

Corridor 129-218

South Rock Springs Corridor

Corridor Purpose and Rationale

The corridor provides an east-west pathway south of Rock Springs, Wyoming. The corridor connects to multiple Section 368 energy corridors, creating a continuous corridor network across southern Wyoming and into Utah across BLM- and USFS-administered lands. Input regarding alignment from multiple organizations¹ during the WWEC PEIS suggested following this route. There are no major pending ROWs for transmission line or pipeline projects within the corridor at this time. There is potential for future development within the corridor, subject to possible limitations from the Union Pacific Railroad within the corridor from MP 0 to MP 9.

Corridor location:

Wyoming (Sweetwater Co.)
 BLM: Rawlins and Rock Springs Field Offices
 Regional Review Region: Region 4

Corridor width, length:

Width 3,500 ft
 22 miles of designated corridor
 58 miles of posted route, including gaps

Designated Use:

- corridor is multi-modal

Corridor of concern (N)



Figure 1. Corridor 129-218

Corridor history:

- Locally designated prior to 2009 (N)
- Existing infrastructure (Y)
 - A crude oil pipeline is within a portion of the corridor. Three natural gas pipelines follow portions of the corridor.
 - Railroad
- Energy potential near the corridor (Y)
 - 5 substations are within 5 mi.
 - Simplot Phosphates power plant is within 5 mi.
- Corridor changes since 2009 (N)

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

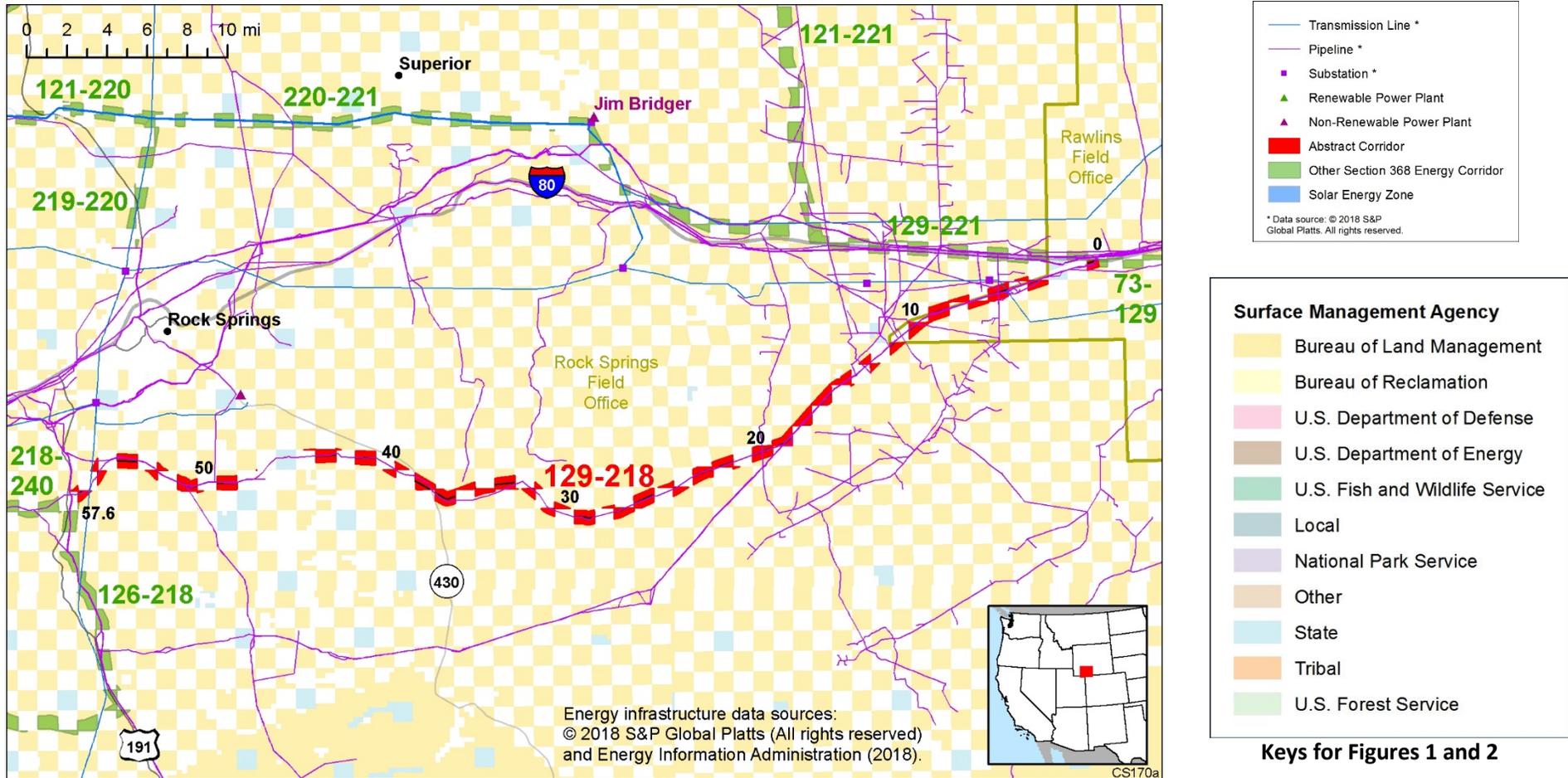


Figure 2. Corridor 129-218 and nearby electric transmission lines and pipelines

Conflict Map Analysis

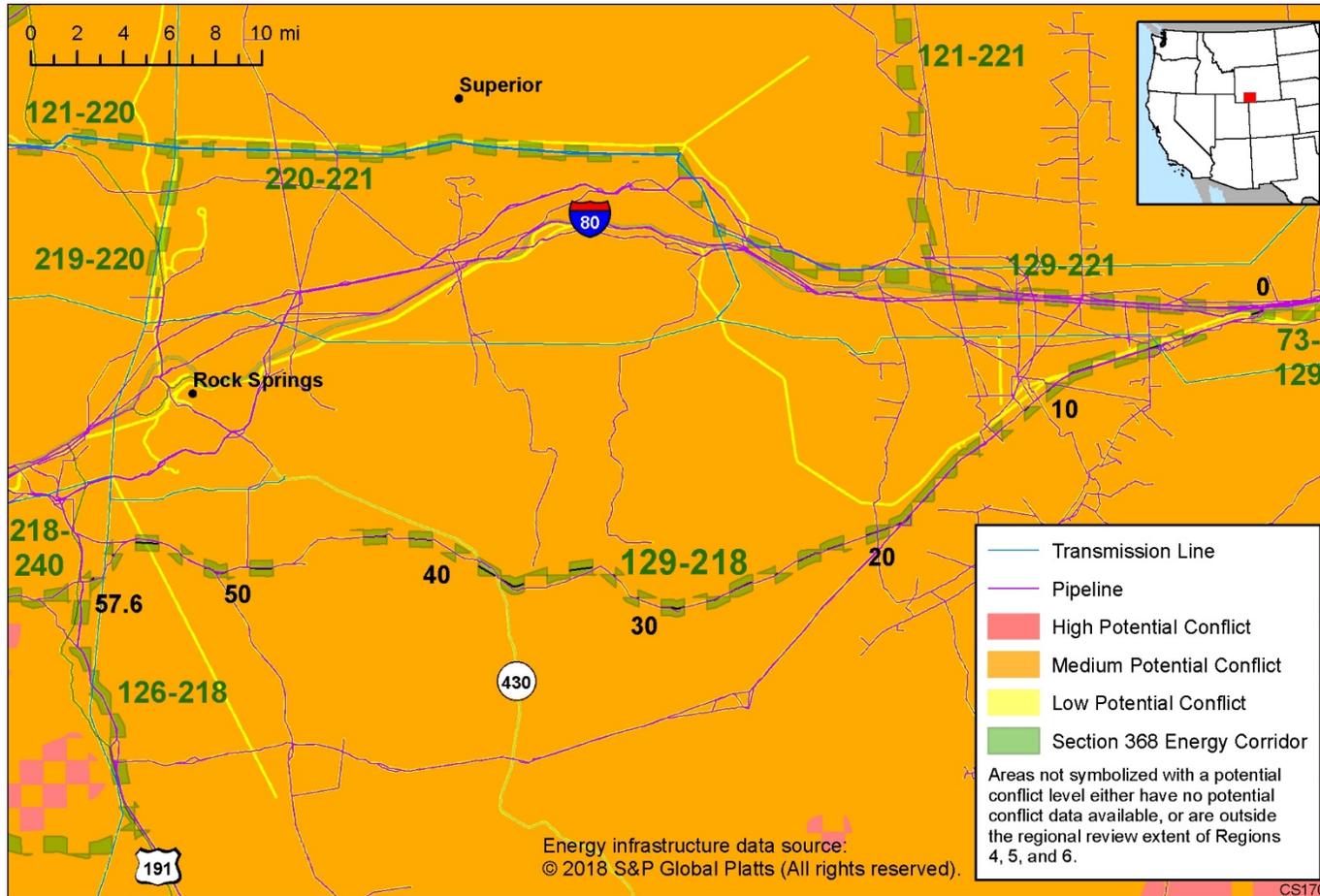


Figure 3. Map of Conflict Areas in Vicinity of Corridor 129-218

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

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

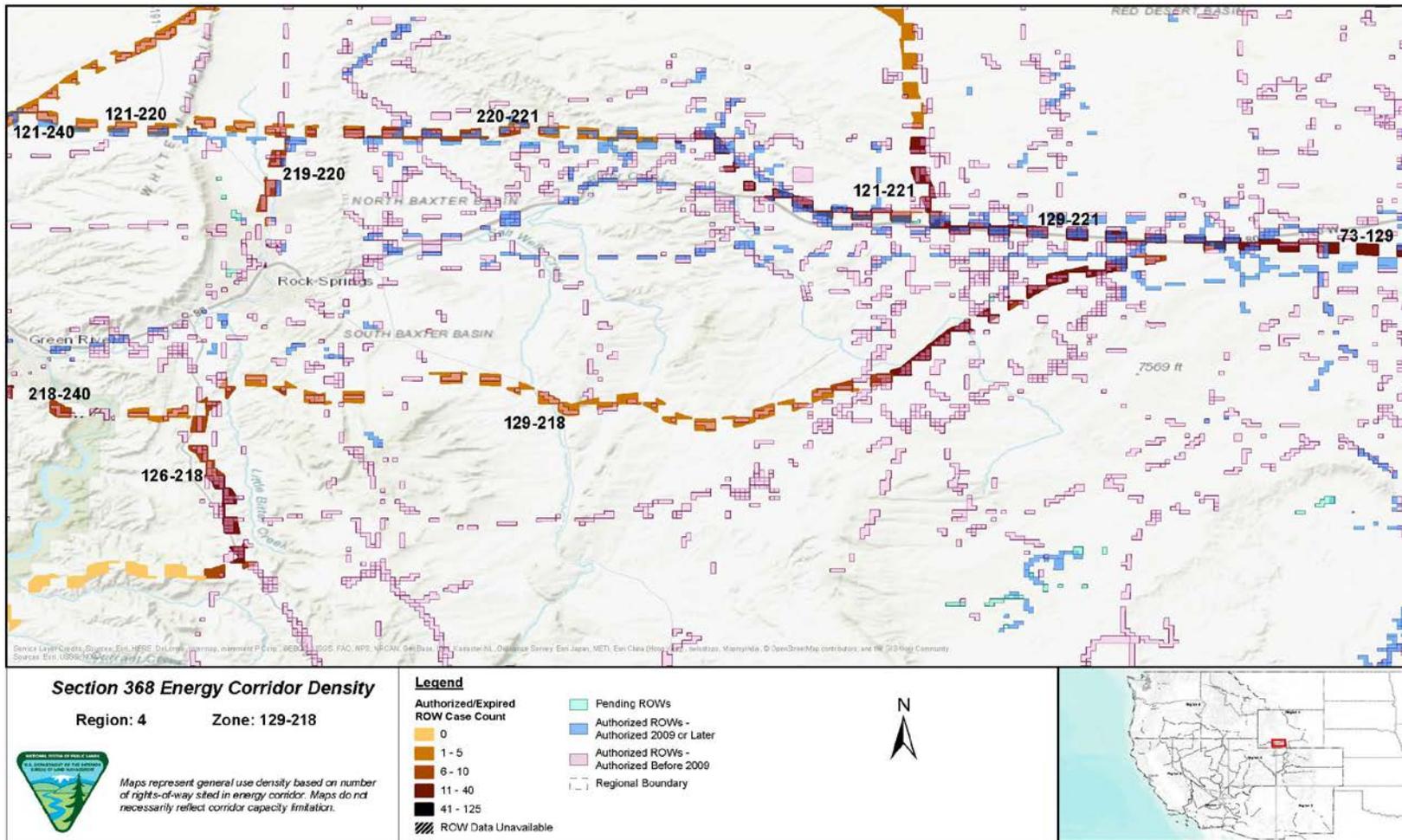


Figure 4. Corridor 129-218, Corridor Density Map

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

Corridor Review Table

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

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

CORRIDOR 129-218 REVIEW			
POTENTIAL COMPATIBILITY ISSUES or CONCERNS TO EXAMINE	MILEPOST (MP)¹	STAKEHOLDER INPUT and OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION	POTENTIAL RESOLUTIONS BASED ON SITING PRINCIPLE ANALYSIS²
<i>BLM Jurisdiction: Rawlins Field Office</i>			
<i>Agency Land Use Plan: Rawlins RMP (2008)</i>			
Other than the GRSG GHMA intersection discussed below, no issues related to resource intersections with the corridor in the Rawlins Field Office have been identified.			
<i>BLM Jurisdiction: Rock Springs Field Office</i>			
<i>Agency Land Use Plan: Green River RMP (1997)</i>			
Four Trails Feasibility Study Trail and the corridor intersect - The RMP does not reference the Four Trails Feasibility Study Trail since it pre-dates the 2009 legislation designating the study trail (Public Law 111-11); however, the Study Trail is located within a corridor identified in the RMP.	MP 16 to MP 18	Existing and proposed pipelines occur within the corridor. Public Law 111-11 (2009) directs the Secretary of the Interior to revise the original feasibility studies of the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California, and Pony Express NHTs. BLM Manual 6280 directs the BLM to maintain the values, characteristics, and settings for which the trail is being studied or for which the trail was recommended as suitable.	The conflict with the Study Trail is minimal considering the existing infrastructure. Select placement of future infrastructure within the corridor could avoid the trail except for where the infrastructure and the study trail would intersect perpendicularly. A slight shift in the corridor either to the northwest or to the southeast could provide similar results. A corridor shift could be somewhat problematic due to the checkerboard pattern of BLM-administered lands in the area of the trail. Agencies could consider a new IOP for NSTs and NHTs to enhance BMPs for proposed development within the energy corridor.
<i>BLM Jurisdiction: Rawlins Field Office; Rock Springs Field Office</i>			
<i>Agency Land Use Plan: Wyoming GRSG ROD and ARMPA –March 2019</i>			
GRSG GHMA and the corridor intersect - The 2019 ROD/ARMPA indicates that collocating new	MP 0 to MP 58 (entire corridor)	RFI comment: use full mitigation hierarchy to avoid, minimize, and	The location appears to best meet the siting principles because collocation is preferred and the corridor is

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infrastructure within existing ROWs and maintaining and upgrading ROWs is preferred over the creation of new ROWs or the construction of new facilities in all management areas. Existing designated corridors, including Section 368 energy corridors, will remain open in all habitat management areas.		compensate for impacts within four miles of important GRSG breeding areas.	collocated with existing pipelines. The GHMA encompasses a broad area surrounding the corridor which cannot be avoided.

¹ Mileposts are rounded to the nearest mile.

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

Additional Compatibility Concerns

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

Cultural Resources:

- Cultural resources could be a concern in the Rawlins FO.

Analysis: Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to consider the effects of an undertaking on cultural resources.

Abstract Acronyms and Abbreviations

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