

Corridor 39-231

East Las Vegas/Sunrise Mountain

Introduction

Corridor 39-231 extends south in southern Nevada to the east of Las Vegas past Sunrise Mountain, and west of NPS Lake Mead NRA (Figures 1 and 2). Federally designated portions of this corridor are on BLM-administered land. The corridor has a 3,500-ft width over most of its length; however, there is a pinch point of 500-ft. width in the former Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area (ISA) extending from MP 9.5 to MP 11.0. Corridor 39-231 is designated a multi-modal corridor and can therefore accommodate both electrical transmission and pipeline projects. The corridor spans 36.4-miles, with 23.2 miles designated in BLM-administered lands. The designated corridor's area is 8,550 acres or 13.4 square miles. This corridor is entirely in Clark County, Nevada, under the jurisdiction of the BLM Southern Nevada District and the Las Vegas Field Office. The corridor is entirely in Region 1.

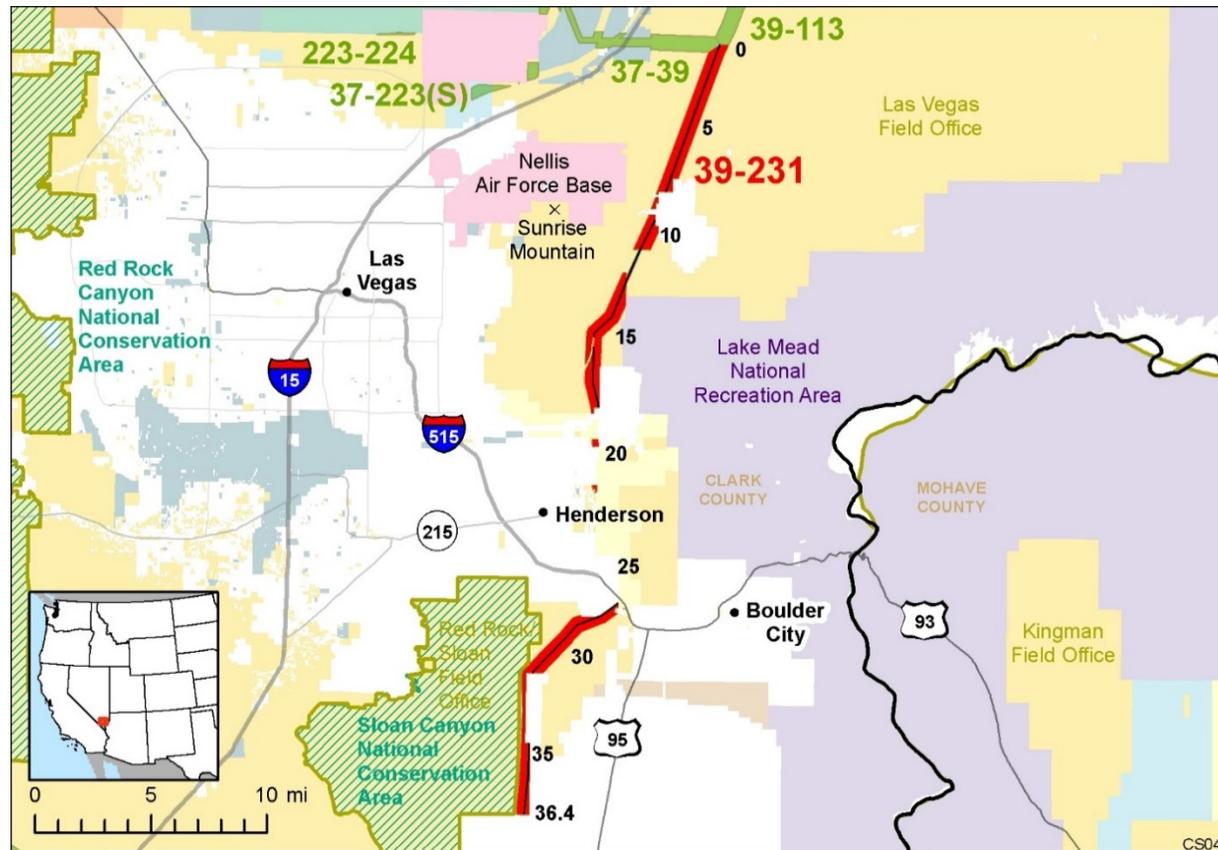
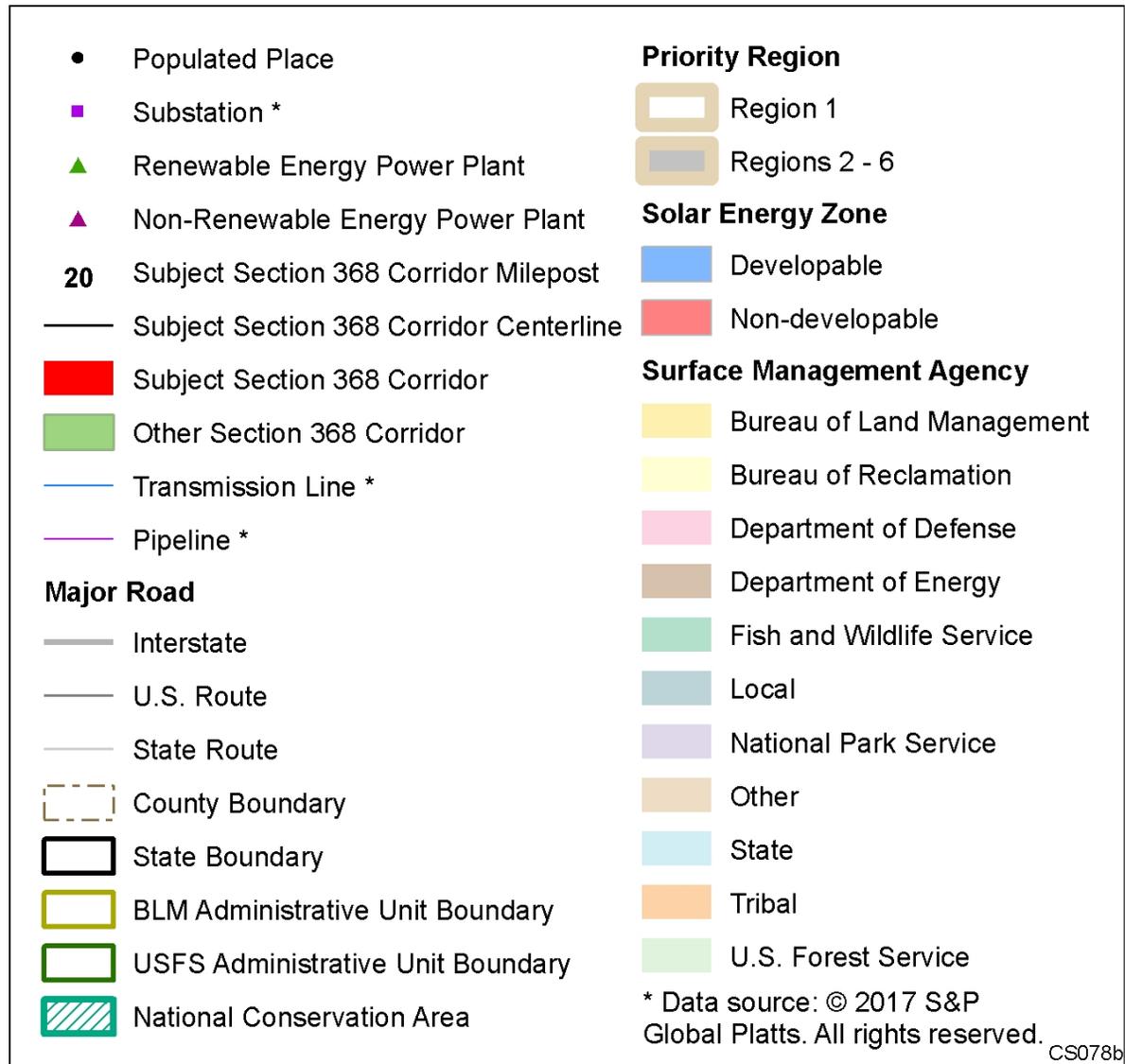


Figure 1. Corridor 39-231



Key

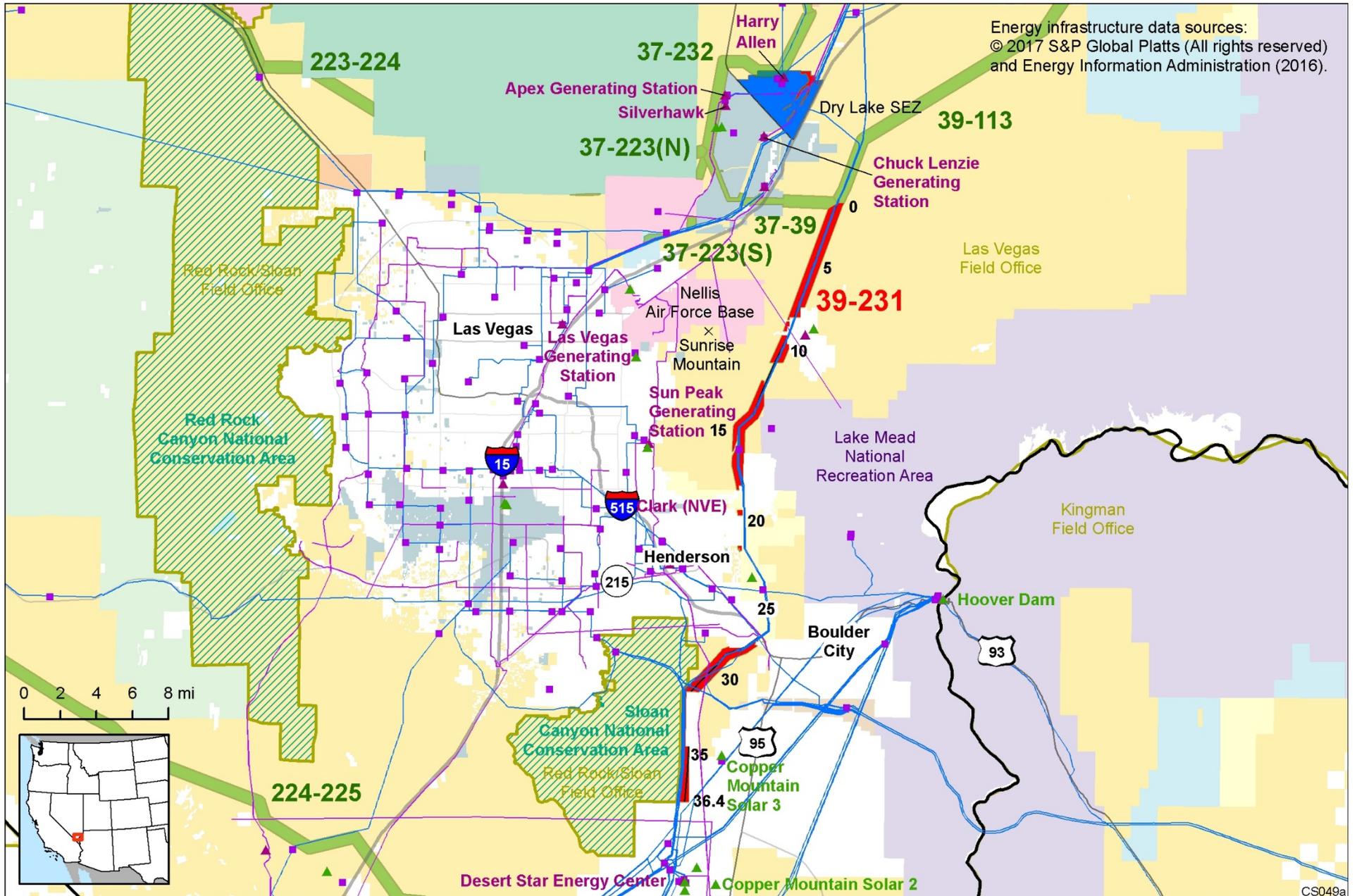


Figure 2. Corridor 39-231, Including Existing Energy Infrastructure

Corridor Rationale

During scoping for the WWEC PEIS, routes generally following this corridor were suggested by Maximus USA, National Grid, Rocky Mountain Area Transmission Study, Western Interconnection Transmission Paths, and the Western Utility Group. The corridor was designated despite the limited width in one section, from MP 9.5 to MP 11.0, to preserve the route for this critical pathway for electrical transmission around the east side of the Las Vegas area.

Existing Infrastructure: Current approved projects occupying parts of the corridor include transmission lines jointly operated by LADWP, Nevada Power Company d/b/a Nevada Energy (NV Energy), and BOR (500 kV DC), and facilities individually operated by LADWP (500 kV DC), NV Energy (500 kV AC), Great Basin Transmission LLC (500 kV AC), and Silver State Energy Association (230 kV AC), all following the full length of the corridor. There are currently no pipelines following the corridor, but some cross it.

Potential Future Development: There have been several indications of interest in additional use of this corridor, such as a pending application for a 600-kV DC transmission line and potential interest in a 500-kV AC transmission line (NV Energy/Sierra Pacific Power Co.), and potential interest in a 500-kV DC transmission line (Zephyr) from Wyoming to southern Nevada for wind energy. Platts data indicate an interest in a 1,000-kV DC line in the corridor, and there is a conceptual route planned by Northern Lights, Inc., that overlaps part of the corridor and generally follows its route. Proposed out-of-state transmission projects that could affect this corridor include the TransWest Express Transmission Project, NV Energy/Sierra Pacific Power Project, and Zephyr Power Transmission Project.

Corridor of Concern Status

Corridor 39-231 is identified as a corridor of concern. Concerns regarding Black Mountain tortoise habitat, the Rainbow Gardens ACEC, the proposed Gold Butte NCA, and the Pahranaगत NWR were identified in the Settlement Agreement. These issues are highlighted in yellow in the Corridor Analysis table below.

Corridor Abstract Update

New data have been added to the Section 368 Energy Corridor Mapping Tool since the release of the draft abstracts in September 2016. A GIS view identifying high-, medium-, and low-conflict areas, consistent with the screening criteria in 43 CFR 2804.35(a)-(c), has also been added to the mapping tool. A complete description of the mapping tool, the high-, medium-, and low-conflict areas, and a list of the GIS data sources are included in the report for the Region 1 regional review.

On the basis of input from stakeholders and additional review by the Agencies, additions to the corridor analysis table include jurisdictional concerns, corridor alignment and spacing, special status species, socioeconomics, specially designated areas, and visual resources.

Revisions, deletions, or additions to Section 368 energy corridors would be made 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 corridors and provide recommendations for revisions, deletions, or additions to the corridors. There were stakeholder recommendations in the 2014 RFI to reroute this corridor to avoid Black Mountain Desert Tortoise Habitat, the Rainbow Gardens ACEC, the proposed Gold Butte NCA, the Pahranaगत NWR, Desert Tortoise conservation areas (TCAs), and Priority 1 & 2 Connectivity Habitat. Suggestions for corridor revisions, deletions, or additions in response to the release of the draft abstracts included the following: 1) avoid impacts on the OSNHT (keep the corridor as narrow as possible in the vicinity of the wash and re-align the corridor so that the pre-existing transmission line represents the western edge of the corridor) and 2) avoid impacts on Lake Mead NRA (expand the corridor west and not into Lake Mead NRA). On the basis of Agency analysis, as well as input provided by stakeholders, a corridor revision is recommended for Corridor

39-231. The Agencies recommend widening the corridor between MP 9.5 and MP 11.0 in the former Sunrise Mountain ISA to improve spatial capacity. The widened corridor would be located alongside existing infrastructure, avoiding undeveloped areas.

Corridor Analysis

The corridor analysis table below identifies the most important concerns affecting Corridor 39-231, the locations 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
- WWEC 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 39-231 – ANALYSIS TABLE							
ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source: Context	Agency Review and Analysis
ENERGY PLANNING CONCERNS							
<i>Physical Barrier</i>							
39-231 .new1	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Reduction in corridor width from private land jurisdiction	MP 7 to MP 8	Comment on corridor abstract: 500-ft pinch point between Gypsum Cave (west) and Papco Gypsum Plant (east) is too narrow for electricity and a utility pipeline, specifically within the Lava Butte area and a rough hog-back ridge along the back side of the corridor between MP 13 and 14 within Section 4, Township 21 South, Range 63 East, Mount Diablo	There is an increased interest in transmission of more power, specifically renewable energy, into the Southwest through the Market Place Hub, particularly through difficult pinch points such as the 1.5-mile Sunrise 500-ft.-wide corridor, which includes topography constraints (the adjacent Lava Butte volcanic mountainous rock) and major residential development (e.g., City of Henderson, community of Lake Las Vegas). The primary area of

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source: Context	Agency Review and Analysis
						Meridian, Clark County, Nevada.	concern is the Lava Butte narrows, where there are three existing 500-kV transmission lines and an additional 500-kV and 230-kV transmission lines approved to be built through the very narrow corridor limited by Lava Butte on one side of the corridor and Rough Hog-Back Ridge along the other side. There have been several indications of interest in additional use of this corridor, such as a pending application for a 600-kV DC transmission line and potential interest in two 500-kV transmission lines. The Lava Butte area is severely constrained by the terrain of the land and the positioning of existing transmission lines within this narrow valley. It will be very difficult to site more than one new line adjacent to the existing lines without impacting the fragile geologic features nearby. 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. Corridors may be modified during project-specific NEPA review and land use plan revisions. The BLM Southern Nevada DO is currently in the process of revising its 1998 Las Vegas RMP.

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source: Context	Agency Review and Analysis
<i>Jurisdictional Concern</i>							
39-231 .003	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Pahranagat NWR	Approximately 60 miles north of this corridor. See Corridor 232-233.	Settlement Agreement: reroute to avoid concern.	This refuge is not adjacent to the corridor.
39-231 .004	BOR	BOR	Clark, NV	Discontinuous section of corridor	MP 16.9 to MP 29.4	GIS Analysis: discontinuous section of corridor includes 2,917 acres of BOR-administered lands that were studied in the WWEC PEIS as part of this corridor, but were not designated.	<p>Coordination and authorization from BOR would be required to traverse this segment.</p> <p>BOR reviews applications for rights-of-use on BOR-administered land within the corridor on a case by case basis. Early coordination with BOR on proposed transmission lines and other facilities is encouraged.</p> <p>Owing to existing and proposed rights-of-use, BOR will retain lands within the corridor instead of including them for relinquishment to the BLM in accordance with the Three Kids Mine Remediation and Reclamation Act of 2014. 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.</p>
39-231 .new2	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Boulder City Conservation Easement	After MP 37 in undesignated area	Comment on abstract: corridor intersects BCCE, which is managed by the Clark County Desert Conservation Program as partial mitigation for impacts to desert tortoise under a regional Section 10 incidental take permit. BLM maintains administrative authority over	Section 368 energy corridor designations can only occur on BLM- and USFS-administered lands. Corridor 39-231 does not intersect the Boulder City Conservation Easement. The corridor connects to existing designated transportation and utility corridors reserved to the United States for administration by the BLM when those

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						the utility corridors located in the easement; therefore, any disturbance within these corridors would be permitted and mitigated through Section 7, not Section 10, processes.	lands were transferred (patented) out of Federal ownership. The designated transportation and utility corridors, commonly referred as the Eldorado Valley Corridors, follow existing infrastructure within the patent area and adjacent to the easement. Impacts would be analyzed with a full range of alternatives as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
Corridor Alignment and Spacing							
39-231 .005	BLM	Las Vegas FO, NV	Clark, NV	Multiple transmission lines and a pipeline	MP 26.3 to MP 30.3	GIS Analysis: multiple transmission lines and a pipeline cross the corridor at various angles, using it inefficiently.	The extent from MP 30.2 to 33.0 includes several ROWs for electric transmission, an electric monitoring site, fiber optics, and natural gas lines. 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.
39-231 .new3		Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Pinch point similar to 39-231 .013		Pinch point in undesignated gap in the corridor near Las Vegas Wash.	This general location and locations to the south could be difficult to navigate because of the narrow area with private development on both sides and multiple lines already going through.
39-231 .new4	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	500-ft pinch point at former Sunrise Mountain ISA	MP 9.5 to MP 10.9	Comment on the corridor abstract: the release of the Sunrise Mountain ISA through legislation passed in December 2014, for the purpose of broadening the pinch point that constricts additional (if needed) transmission lines in the area. Consider whether widening the corridor (as identified in the	In January 2014, through an appropriations act, Congress released the ISA; however, the width of the corridor was unchanged. BLM is proposing to increase the corridor width from 500 ft. to 3,500 ft. because the route is a critical pathway for electrical transmission around the east side of the Las Vegas area, and the pinch point prevents additional capacity for future infrastructure development.

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						draft RMP revision) is necessary.	
39-231 .001	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Four 500-kV transmission lines and a 230-kV line	MP 9.5 to MP 11.0	GIS Analysis: 500-ft-wide section in the former Sunrise Mountain ISA is occupied by several transmission lines.	In January 2014, through an appropriations act, Congress released the ISA; however, the width of the corridor was unchanged. BLM is proposing to increase the corridor width from 500 ft. to 3,500 ft.
39-231 .002	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	5 transmission lines (3 230-kV, a 500-kV, and a 1000-kV)	MP 30.2 to MP 33.4	GIS Analysis.	The approx. 3,500-ft.-wide corridor extent is located within MDM, T.23S., R.63E., Secs. 3–5, 8, 9, 18 and 17. There are several ROWs, such as Western Area Power Administration 750-kV TL (Nev-65524), LADWP 500-kV TL (N-10683) and 500-kV TL (N-4790), NV Energy 500-kV TL (N-76327), 230-kV TL (N-7299), and 230-kV TL (N-2557), and Great Basin Transmission LLC 500-kV TL (N-86359); and a natural gas line ROW held by Southwest Gas Corporation (Nev-43646). 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.
LAND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS							
<i>Cultural and Tribal Resources</i>							
39-231 .007	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Gypsum Cave	Not specified	GIS Analysis.	This is a Traditional Cultural Property that is partially located within the corridor. Adherence to IOPs would be required; however, note that the Agency, not the applicant or the applicant's contractor, is responsible for cultural compliance and tribal consultation. The applicant may assist, with the approval of the agency.

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source: Context	Agency Review and Analysis
Ecology: Special Status Plant Species							
39-231 .008	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Designated critical habitat	Not specified.	GIS Analysis: No designated critical habitat intersects corridor. See Rainbow Gardens ACEC.	The Rainbow Gardens ACEC was designated for a sensitive plant species (Las Vegas Bearpoppy). The ACEC is managed as an avoidance area except within the designated corridor. The corridor goes through mapped sensitive plant species habitat and sensitive plant populations. However, it is difficult to mitigate these impacts because Las Vegas Bearpoppy has not been successfully transplanted or grown from seed. BLM’s policy on mitigation hierarchy would be applied to first avoid and minimize impacts. Minimization and mitigation measures would be required to offset potential impacts on special-status plant species and habitat within the ACEC.
Ecology: Special Status Animal Species							
39-231 .009 .010 .011	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Black Mountain Desert Tortoise habitat; TCAs and Priority 1 and 2 Connectivity Habitat	Full corridor extent.	Settlement Agreement and RFI: reroute to avoid concern; Comment on corridor abstract: 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. The gap that contains sensitive privately owned land has the effect of inducing development on that private land, possibly by eminent domain.	There is no nearby alternative route that would avoid Desert Tortoise habitat and preserve the route for the critical transmission pathway around the east side of the Las Vegas area in a corridor with existing infrastructure. There is no Black Mountain-specific Desert Tortoise habitat: Desert Tortoise habitat is present in the entire corridor. There is no TCA within the subject area on BLM-administered land. There is a TCA within private land (Boulder City), which is managed under the Boulder City Conservation Easement and may be mitigated under an MSHCP Section 10 permit. Analysis would be completed through the NEPA process on a case-by-

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							case basis with a full range of alternatives. BLM's policy on use of the mitigation hierarchy would be applied to avoid and minimize impacts. Impacts to habitat and connectivity could be avoided, minimized, or mitigated through activities identified and implemented in consultation with the USFWS under ESA Section 7.
Hydrology: Surface Water and Groundwater							
39-231 .024	BOR	BOR	Clark, NV	Robert B. Griffith Water Project	MP 17.0 to MP 36.4	GIS Analysis: Robert B. Griffith Water Project along corridor route is Federally administered, but not designated.	The referenced extent includes BLM-administered land. Coordination with holders of valid existing rights (i.e., BOR) would be required. 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.
39-231 .012	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Wash	MP 7.8	GIS Analysis: wash crosses corridor path at undesignated gap in the corridor.	Linear ROWs can span a wash to minimize impact on the wash or potential riparian vegetation.
39-231 .013	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Las Vegas Wash	MP 17.1	GIS Analysis: Las Vegas Wash crosses corridor path at undesignated gap in the corridor.	Linear ROWs can span a wash to minimize impact on the wash or potential riparian vegetation. However, this general location and the area to the south could be difficult to navigate because of the narrow area with development on either side and multiple lines already going through.
39-231 .014	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Unconsolidated sand and gravel aquifers, Basin and Range basin-fill aquifers	MP 0 to MP 21, MP 29.6 to MP 36.4	GIS Analysis: unconsolidated sand and gravel aquifers, Basin and Range basin-fill aquifers	The area disturbed by utilities is not significant and would not impact recharge to Basin and Range basin-fill aquifers.
Lands and Realty: Transportation							
39-231 .015	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Railroad	MP 4.9 to MP 5.7	GIS Analysis: railroad crosses corridor.	There are two ROWs held by PABCO Gypsum for railroad (N-54508) and tram

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							log road (Nev-49389), that traverse the corridor through T.19S., R.63E., Secs. 25 and 36; and T.19S., R.64E., Secs. 30 and 31. Exclusive use of these ROWs is under review. Consistent with BLM ROW regulations, notification to adjacent ROW holders would be provided.
39-231 .016	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	US Highway 93	MP 25.3	GIS Analysis: US Highway 93 crosses corridor path at undesignated gap in the corridor.	Coordination and authorization from NDOT would be required to traverse this segment. Adherence to IOPs required. Consistent with BLM ROW regulations, notification to adjacent ROW holders would be provided.
39-231 .017	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Railroad	MP 25.4	GIS Analysis: railroad crosses corridor.	This area contains a railroad crossing and non-BLM land (i.e., BOR-withdrawn land), with Hwy-95. Coordination with the railroad and adherence to IOPs would be required. Consistent with BLM ROW regulations, notification to adjacent ROW holders would be provided,
Public Access and Recreation							
39-231 .018	NPS	NPS	Clark, NV	LMNRA	MP 11.6 to MP 16.9	GIS Analysis: Lake Mead National NRA abutting and near corridor on the east side. Comment on corridor abstract: corridor borders Lake Mead NRA at MP 12 before veering west. Expand the corridor west, and not into Lake Mead NRA.	Corridor width reduced owing to proximity of NPS land within T.20S., R.63E., Secs. 27 and 34. 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.
Socioeconomics							
39-231 .new5	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Impacts on residents of Lake Las Vegas	MP 15 to MP 25	Comment on corridor abstract: minimize impacts on the residents of the area; space is limited and existing lines are in close proximity to residential	Impacts would be analyzed through the NEPA process case by case with a full range of alternatives.

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						development and along east side of the city. Require entitlements and permits prior to construction.	
<i>Specially Designated Areas</i>							
39-231 .019	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	OSNHT	MP 0.0 to MP 1.1	GIS Analysis: OSNHT is within 350 ft. of west side of corridor.	The OSNHT is a Congressionally designated trail. Adherence to IOPs would be required; however, note that the Agency, not the applicant or the applicant’s contractor, is responsible for cultural compliance and tribal consultation. The applicant may assist, with the approval of the Agency.
39-231 .025	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	OSNHT	MP 17.2	Comment on corridor abstract: keep the corridor as narrow as possible in the vicinity of the wash and re-align the corridor so that the pre-existing transmission line represents the western edge of the corridor; GIS Analysis: nearly perpendicular crossing of OSNHT with undesignated portion of corridor across BOR-administered land.	Perpendicular crossing of the OSNHT. Adherence to IOPs would be required; however, note that the Agency, not the applicant or the applicant’s contractor, is responsible for cultural compliance and tribal consultation. The applicant may assist, with the approval of the agency. The Agencies have identified the need for an IOP to address development in Section 368 energy corridors while protecting values in Congressionally designated NHTs. 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

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							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 of the National Trails Systems Act [NTSA Sec. 9(a)]. There is no nearby alternative route that would avoid these areas and preserve the route for the critical transmission pathway around the east side of the Las Vegas area in a corridor with existing infrastructure.
39-231.021	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Rainbow Gardens ACEC	MP 6.1 to MP 16.9	Settlement Agreement; Comment on corridor abstract: stakeholder recommended reroute to avoid concern.	The corridor traverses the Rainbow Gardens ACEC and the Sunrise SRMA. The ACEC is a linear ROW avoidance area and a site-type ROW exclusion area. Consistent with the 1998 Las Vegas RMP (BLM 1998), public land outside of the 500-ft-wide corridor, which is within the Rainbow Gardens ACEC, must be managed as a ROW “avoidance area.” There is no nearby alternative route that would avoid these areas and preserve the route for the critical transmission pathway around the east side of the Las Vegas area in a corridor with existing infrastructure. Analysis would be completed through the NEPA process on a case-by-case basis with a full range of alternatives. BLM’s policy on use of the mitigation hierarchy would be applied to avoid and minimize impacts. Impacts on habitat and habitat connectivity could be avoided, minimized, or mitigated

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							through activities identified and implemented in consultation with the USFWS under ESA Section 7.
39-231 .022	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Proposed Gold Butte NCA	Not in corridor	Settlement Agreement: reroute to avoid concern.	The proposed NCA was not designated. The Gold Butte National Monument was designated, but is located more than 10 miles away from the corridor.
39-231 .023	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Sunrise Mountain ISA	MP 9.5 to MP 10.9	GIS Analysis.	In January 2014, through an appropriations act, Congress released the ISA from further wilderness consideration.
39-231 .026	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	River Mountains ACEC	MP 19.7 to MP 22.0	GIS Analysis: River Mountains ACEC is east of the corridor.	Corridor skirts through ~2-mile segment of the westerly edge of the ACEC within the northerly and southerly extent of MP 25.0. This ACEC is currently managed as an avoidance area to protect desert bighorn sheep habitat and scenic values. Except within designated corridors, this ACEC is managed as an avoidance area for linear ROWs (i.e., power lines, pipelines). There is no nearby alternative route that would avoid these areas and preserve the route for the critical transmission pathway around the east side of the Las Vegas area in a corridor with existing infrastructure. Analysis would be completed through the NEPA process on a case-by-case basis 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.
39-231 .027	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Sloan Canyon NCA	MP 30.3 to MP 36.4	GIS Analysis.	Corridor width is reduced owing to proximity to the NCA, where the

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							corridor narrows to approximately 2,000 feet. Corridor does not traverse the NCA.
39-231 .new6					MP 17.0 to MP 36.4	BOR-administered land along the corridor was withdrawn for the Robert B. Griffith water project. Project facilities such as pipelines and a water treatment plant are owned and administered by the Southern Nevada Water Authority in an undesignated portion of the corridor from MP 17.0 to MP 36.4.	Coordination with holders of valid existing rights (i.e., Southern Nevada Water Authority, City of Henderson) would be required for development through the Robert B. Griffith Water Project.
<i>Visual Resources</i>							
39-231 .028	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	VRM Class III	MP 0 to MP 17.2, MP 29.1 to MP 37.0	GIS Analysis.	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).
39-231 .new7	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	VRM Class IV	MP 20.3 to MP 29.2	GIS Analysis.	While VRM Class IV objectives allow for major modification to occur and management activities may dominate the view, minimizing visual contrast remains a requirement of these VRM class objectives. Ratings are required in areas of high sensitivity or high impact (VRM MS-8400).

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Other Issues							
39-231 .new8						One stakeholder requested that the Agencies analyze current power being transmitted in the corridor as well as information about pending applications to establish need and/or opportunity to retrofit existing infrastructure. There was concern about whether the corridor abstracts accurately describe the existing capacity and the potential for new capacity in the corridor. Input was received requesting that the Agencies collect missing data to minimize potential impacts on TCAs and that all concerns identified in the Settlement Agreement be addressed with updated data. Last, input was provided clarifying existing infrastructure and capacity and the potential for new capacity.	The Agencies collected additional GIS data about pending applications and existing infrastructure, as well as new designations and species connectivity and habitat, and have added the data to the corridor abstracts and the Section 368 Energy Corridor Mapping Tool. The input provided by stakeholders regarding existing capacity and potential for future capacity has been added to the corridor abstracts and has been considered in the Agencies’ analysis.

Abbreviations: ACEC = Area of Critical Environmental Concern; BCCE = Boulder City Conservation Easement; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; BOR = Bureau of Reclamation; ESA = Endangered Species Act; FO = Field Office; GIS = geographic information system; IOP = Interagency Operating Procedures; ISA = instant study area; LADWP = Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; MDM = Mount Diablo Meridian; MP = milepost; MSHCP = Multispecies Habitat Conservation Plan; NCA = National Conservation Area; NDOT = Nevada Department of Transportation; NPS = National Park Service; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; OSNHT = Old Spanish National Historic Trail; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; RFI = Request for Information; ROW = right-of-way; 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.