

Corridor 44-239

Oasis to Wendover

Corridor Rationale

This energy corridor provides transmission potential into Salt Lake City and provides a linkage between multiple West-wide energy corridors. Input regarding alignment from the Frontier Line during the WWEC PEIS suggested following this route. A planned 500-kV electric transmission line generally follows the path of the corridor. There are no pending or recently authorized ROW applications for transmission lines or pipelines within the corridor.

Corridor location:

Nevada (Elko Co.)

Utah (Tooele Co.)

BLM: Salt Lake and Wells Field Offices
Regional Review Region(s): Region 3

Corridor width, length:

Width 3,500 ft (Salt Lake Field Office)
and 15,840 (Wells Field Office)

64.6 miles of designated corridor

131.9 mile-posted route, including gaps

Sec 368 energy corridor restrictions:

(N)

- corridor is multi-modal

Corridor of concern (N)



Figure 1. Corridor 44-239

Corridor history:

- Locally designated corridor prior to 2009 (Y)
- Existing infrastructure (Y)
 - Electric transmission:
 - 138 kV (MP 0 to MP 28)
 - 138 kV (MP 124 to MP 132)
 - I-80 (MP 0 to MP 27)
 - Railroad (MP 6 to MP 28 and MP 93 to MP 98)
- Energy potential near the corridor (N)
- Corridor changes since 2009 (Y)
 - Portion of corridor on BLM-administered lands in the Salt Lake Field Office between MP 40 to MP 132 not designated due to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (October 5, 1999). These areas are depicted in gray in Figures 1 and 2.
 - 2015 NVCA ARMPA for GRSG narrowed ROW corridors within PHMAs and GHMAs to no more than 3,500 ft.

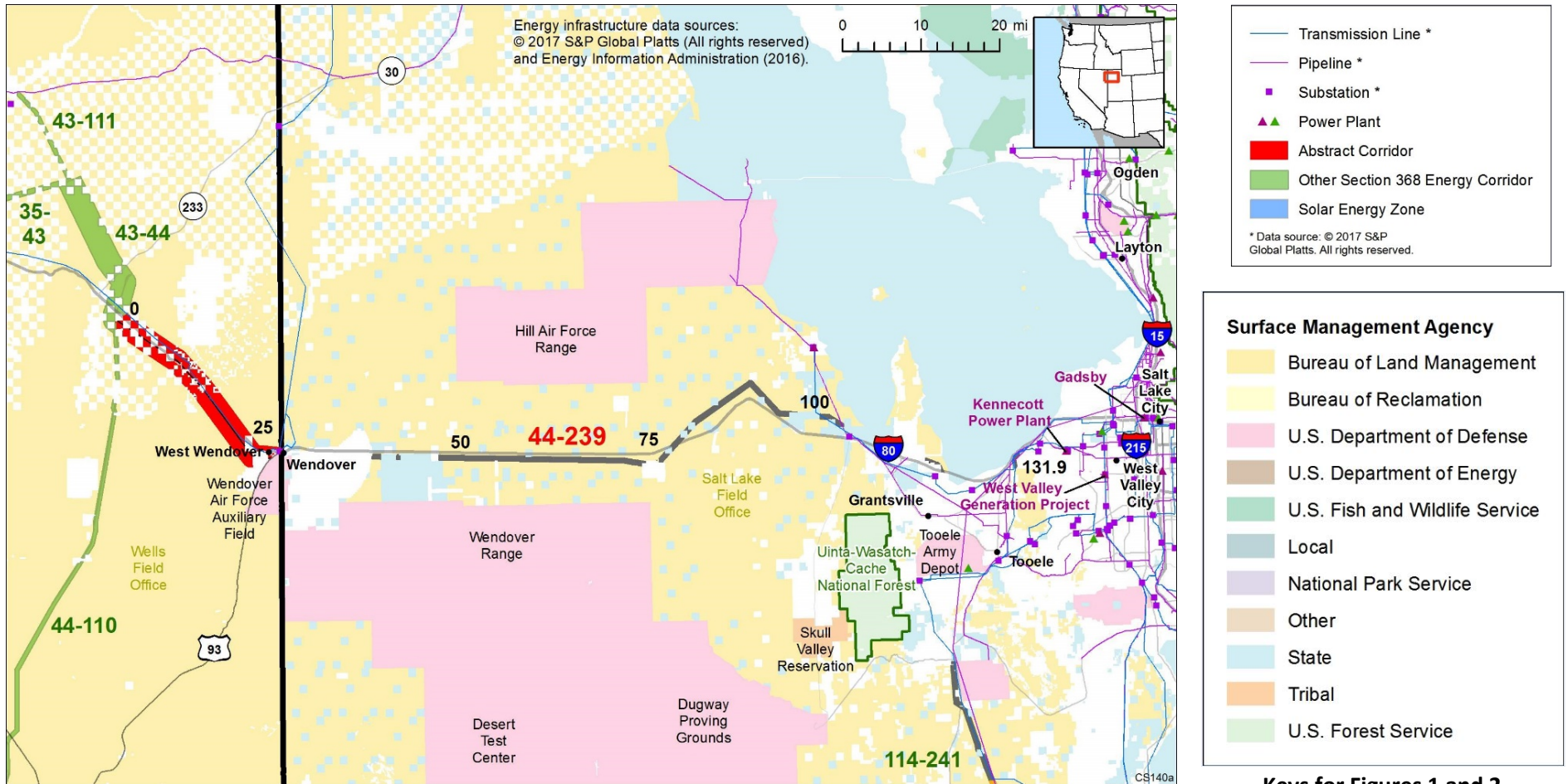


Figure 2. Corridor 44-239 and nearby electric transmission lines and pipelines

Conflict Map Analysis

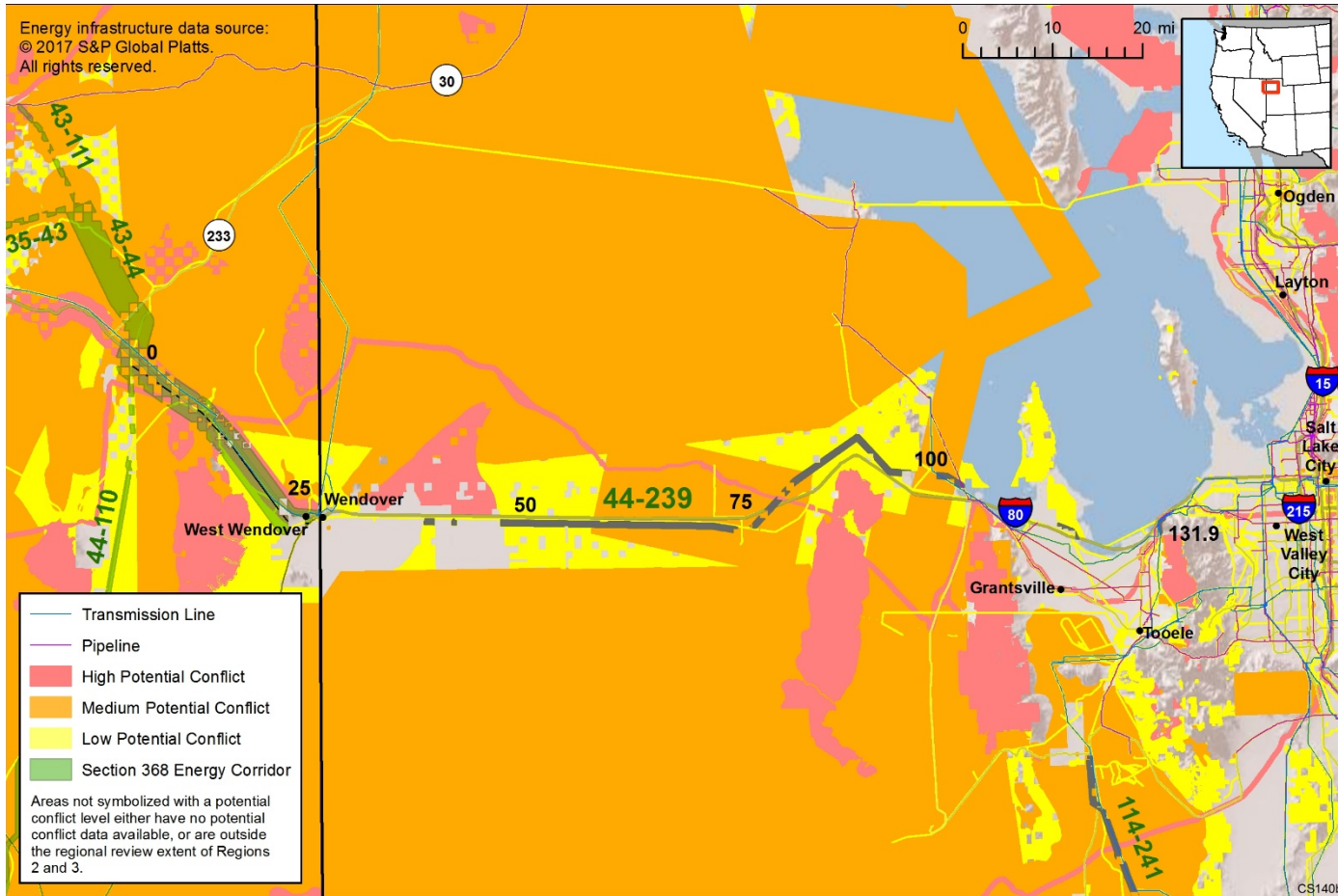


Figure 3. Map of Conflict Areas in Vicinity of Corridor 44-239

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

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

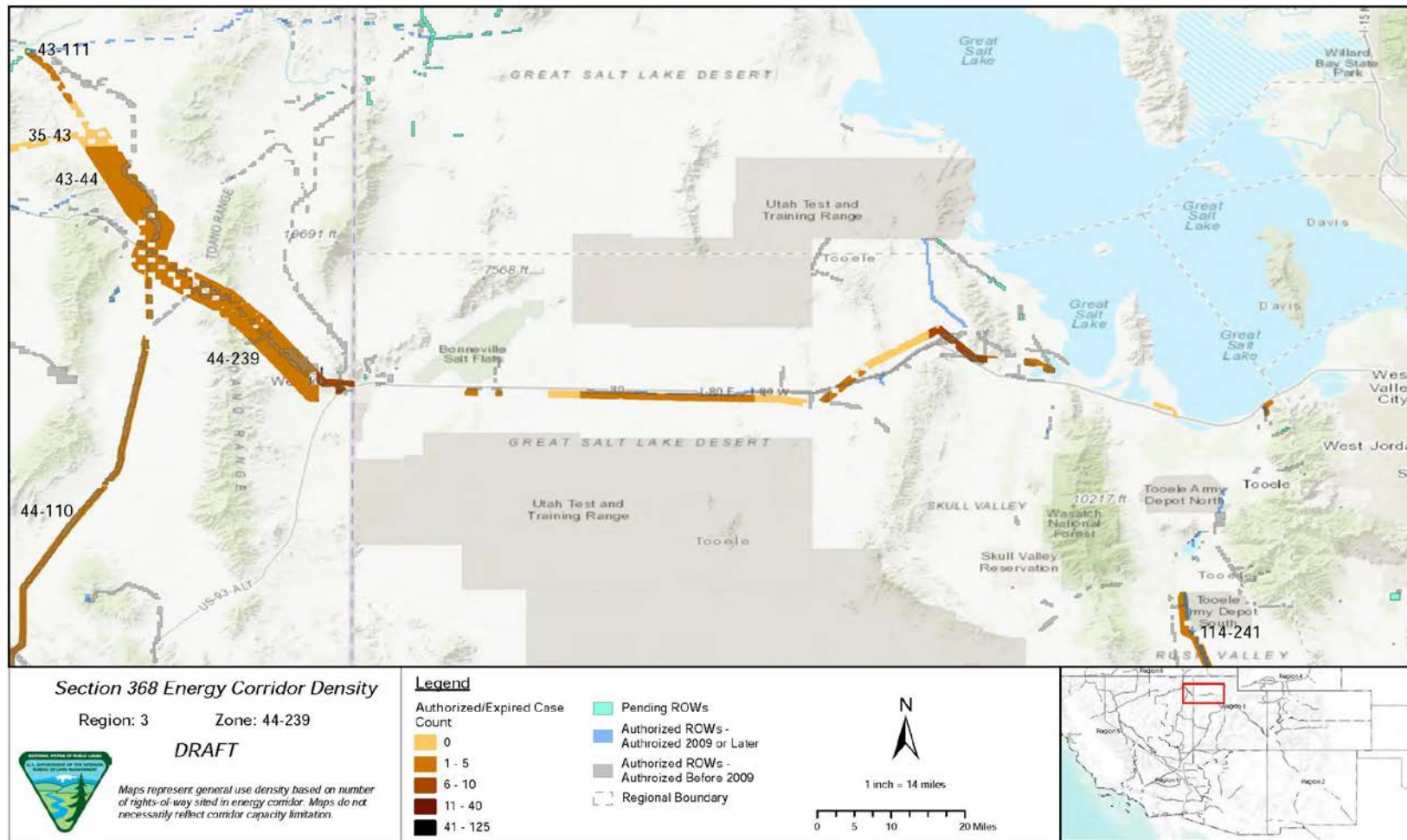


Figure 4. Corridor 44-239, Corridor Density Map

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

General Stakeholder Feedback on Corridor Utility

Stakeholders did not provide specific input on corridor utility.

Corridor Review Table

The table below captures details of the Agencies' review of the energy corridor. Consideration of the general corridor siting principles of the 2012 Settlement Agreement framed each corridor review, to identify potential improvements to maximize corridor utility and minimize impacts on the environment. Initial Agency analysis is provided to facilitate further discussion during stakeholder workshops.

CORRIDOR 44-239 REVIEW TABLE							
ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1,2}
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE ISSUES							
<i>Specially Designated Areas</i>							
44-239 .001	BLM	Salt Lake FO	Tooele, UT	California NHT	MP 3 to MP 11 MP 81, MP 132	GIS Analysis: NHT intersects or is adjacent to corridor	There is an opportunity for the Agencies to consider adding an IOP for NSTs and NHTs as well as adding an IOP related to Visual Resources to ensure appropriate consideration occurs with proposed development within the energy corridor. (2)
44-239 .002	BLM	Wells FO	Elko, NV	Four Trails Feasibility Study Trail	MP 3 to MP 11	GIS Analysis: Four Trails feasibility study trail intersects corridor	There is an opportunity for the Agencies to consider adding an IOP for NSTs and NHTs as well as adding an IOP related to Visual Resources to ensure appropriate consideration occurs with proposed development within the energy corridor. (2)
44-239 .003	BLM	Wells FO	Elko, NV	Bluebell WSA	MP 19 to MP 22	GIS Analysis: WSA as close as 1 mi southwest of corridor and corridor gap on private land.	WSAs are an important resource that are considered carefully during corridor planning. The corridor's current location does not intersect the WSA and best meets the siting principles (1).
44-239 .004	BLM	Salt Lake FO	Tooele, UT	Bonneville Salt Flats ACEC	MP 40 to MP 43	GIS Analysis: ACEC as close as 2 mi north of corridor	The corridor in this location has not been designated due to the National Defense Authorization Act (Section 2815(d) of Public Law 106-65). At such time the restriction is lifted, the

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							optimal corridor location would be examined prior to designation. Also, the corridor's current location does not intersect the ACEC and best meets the siting principles. (1)
44-239 .005	BLM	Salt Lake FO	Tooele, UT	Knolls SRMA	MP 64 to MP 75	Agency Input: SRMA as close as 1 mi south of corridor	The corridor in this location has not been designated due to the National Defense Authorization Act (Section 2815(d) of Public Law 106-65). At such time the restriction is lifted, the optimal corridor location would be examined prior to designation. Also, the corridor's current location does not intersect the SRMA and best meets the siting principles. (1)
44-239 .006	BLM	Salt Lake FO	Tooele, UT	Cedar Mountains Wilderness	MP 88 to MP 98	Agency Input: Wilderness Area is just outside 2 mi distance south of corridor.	The corridor in these locations has not been designated due to the National Defense Authorization Act (Section 2815(d) of Public Law 106-65). At such time the restriction is lifted, the optimal corridor location would be examined prior to designation. Also, the corridor's current location does not intersect these locations and best meets the siting principles. (1)
44-239 .007	BLM	Salt Lake FO	Tooele, UT	North Stansbury WIA	MP 108 to MP 110	Agency Input: WIA within 2 mi south of corridor.	
Ecology							
44-239 .008	BLM	Wells FO	Elko, NV	GRSG (BLM and USFS sensitive species)	MP 0 to MP 9	GIS Analysis: GRSG GHMA intersects corridor. Comment on abstract: apply a 4-mi buffer around corridor. This corridor contains 25,299 acres of GRSG GHMA. This category of habitat are important for the GRSG life cycle.	Per BLM land use plan prescription, the current alignment avoids PHMA to the greatest extent possible while maintaining a preferred route for potential future energy development to be collocated with existing and proposed infrastructure (per BLM regulation). The corridor was also narrowed to a maximum of 3,500 ft wide during the 2015 NVCA ARMPA for the GRSG. The current alignment of the corridor best meets the siting principles. (1)

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44-239 .009				Ute Ladies'-tresses, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Not specified.	<p>Comment on abstract: threatened and endangered species that may occur along this corridor include Ute Ladies'-tresses and Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo.</p> <p>Projects taking place in this corridor may require ESA Section 7 consultation with the USFWS. Recommend that projects within this corridor are evaluated for impacts to listed species and their habitats, and measures are included to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts.</p>	This corridor location within the current range where the Ute Ladies'-tresses, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Jones Cycladenia may occur is not easily resolved or avoided by corridor-level planning. Further analysis to determine the presence of these species occurring within the area will be considered outside of corridor-level planning. (3)
44-239 .010				Special Status Species	Not specified.	<p>Comment on abstract: Additional species not identified in the corridor abstract may be present: Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Jones Cycladenia, and Ute Ladies'-tresses.</p> <p>Conduct further analysis to determine the presence of abovementioned species.</p>	
44-239 .011	BLM	Wells FO	Elko, NV	Mule Deer	MP 5 to MP 12	Comment on abstract: these areas have been identified as crucial winter habitat for Mule Deer and should be avoided if at all possible. If avoidance is not possible, extra planning and/or measures should be incorporated to reduce or minimize impacts to this habitat.	Ungulate winter habitat is an important consideration but further analysis of this species is not a consideration for corridor-level planning. (3).
Air Quality							
44-239 .012	BLM	Salt Lake FO	Tooele, UT	Air Quality	Entire length of corridor	Agency Input: this section of the corridor could occur within a non-attainment area.	The corridor in this location has not been designated due to the National Defense Authorization Act (Section

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							<p>2815(d) of Public Law 106-65). At such time the restriction is lifted, the optimal corridor location would be examined prior to designation.</p> <p>Not generally a consideration for corridor-level planning. At the project-level, any new project would need to take non-attainment into consideration. IOPs would be followed to minimize fugitive dust generation. (3)</p>
Paleontological Resources							
44-239 .013	BLM	Salt Lake FO	Tooele, UT	Potential for paleontological resources	Not specified.	<p>Agency Input: the corridor crosses sediments of Lake Bonneville, low concern. PFYC Class 4-5 will require surveys; PFYC Class 3 may require surveys depending upon the location. Proposed ground disturbing activities will require assessments, possible mitigation and or monitoring depending on findings.</p>	<p>The corridor in this location has not been designated due to the National Defense Authorization Act (Section 2815(d) of Public Law 106-65). At such time the restriction is lifted, the optimal corridor location would be examined prior to designation.</p> <p>The identified potential of paleontological resources is a concern for the Agencies, which cannot be resolved during corridor-level planning. Assessments will occur as part of the ROW application process. (3)</p>
Visual Resources							
44-239 .014	BLM	Wells FO, Salt Lake FO	Elko, NV and Tooele, UT	VRM Class II	<p>MP 0 to MP 28, MP 132</p> <p>MP 3 to MP 11</p>	<p>GIS Analysis: VRM Class II area and corridor intersect.</p> <p>Agency Input: corridor is within VRM Class II and crosses over Four Trails Study Trail/California NHT, increasing the potential conflict with VRM class objective.</p>	<p>There is an opportunity for the Agencies to consider adding an IOP for NSTs and NHTs as well as adding an IOP related to Visual Resources to ensure appropriate consideration occurs with proposed development within the energy corridor. (2)</p>
44-239 .015	BLM	Wells FO, Salt Lake FO	Elko, NV and Tooele, UT	VRM Class III	MP 10 to MP 13, MP 132	GIS Analysis: VRM Class III areas and corridor intersect.	VRM Class III allows for moderate change to the characteristic landscape,

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1,2}
					MP 132	Agency Input: VRM Class III area of corridor is nearly adjacent to California NHT; existing 138-kV transmission line adjacent to Trail.	although minimizing visual contrast remains a requirement. Management activities may attract the attention of the casual observer, but shall not dominate the view. (1)
44-239 .016	BLM	Wells FO, Salt Lake FO	Elko, NV and Tooele, UT	VRM Class IV	MP 0 to MP 6, MP 14 to MP 25, MP 28 to MP 120	GIS Analysis: VRM Class IV areas intersect	The existing corridor location best meets the siting principles. (1)
Cultural Resources							
44-239 .017	DoD	Wendover Range	Toole, UT	Wendover AFB	MP 29	GIS Analysis: property listed on NRHP in a corridor gap.	These NRHP properties are not in the designated corridor and are therefore not a consideration for corridor-level planning. Section 106 process would be followed to identify any possible impact of development during the ROW application process. (3)
44-239 .018	NA	Private land	Toole, UT	Benson Mill	MP 129	GIS Analysis: property listed on NRHP in a corridor gap.	
44-239 .019			Elko, NV	Hastings Cutoff, cultural sites	Not specified.	Agency Input.	Cultural sites are a concern for the Agencies that cannot be resolved during corridor-level planning. Existing IOPs specific to cultural resources and tribal consultation would be followed in connection with any proposed energy project in the corridor. (3)
Land Use Concerns							
Military and Civilian Aviation							
44-239 .020	DoD	Wendover Range	Tooele, UT	Wendover Airport	MP 28 to MP 30	GIS Analysis: airport intersects corridor gap.	BLM can only authorize projects on BLM-administered land. Development in corridor gaps would require coordination outside of the Agencies. (3)
44-239 .021	BLM	Wells FO, Salt Lake FO	Elko, NV and Tooele, UT	MTR– VR	MP 4 to MP 13, MP 59 to MP 86	GIS Analysis: VR intersects corridor. Comment on abstract: corridor is adjacent to the Utah Test and Training Range Operations. All Restricted Airspace needs to be	The concern related to MTRs is noted and the adherence to existing IOP regarding coordination with DoD would be required to ensure this potential conflict is considered at the appropriate time. In addition, there is an opportunity to consider a revision to

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1,2}
						avoided due to hazardous operations and access to any sites. Height should be no higher than existing structures if outside the Restricted Airspace.	the existing IOP to include height restrictions for corridors in the vicinity of DoD training routes. (2)
44-239 .022	BLM	Salt Lake FO	Tooele, UT	MTR– IR	MP 100 to MP 105	<p>GIS Analysis: IR intersects corridor.</p> <p>Comment on abstract: corridor is adjacent to the Utah Test and Training Range Operations. All Restricted Airspace needs to be avoided due to hazardous operations and access to any sites. Height should be no higher than existing structures if outside the Restricted Airspace.</p>	<p>The corridor in this location has not been designated due to the National Defense Authorization Act (Section 2815(d) of Public Law 106-65). At such time the restriction is lifted, the optimal corridor location would be examined prior to designation.</p> <p>The concern related to MTRs is noted and the adherence to existing IOP regarding coordination with DoD would be required to ensure this potential conflict is considered at the appropriate time. There is an opportunity to consider the addition of an Agency Coordination IOP with DoD to mitigate potential impacts pre-emptively by coordinating at early stages of energy infrastructure proposals to avoid adverse impacts on training activities. (2)</p>
44-239 .023	BLM	Wells FO	Elko, NV	DoD SUA - MOA	MP 0 to MP 13	<p>GIS Analysis: MOA intersects corridor.</p> <p>Comment on abstract: corridor is adjacent to the Utah Test and Training Range Operations. All Restricted Airspace needs to be avoided due to hazardous operations and access to any sites. Height should be no higher than existing structures if outside the Restricted Airspace.</p>	<p>The concern related to MTRs is noted and the adherence to existing IOP regarding coordination with DoD would be required to ensure this potential conflict is considered at the appropriate time. In addition, there is an opportunity to consider a revision to the existing IOP to include height restrictions for corridors in the vicinity of DoD training routes. (2)</p>

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<i>Other noted land use concerns</i>							
44-239 .024	DoD	Wendover Air Force Auxiliary Field	Elko, NV	Wendover Air Force Auxiliary Field	MP 27 to MP 28	GIS Analysis: field adjacent to corridor.	Current IOPs ensure coordination with DoD on any proposed development within the energy corridor. (2)
44-239 .025	DoD	Wendover Range	Tooele, UT	Wendover Range	MP 28 to MP 30	GIS Analysis: range in corridor gap.	
44-239 .026	State	State lands	Tooele, UT	Great Salt Lake	MP 104 to MP 123	GIS Analysis: Great Salt Lake in corridor gap.	BLM does not manage the Great Salt Lake. BLM can only authorize projects on BLM-administered land. Development in corridor gaps would require coordination outside of the Agencies. (3)
44-239 .027	BLM	Wells FO	Wendover, UT	Existing structures	MP 25 to MP 28	GIS Analysis: corridor contains Wendover, UT, Wendover airfield, railroad, I-80, and evaporative ponds.	Existing structures could affect the potential for additional development within the corridor. (3)

¹ Projects proposed in the corridor would be reviewed during their ROW application review process and would adhere to Federal laws, regulations, and policy.

² (1) = confirm existing corridor best meets siting principles; (2) = identify opportunities to improve corridor placement or IOPs; (3) = acknowledge concern not easily resolved or avoided by corridor-level planning.

Abstract Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFB = Air Force Base; ARMPA = Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment; AWEA = American Wind Energy Association; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; DoD = Department of Defense; ESA = Endangered Species Act; FO = Field Office; GHMA = General Habitat Management Area; GIS = geographic information system; GRSG = Greater Sage Grouse; IOP = Interagency Operating Procedure; IR = Instrument Route; MOA = Military Operations Area; MP = milepost; MTR = Military Training Route; NA = not applicable; NHT = National Historic Trail; NRHP = National Register of Historic Places; NST = National Scenic Trail; NVCA = Nevada and Northeastern California; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; PFYC = Potential Fossil Yield Classification; PHMA = Priority Habitat Management Area; ROW = right-of-way; SRMA = Special Recreation Management Area; SUA = Special Use Authorization; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; VR = Visual Route; VRM = Visual Resource Management; WIA = Wilderness Inventory Area; WSA = Wilderness Study Area; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor.