouse Production Area	17,950
	Greater Sage Grouse Severe Winter Range	478
	Greater Sage Grouse Winter Range	27,162
	Greater Sage Grouse Overall Range	40,709
Gunnison's Prairie Dog	Gunnison's Prairie Dog Colonies	536
	Gunnison's Prairie Dog Overall Range	32,856
Gunnison Sage-grouse	Gunnison's Sage Grouse Brood Area	1,373
	Gunnison's Sage Grouse Production Area	15,482
	Gunnison's Sage Grouse Severe Winter Range	16,963
	Gunnison's Sage Grouse Winter Range	18,838
	Gunnison's Sage Grouse Overall Range	21,802
Kit Fox	Kit Fox Overall Range	14,318
Moose	Moose Concentration Area	1,635
	Moose Summer Range	14,289
	Moose Winter Range	1,844
	Moose Overall Range	15,298
Mt. Goat	Mountain Goat Overall Range	528
Mt. Lion	Mountain Lion Overall Range	261,988
Mule Deer	Mule Deer Concentration Area	2,146
	Mule Deer Migration Corridors	5,377

	Mule Deer Summer Range	115,772
	Mule Deer Severe Winter Range	91,623
	Mule Deer Winter Concentration Area	73,437
	Mule Deer Winter Range	189,459
	Mule Deer Overall Range	261,996
Osprey	Osprey Nest Sites	246
Peregrine Falcon	Peregrine Falcon Nesting Area	1,300
	Peregrine Falcon Potential Nesting	5,467
Pheasant	Ring-necked Pheasant Overall Range	656
Pronghorn	Pronghorn Antelope Migration Corridors	119
	Pronghorn Antelope Perennial Water	3,637
	Pronghorn Antelope Severe Winter Range	6,915
	Pronghorn Antelope Winter Concentration	8,124
	Pronghorn Antelope Winter Range	39,812
	Pronghorn Antelope Overall Range	76,665
Ptarmigan	White-tailed Ptarmigan Overall Range	572
River Otter	River Otter Overall Range	767
Scaled Quail	Scaled Quail Overall Range	849
Swift Fox	Swift Fox Overall Range	616
Turkey	Wild Turkey Overall Range	72,998
	Wild Turkey Production Area	8,895
	Wild Turkey Winter Range	22,014
White-tailed Deer	White-tailed Deer Overall Range	1,905
White-tailed Prairie Dog	White-tailed Prairie Dog Colonies	11,053
	White-tailed Prairie Dog Overall Range	68,188

Corridors PEIS Literary Citations

Colorado Greater Sage-grouse Steering Committee. 2008. Colorado greater sage-grouse conservation plan. Colorado Division of Wildlife, Denver, Colorado, USA.

Beck, T.D.I. 1997. Kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*) status in Colorado. Wildlife Research Report, Project No. W-153-R-10, Work Package No. 10A, Job No. 1: Colorado Division of Wildlife

Beck, T.D.I. 1998. Kit fox conservation. Wildlife Research Report. Project No. W-153-R-11, Work Package 0663, Task No. 1: Colorado Division of Wildlife.

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Gunnison Sage-grouse Rangewide Steering Committee. 2005. Gunnison sage-grouse rangewide conservation plan. Colorado Division of Wildlife, Denver, Colorado, USA.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2008. Endangered Species Program. Data available at: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/recovery/index.html>.

Utah Department of Natural Resources. 2004. Range-wide conservation agreement for roundtail chub, blueheaded sucker, and flannelmouth sucker. Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. Pub no. 06-18, 2006.

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Friday, February 29, 2008 4:17 PM
To: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Receipt: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WVECD50566

Thank you for your comment, Joan May.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WVECD50566. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: February 29, 2008 04:17:19PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WVECD50566

First Name: Joan
Last Name: May
Organization: San Miguel County
Address: P.O. Box 1170
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Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment: Z:\mydocs\Planning\West-wide Energy Corridor\Draft Prog EIS Supplemental Comments (02-29-2008).doc

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at:
corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster
at (630)252-6182.

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JOAN MAY

ELAINE FISCHER

ART GOODTIMES

February 29, 2008

Delivered via electronic mail

West-wide Energy Corridor DEIS
 Argonne National Laboratory
 9700 S. Cass Avenue
 Building 900, Mail Stop 4
 Argonne, IL 60439

RE: West-wide Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact
 Statement (PEIS); Supplemental Comments of San Miguel County, Colorado

San Miguel County, Colorado, electronically submitted its original comments regarding the above-referenced PEIS on February 14, 2008 through a letter from Joan May, Chair of the San Miguel County Board of Commissioners ("the Board"). Please consider this written comment as a supplement to, and not as amendment of, the County's previously submitted comments. Since the submission of the County's original comments, members of the Board have been advised that federal public land managers who have been involved in the PEIS process recommended segment 130-274 for designation as an energy corridor based upon an existing underground natural gas transmission pipeline being located in the area.

While the Board appreciates DOE's consultation with appropriate land managers, the Board is disturbed that no consultation occurred with San Miguel County - the entity entrusted by the State of Colorado to regulate land use within its borders. We have specific agreements with other federal agencies to consult on all projects and proposals of mutual interest within our boundaries. That San Miguel County was not consulted is a serious flaw in this process.

50566-001

The Board and the people of San Miguel County would have proposed that any utility corridor across our County, north to south, would take place further west of Norwood, in the region defined under our Land Use Plan as the "West End Zone District" where population densities are classified by the U.S. Census as "frontier" (evenly more sparsely settled than "rural"). We would very much like the opportunity, even at this late date, to consult with the DOE and explore an appropriate route through BLM lands in this "West End" region before any final PEIS is issued. The Board believes that this is the kind of appropriate scoping consultation with affected counties that should have been done at the beginning of the PEIS process.

Regardless if the DOE heeds our call for consultation, after speaking with USFS and BLM officials in our region about this PEIS, the Board would like to supplement its earlier comments by insisting that any route through the Naturita Canyon section of USFS land in our County be required to be undergrounded, as is the case with other areas of this proposed utility corridor.

50566-002

Segment 130-274 is located in proximity to Naturita Canyon, an area with exceptional scenic qualities that both federal public land management agencies and San Miguel County have considered for protection from future development. Currently, there are no aboveground energy transmission facilities located in the vicinity of Naturita Canyon. The route for a proposed 115kV electricity transmission line to be constructed from Nucla to Telluride, Colorado, has been located to avoid Naturita Canyon.

50566-003

Supplemental
Comment Letter Sent To
West-wide Energy Corridor DEIS
February 29, 2008
Page Two

As a County with a significant resort and recreation economy, preservation of the scenic quality of both public and private lands in San Miguel County is a priority of paramount importance to the Board and County residents. In addition, the area apparently proposed for a utility corridor through private lands (while not noted on the maps provided, the likely private land routes can be inferred due to the proposed route and existing topography) is increasingly rising in property value as expensive trophy home development occurs in this part of our County. Establishing a utility corridor in this region could have serious negative consequences for the County's resort economy and the high-value scenic qualities of this landscape. Accordingly, the Board requests that any designation of segment 130-274 for West-wide Energy Corridor purposes through the PEIS process be expressly limited to its current usage for underground energy transmission facilities. In order to preserve the exceptional scenic quality of the Naturita Canyon area corridor segment 130-274 should not be designated for aboveground energy transmission facilities.

50566-003
(cont.)

San Miguel County appreciates the opportunity to provide this supplemental comment regarding the West-wide Energy Corridor Draft PEIS.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Joan May

Joan May, Chair
Board of County Commissioners
San Miguel County, Colorado

From: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 4:47 PM
To: corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov
Subject: Receipt: Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Comment WWECD50567

Thank you for your comment, Karl Siderits.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is WWECD50567. Once the comment response document has been published, please refer to the comment tracking number to locate the response.

Comment Date: March 7, 2008 04:46:37PM CDT

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS
Draft Comment: WWECD50567

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Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Comment Submitted:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond. I have several specific comments.

1. Insure that the towers, wherever placed, are not reflective. They should be dull paint, or flame treated as in places in these mountains, they could be very obtrusive in long distances, i.e., miles, if they reflected sunlight.
2. Do not allow lights on the towers, for airplane or whatever purposes unless the public can comment on the specific towers. At Boulder Hill, along I-15, the several pulsating lights can be seen for many miles, and in cloudy weather they form a bright "aurora" that lights up the night skies. Be very careful about allowing lights on the towers.
3. Consider hawk and eagle alighting perches on top of the towers, working in concert with the Audubon or State Fish and Game. Eagles utilize the highways and interstates for searching for road kills. Where these towers are adjacent to these roads, consider a "safe" perch for these raptors. Try a couple. May save a raptor.

50567-001

50567-002

50567-003

Thanks Karl Siderits 406-422-5643 Please call if you have any questions about my response. I would be pleased to discuss.

Questions about submitting comments over the Web? Contact us at:
corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov or call the Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic EIS Webmaster at (630)252-6182.