

Corridor 37-39

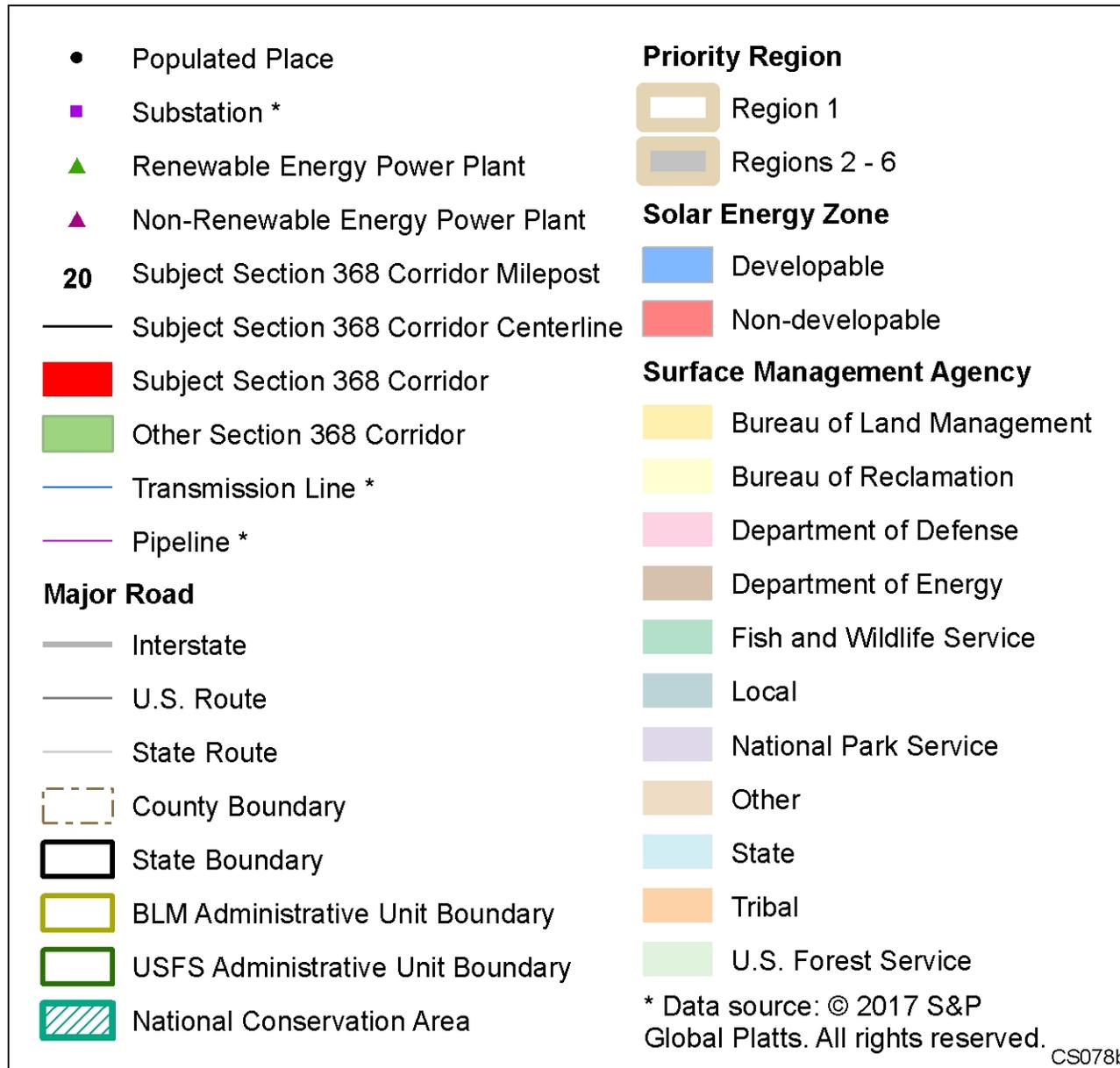
East Apex Connector

Introduction

Corridor 37-39 extends from the southeast corner of the Desert National Wildlife Range in Nevada, northwest to southeast for about 3 miles and then east for about 6 miles to intersect with Corridors 39-113 and 39-231 (Figures 1 and 2). Federally designated portions of this corridor are entirely on BLM-administered land. The corridor has a 3,500-ft width over most of its length, but narrows to approximately 1,800 feet in some areas because of the limits of BLM-administered land. Corridor 37-39 is designated as multi-modal and can therefore accommodate both electrical transmission and pipeline projects. The corridor spans 9.0 miles with 9.0 miles of designated centerline on BLM-administered lands. The corridor's area is 2,567 acres or 4.01 square miles. This corridor is in Clark County in Nevada and is under the jurisdiction of the BLM Las Vegas Field Office and the Southern Nevada District Office. This corridor is entirely in Region 1.



Figure 1. Corridor 37-39



Key

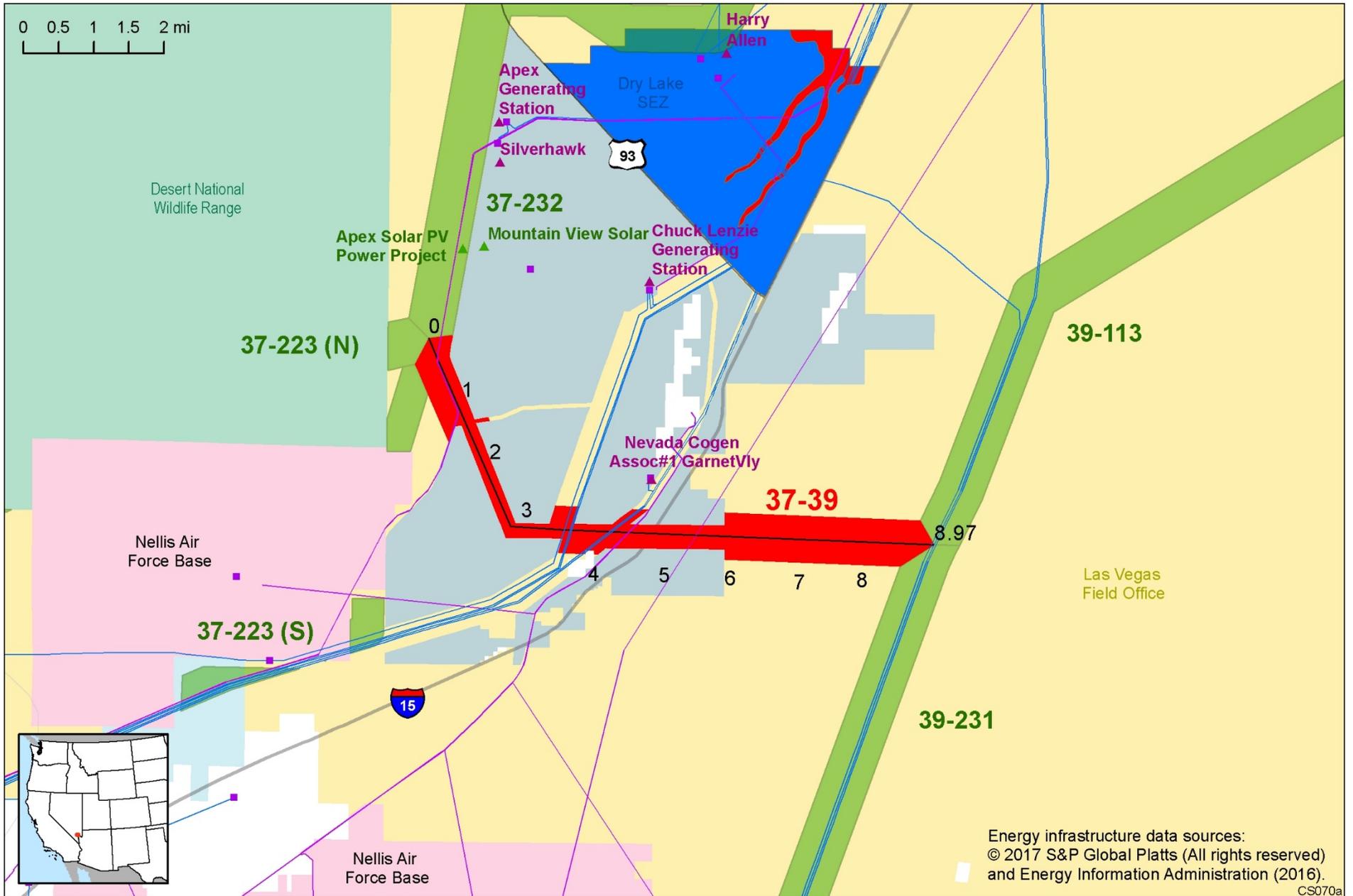


Figure 2. Corridor 37-39, Including Existing Energy Infrastructure

Corridor Rationale

During scoping for the WWEC PEIS, routes generally following this corridor were suggested by Maximus USA. The corridor was designated to provide continuity between Corridors 39-113, 39-231, and 37-232.

Existing Infrastructure: The Kern River Natural Gas Pipeline follows the northwestern portion of the corridor, and it is crossed by six transmission lines (AEP Energy Services, Inc. [230 kV], Nevada Power Co. [69 kV], Nevada Power Co. [138 kV], Nevada Power Co. [230 kV], Nevada Power Co. [500 kV], and Lincoln County Power District [69 kV]); a Southwest Gas Corporation natural gas pipeline; an UNEV petroleum product pipeline; a Holly Energy refined product pipeline; a railroad; and I-15.

Potential Future Development: There is one pending ROW application for the corridor. Platts data indicate conceptual routes for four more projects crossing the corridor at perpendicular angles, including Inland Line, Zephyr Power Transmission Project, and two Centennial II transmission lines. Two natural gas and two solar energy power plants are near this short corridor to the north. SCE indicated that there are no existing or anticipated SCE transmission facilities in or near this corridor, but proposed out-of-state transmission projects that could affect this corridor include the Southwest Intertie Project and the TransWest Express Transmission Project. Corridor 37-39 is close to the Dry Lake SEZ, which provides an opportunity for the corridor to accommodate transmission tied to renewable energy development.

Corridor of Concern Status

This corridor was not identified in the Settlement Agreement as a corridor of concern.

Corridor Abstract Update

New data have been added to the Section 368 Energy Corridor Mapping Tool since release of the draft abstracts in September 2016. A GIS view identifying high-, medium-, and low-conflict areas consistent with the definition of screening criteria described in 43 CFR 2804.35(a)-(c) has also been added to the mapping tool. A complete description of the mapping tool, a description of the high-, medium-, and low-conflict areas, and a list of the GIS data sources are included in the corridor recommendations report.

Additions to the corridor analysis table, based on input from stakeholders and additional Agency analysis, include acceptable uses, ecological resources (TCAs), civilian and military aviation, specially designated areas (Old Spanish National Historic Trail and Coyote Springs ACEC), and visual resources.

Revisions, deletions, or additions to Section 368 energy corridors would be made only during the land use planning process through a plan amendment for an individual project or a plan revision. However, the settlement agreement sets forth a systematic process for the Agencies to review Section 368 energy corridors and provide recommendations for revisions, deletions, or additions to the corridors. Suggestions for corridor revision in response to the release of the draft abstracts included narrowing the width of the corridor within the Coyote Springs ACEC, allowing additional uses of the designated corridor beyond electrical transmission and oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines, and limiting the viewshed impact on the OSNHT by intersecting the trail and corridor at a more perpendicular angle further to the north. While desert tortoise connectivity habitat exists throughout corridor, mapping of potential conflict areas indicates there is no nearby previously disturbed alternative route that would avoid tortoise habitat and provide the link between other Section 368 energy corridors. On the basis of Agency analysis of these issues, corridor revisions, deletions, or additions are not recommended for Corridor 37-39.

Corridor Analysis

The corridor analysis table below identifies concerns affecting Corridor 37-39, the location of the concerns within the corridor, and the results of the analysis of the concerns by the Agencies. Concerns are checked if they are known to apply to the corridor.

Energy Planning Opportunities

- Appropriate and acceptable uses
- WVEC purpose (e.g., renewable energy)
- Transmission and pipeline capacity opportunity

Energy Planning Concerns

- Physical barrier
- Jurisdictional concern
- Corridor alignment and spacing
- Transmission and pipeline capacity concern

Land Management Responsibilities and Environmental Concerns

- Acoustics
- Air quality
- Climate change
- Cultural resources
- Ecological resources
- Environmental justice
- Hydrological resources
- Lands and realty
- Lands with wilderness characteristics

- Livestock grazing
- Paleontology
- Public access and recreation
- Socioeconomics
- Soils/erosion
- Specially designated areas
- Tribal concerns
- Visual resources
- Wild horses and burros
- Interagency Operating Procedures**

REGION 1 - CORRIDOR 37-39 - ANALYSIS TABLE

ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern/ Opportunity	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source: Context	Agency Review and Analysis
ENERGY PLANNING OPPORTUNITIES							
<i>Appropriate and Acceptable Uses</i>							
37-39 .new1	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark County, NV	Expand allowable uses within designated corridor	Entire corridor	Comment on corridor abstract: include transportation, drainage, and all utility uses in the appropriate and acceptable uses to achieve maximum use of the corridors and efficient use of the landscape.	Section 368 energy corridors were designated for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission on BLM- and USFS-administered lands.
<i>WVEC Purpose</i>							
37-39 .004	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark County, NV	Designated leasing area, i.e., Dry Lake SEZ	MP 7.4	GIS Analysis: Dry Lake SEZ is 3.2 miles north of corridor.	The Dry Lake SEZ provides opportunity for the corridor to accommodate transmission tied to renewable energy development.

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern/ Opportunity	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source: Context	Agency Review and Analysis
ENERGY PLANNING CONCERNS							
Corridor Alignment and Spacing							
37-39 .001	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark County, NV	Kern River natural gas pipeline	MP 0 to MP 1.3	GIS Analysis: existing infrastructure in corridor.	Proposed project siting and collocation alternatives to address impacts would be analyzed as part of the project-specific environmental analysis required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
37-39 .002	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark County, NV	Substation in corridor	MP 1.2	GIS Analysis: existing infrastructure in corridor.	Proposed project siting and collocation alternatives to address impacts would be analyzed as part of the project-specific environmental analysis required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
37-39 .003	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark County, NV	Unknown structure in corridor	MP 1.3	GIS Analysis: existing infrastructure in corridor.	Structure is part of Kern River gas line ROW (N-42581). Proposed project siting and collocation alternatives to address impacts would be analyzed as part of the project-specific environmental analysis required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
37-39 .005	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark County, NV	Multiple transmission lines, pipelines, I-15, and a railroad	MP 3.4 to MP 5.7	GIS Analysis: multiple transmission lines, pipelines, I-15, and a railroad cross the corridor.	Corridor 37-39 overlaps with Clark County ROW corridor (N-51809), as established pursuant to Public Law 101-67 for the development of transportation and utility facilities. ROW corridor N-51809 allows Clark County to permit other parties to use the lands within the ROW, and provides BLM the right to permit other uses in the ROW, compatible with the use as provided for by N-51809. Proposed project siting and collocation alternatives to address impacts would be analyzed as part of the project-specific

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							environmental analysis required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
Jurisdictional Concern							
37-39 .006	DoD	Nellis Air Force Base (AFB)	Clark County, NV	Nellis AFB	MP 1.4	GIS Analysis: in close proximity, but not intersecting the corridor, Nellis AFB is 1.4 miles to the southwest.	Proposed project siting and collocation alternatives to address impacts would be analyzed as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws. Coordination with FAA and Nellis AFB on structures exceeding 199 feet in height is required.
LAND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS							
Ecology: Special Status Animal Species							
37-39 .007, .008, and .009	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark County, NV	Desert tortoise critical habitat; TCAs; and Priority 1 and 2 connectivity habitat (Least-cost corridor for tortoise connectivity – USFWS 2012)	Critical habitat MP 0 to MP 1.2; habitat connectivity areas in entire corridor.	RFI: reroute to avoid siting new facilities in TCAs and Priority 1 and 2 Connectivity Habitat without existing transmission, and minimize additional transmission siting in these areas. Collect missing data to minimize potential impacts on TCAs. GIS Analysis: desert tortoise critical habitat intersects the corridor.	There is no nearby alternative route that would avoid tortoise habitat and provide the link between Corridor 37-39 and other Section 368 energy corridors. Analysis would be completed through the NEPA process case by case with a full range of alternatives. Impacts on habitat and habitat connectivity may be avoided, minimized, or mitigated through activities identified and implemented in consultation with the USFWS under ESA Section 7. The Agencies collected additional GIS data to identify desert tortoise habitat and have added the data to the corridor abstracts and the Section 368 Energy Corridor Mapping Tool.
Hydrology: Surface Water							
37-39 .010	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark County, NV	Gypsum Wash	MP 8.6	GIS Analysis: Gypsum Wash intersects with corridor.	Wash can be spanned by linear utilities or utilities can be buried under wash.

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Lands and Realty: Civilian and Military Aviation							
37-39 .new2	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark County, NV	Nellis AFB	Entire corridor	Comment on corridor abstract: under Nellis AFB approach- departure corridor.	All obstacles will need to be evaluated when DoD can be provided exact locations and heights to evaluate approach-departure effects.
Lands and Realty: Transportation							
37-39 .011	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark County, NV	Rail lines	MP 4.5 to MP 4.8	GIS Analysis: rail lines cross corridor.	Consistent with BLM ROW regulations, notification to adjacent ROW holders would be provided.
37-39 .012	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark County, NV	I-15	MP 4.8 to MP 5	GIS Analysis: I-15 crosses corridor.	Consistent with BLM ROW regulations, notification to adjacent ROW holders would be provided.
Specially Designated Areas							
37-39 .013	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark County, NV	Coyote Springs ACEC	MP 0 to MP 1.1	GIS Analysis. Comment on corridor abstract via comment on the draft Southern Nevada RMP: if not possible to avoid the ACEC altogether, stakeholders recommend limiting the width of the corridor, to reduce impacts by concentrating future transmission development, especially in areas of high environmental sensitivity. According to stakeholders, BLM should mitigate such potential development by applying highly protective management prescriptions to the remaining lands in the ACEC.	ACEC is a designated avoidance area except within utility corridors. Impacts would be analyzed as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
37-39 .014	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark County, NV	Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT)	MP 7.9 to MP 8.4	GIS Analysis. Comment on corridor abstract: the northern point at which Corridor 37-39 intersects with Corridor 39-113 would put	The OSNHT is a Congressionally designated trail. Adherence to IOPs would be required. Impacts would be analyzed as part of the project- specific environmental review

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						<p>additional pressure on the viewshed of OSNHT. Stakeholders recommended considering a similar perpendicular intersection to the north at the first turning structure from the current proposed interchange with Corridor 39-113 in order to lessen impact (viewshed analysis would be required to confirm that this is the better option from an NHT standpoint).</p>	<p>required under NEPA and other Federal laws. Rerouting the corridor to the perpendicular proposed option would create a potentially greater effect on the OSNHT. There is an existing ROW issued for the development of a 230-kV transmission line through the existing designated corridor. To revise the corridor designation in the same vicinity would add to the existing effect on the OSNHT. Through project-specific environmental reviews, impacts would be analyzed in relation to any other alternatives that would be identified. The OSNHT trail administrator will be advised and invited to attend pre-authorization or pre-application meetings, as applicable in accordance with applicable law. Agencies may not permit proposed uses along congressionally designated National Scenic or Historic Trails [NTSA Sec. 5(a)], which will substantially interfere with the nature and purposes of the trail, and shall make efforts, to the extent practicable, to avoid authorizing activities that are incompatible with the purposes for which such trails were established [NTSA Sec. 7(c)]. While rights-of-way may be granted, conditions shall be related to the policy and purposes</p>

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<p><i>Visual Resources</i></p>							
37-39 .015	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	VRM Class III	Entire corridor	GIS Analysis.	<p>of the National Trails Systems Act [NTSA Sec. 9(a)]. The Agencies recommend an IOP to address development in Section 368 energy corridors while protecting values in Congressionally designated NHTs.</p> <p>VRM class objectives are binding land use plan decisions. Transmission facilities must demonstrate that they will conform to the VRM decisions in the land use plan through a hard-look visual impacts analysis outlined in BLM VRM Contrast Rating Handbook H 8431-1 (VRM Manual Section (MS) 8400, BLM 1986). Minimizing visual contrast remains a requirement of applicable VRM class objectives even when the proposed action is in conformance with these VRM class objectives (VRM MS-8400).</p>
<p><i>Other Issues</i></p>							
37-39 .new3						<p>One stakeholder urged the Agencies to consider transportation, drainage, and all utility uses to be included in the appropriate and acceptable uses for the corridor. Input was provided clarifying existing capacity and potential for new capacity.</p>	<p>The West-wide Energy Corridor RODs designated Section 368 energy corridors for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities to provide long-distance pathways for future pipelines as well as long-distance electrical transmission lines. Therefore, “transportation, drainage, and all utility uses” are generally not considered appropriate and acceptable uses for the designated</p>

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							Section 368 energy corridors. The input provided by stakeholders regarding existing capacity and potential for future capacity has been added to the corridor abstract and has been considered in the Agencies' analysis.

Abbreviations: ACEC = Area of Critical Environmental Concern; AFB = Air Force Base; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; CFR = Code of Federal Regulations; DoD = Department of Defense; ESA = Endangered Species Act; FAA = Federal Aviation Administration; FO = Field Office; GIS = geographic information system; IOP = Interagency Operating Procedures; MP = milepost; NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act; OSNHT = Old Spanish National Historic Trail; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; RFI = Request for Information; RMP = Resource Management Plan; ROW = right-of-way; SEZ = Solar Energy Zone; TCA = Tortoise Conservation Area; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; VRM = Visual Resource Management; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor