Corridor 73-133

Region 3 Review

Corridor 73-133

Wamsutter to Maybell Corridor

Corridor Rationale

Input regarding alignment from National Grid and the Western Utility Group during the WWEC PEIS suggested following this route. There are no planned transmission or pipeline projects within the corridor and no pending or recently authorized ROWs within or intersecting the corridor at this time.

Corridor location (Region 3 portion):
Colorado (Moffat Co.)
BLM: Little Snake Field Office
Regional Review Region(s): Region 3 and Region 4

Corridor width, length (Region 3 portion):
Width 3,500 ft
16.9 miles of designated corridor
36.8 mile-posted route, including gaps

Sec 368 energy corridor restrictions: (Y)
- corridor is underground-only

Corridor of concern (N)

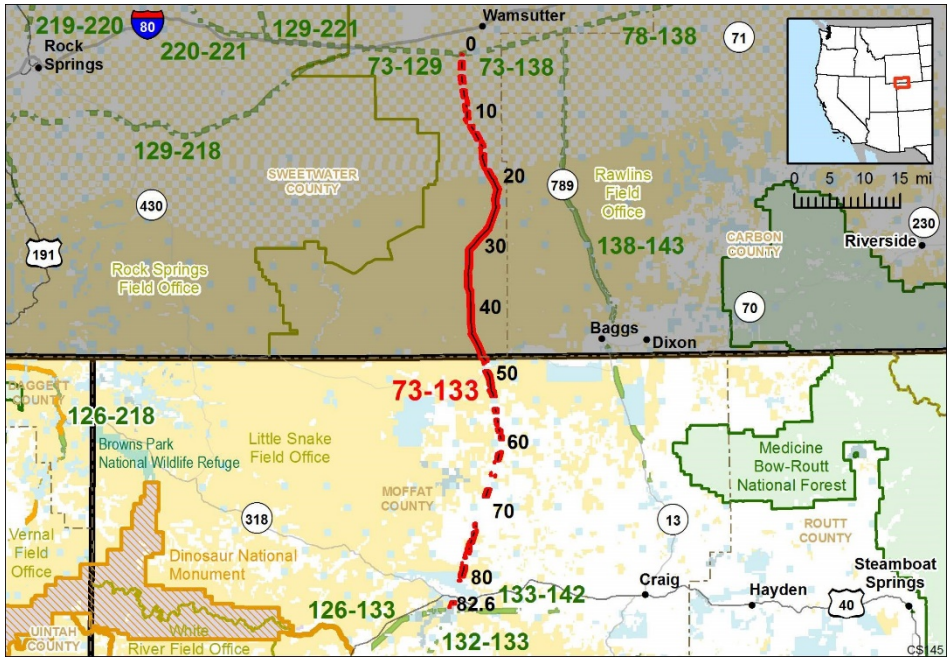
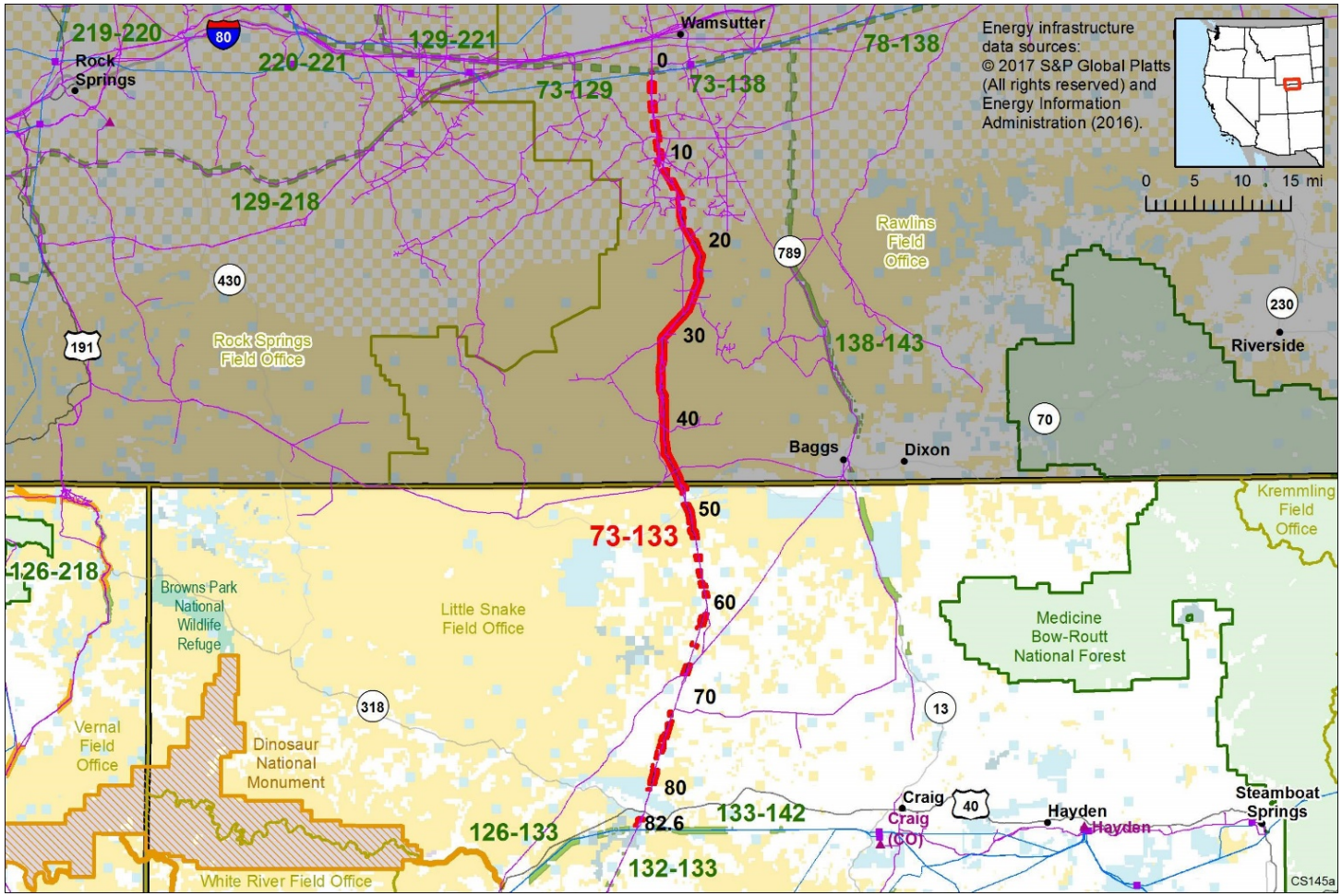
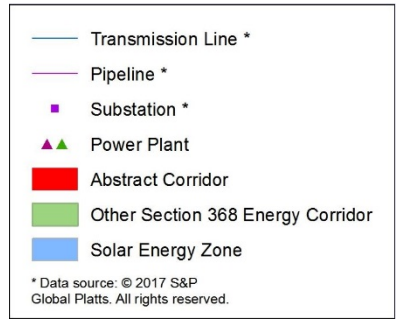


Figure 1. Corridor 73-133

Corridor history:
- Locally designated corridor prior to 2009 (N)
- Existing infrastructure (Y)
  - Pipelines:
    - o natural gas (3 from MP 46 to MP 59, 4 from MP 59 to MP 60, 1 from MP 60 to MP 66, and 4 from MP 66 to MP 83)
    - o Refined product (MP 46 to MP 60 and MP 66 to MP 83)
- Energy potential near the corridor (N)
- Corridor changes since 2009 (N)





Keys for Figures 1 and 2

Figure 2. Corridor 73-133 and nearby electric transmission lines and pipelines (grayed out area outside of Region 3)

Conflict Map Analysis

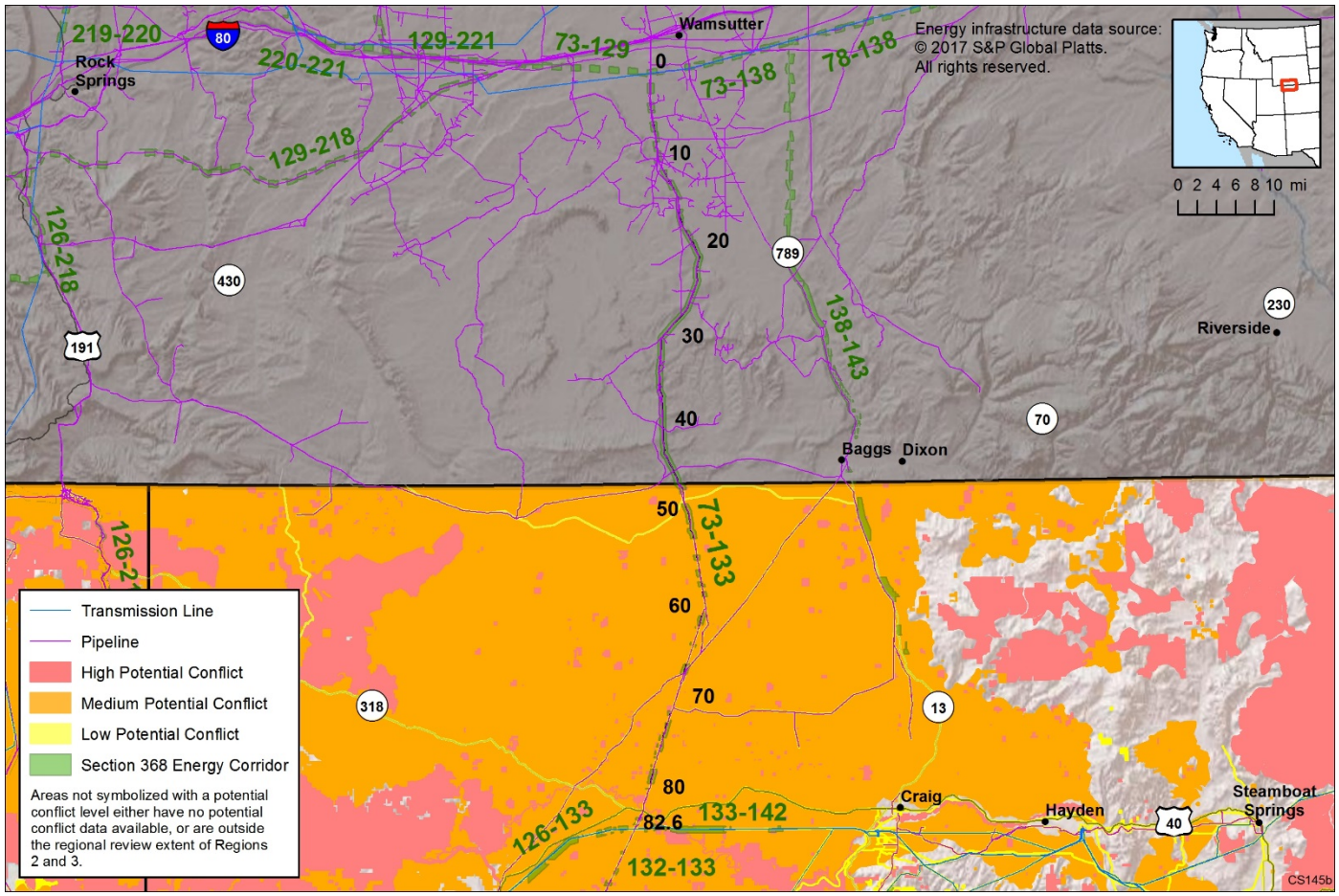


Figure 3. Map of Conflict Areas in Vicinity of Corridor 73-133

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/)

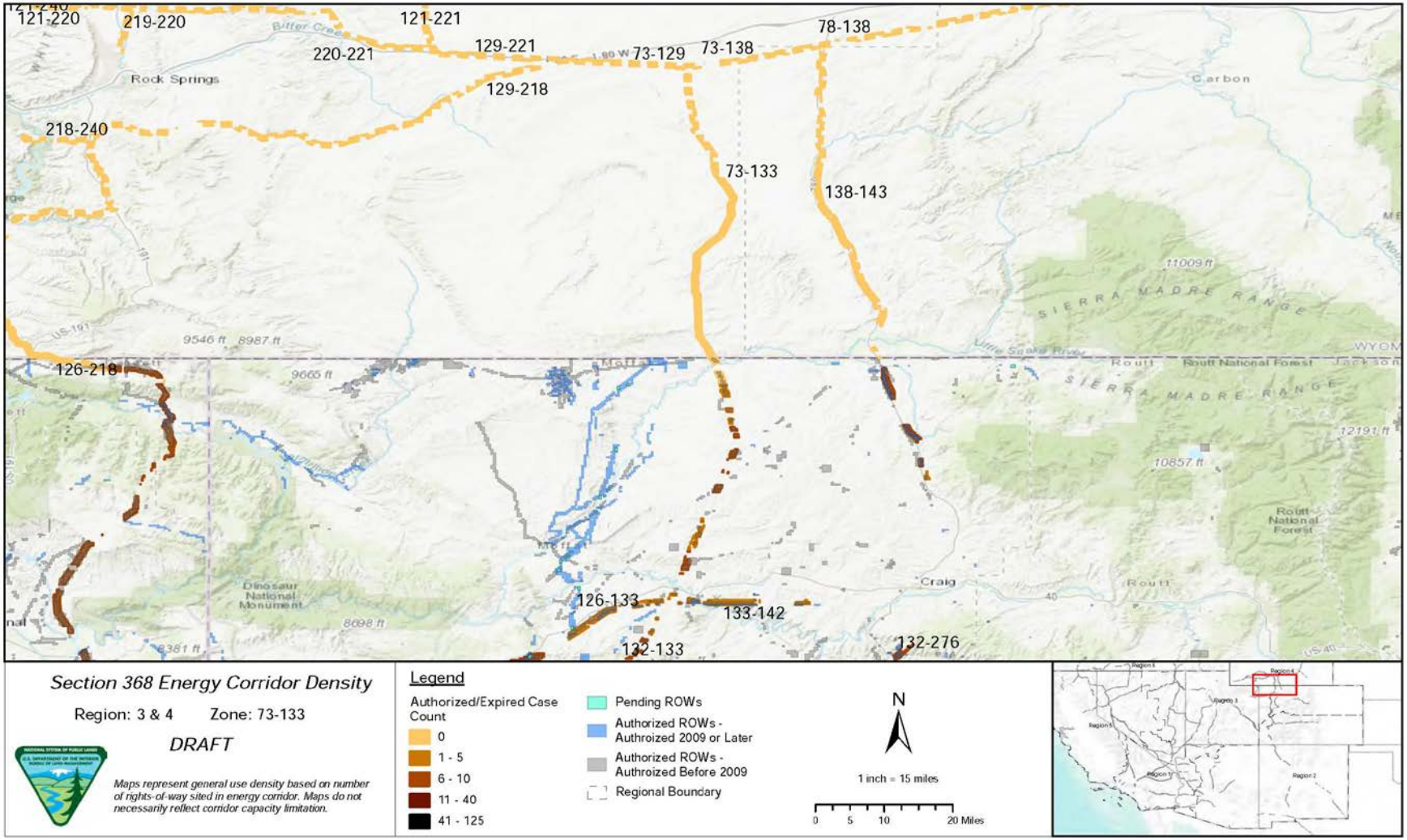


Figure 4. Corridor 73-133, Corridor Density Map

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 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 73-133 REVIEW TABLE							
ID	**Agency**	**Agency Jurisdiction**	**County**	**Primary Issue**	**Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])**	**Source**	**Agency Review and Analysis[1, 2]**
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE ISSUES							
Ecology							
73-133 .001	NA	Private land	Moffat, CO	Colorado Pikeminnow critical habitat (ESA-listed: endangered)	MP 80 and MP 81 to MP 82	RFI: consult with USFWS to avoid adverse modification to Colorado Pikeminnow critical habitat GIS Analysis: critical habitat intersects corridor gap.	Protection of ESA-listed species habitat is important. The preferred methodology to mitigate undue degradation of resources is to collocate future energy infrastructure across public land with existing infrastructure to the extent feasible. As such, the current location appears to best meet the siting principles based on the settlement agreement, since any alternative route would go through areas of ESA-listed critical habitat and would not lend-itself to collocation. (1)
73-133 .002	BLM	Little Snake FO, State land	Moffat, CO	GRSG PHMA (BLM and USFS sensitive species) GRSG GHMA	MP 47 to MP 78 MP 46 to MP 47, MP 48, MP 49 to MP 50, and MP 77. to MP 83	GIS Analysis: GRSG PHMA intersects corridor. GIS Analysis: GRSG GHMA intersects the corridor and corridor gaps. Comment on abstract: support existing designations of PHMAs and GHMAs. Recommend that corridor be re-routed to avoid PHMA and GHMA. In areas	Although the NWCO GRSG ARMPA listed GRSG PHMAs and GHMAs as avoidance areas for high-voltage transmission line ROWs, this corridor is designated as underground only. This corridor location is not easily resolved or avoided by corridor-level planning because alternate routes would still require siting through GRSG PHMA and GHMA. Impacts to GRSG would be addressed at the project level and further analysis is not a consideration for corridor-level planning. (3)

CORRIDOR 73-133 REVIEW TABLE							
ID	**Agency**	**Agency Jurisdiction**	**County**	**Primary Issue**	**Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])**	**Source**	**Agency Review and Analysis[1, 2]**
						where existing transmission lines are present, recommend the disturbance be within the existing infrastructure footprint. If avoidance or co-location is not possible, recommend burying the transmission line and instituting compensatory mitigation. Comment on abstract: Delete/replace this segment or re-route to avoid GRSG PHMA.	
73-133 .003	BLM	Little Snake FO	Moffat, CO	Flowlines and Permeability	Not specified.	RFI: delete/replace this segment. This segment scores "Very High" risk for both Flowlines and Permeability.	Connectivity flowlines is not a BLM-recognized term; however, the Agencies are exploring an opportunity for adding an IOP related to wildlife migration corridors and habitat connectivity to ensure appropriate consideration occurs with proposed development within the energy corridor. (2)
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics							
73-133 .004	BLM	Little Snake FO	Moffat, CO	Lands with wilderness characteristics	MP 46 to MP 47 MP 48 to MP 52	GIS Analysis: Cherokee Draw lands with wilderness characteristics intersect corridor. Comment on abstract: corridor intersects with BLM wilderness-quality lands. 395 acres overlap (Cherokee Draw-BLM). GIS Analysis: Big Hole lands wilderness characteristics intersect corridor. Comment on abstract: corridor intersects with BLM wilderness-	The BLM retains broad discretion regarding the multiple use management of lands possessing wilderness characteristics without Wilderness or WSA designations. As such, land possessing the characteristics of wilderness are not subject to the legal thresholds or other statutory obligations specified for congressionally designated Wilderness and WSAs. There are necessities that warrant land use and thus rationalize energy corridors as meeting the best siting principles, which include

CORRIDOR 73-133 REVIEW TABLE							
ID	**Agency**	**Agency Jurisdiction**	**County**	**Primary Issue**	**Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])**	**Source**	**Agency Review and Analysis[1, 2]**
					MP 55 to MP 57	quality lands. 385 acres overlap (Big Hole-BLM). GIS Analysis: Greasewood Gulch lands with wilderness characteristics intersect corridor. Comment on abstract: corridor intersects with BLM wilderness-quality lands. 280 acres overlap (Greasewood Gulch-BLM). BLM should exclude energy corridors from all wilderness-quality lands.	maximizing utility while minimizing impacts. In locations where the BLM is not managing lands with wilderness characteristics with protective allocations, project level planning will still consider ways to minimize or avoid impacts while meeting the purpose and need of various types of land use including energy projects. Furthermore, the impairment of wilderness characteristics does not, in and of itself, constitute a significant impact; or on its own, warrant the relocation of a corridor or corridor segment. BLM must consider all resources and resource uses and carefully weigh the current value for the present generation as well as for future generations. The agencies have identified an opportunity to develop an IOP to assist with avoiding, minimizing, and/or mitigating impacts on lands with wilderness characteristics. (2)
Visual Resources							
73-133 .005	BLM:	Little Snake FO	Moffat, CO	VRM Class III	Entire length of corridor	GIS Analysis: VRM Class III areas and corridor intersect.	VRM Class III allows for moderate change to the characteristic landscape, although minimizing visual contrast remains a requirement. Management activities may attract the attention of the casual observer, but shall not dominate the view. (1)
Cultural Resources							
73-133 .006	BLM	Little Snake FO	Moffat, CO	Cultural sites	Not specified	Agency Input: the corridor has multiple cultural sites about 5 mi north and south of Maybell, CO.	There is an opportunity for the Agencies to consider an opportunity for corridor revision to the west along the recently approved TransWest

CORRIDOR 73-133 REVIEW TABLE							
ID	**Agency**	**Agency Jurisdiction**	**County**	**Primary Issue**	**Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])**	**Source**	**Agency Review and Analysis[1, 2]**
							Express route to avoid cultural sites and future mitigation costs. (2)
Land Use Concerns							
Other noted land use concerns							
73-133 .007	State	Colorado Parks and Wildlife		Conservation easements	Not specified.	Comment on abstract: corridor crosses private lands encumbered by conservation easements or CPW-owned properties, which are managed for wildlife, wildlife related recreation, and other recreational uses. In many instances corridor development would be incompatible with the purpose for which those properties were acquired and are managed. Recommend avoiding CPW properties for corridor alignments, otherwise close pre-planning and coordination with CPW staff would be required. In instances where an easement prohibits corridor development and avoidance of the parcel is not possible, and the exercise of eminent domain may result, then the lost conservation values due to corridor development must be compensated for and replaced.	BLM can only authorize land uses on public land. Any gaps between public land within a new proposal would have to be coordinated with those landowners/managers. Since the corridor is centered on the existing ROWs/easements, additional uses may be compatible within that footprint, depending on how the conservation easements and the easements across non-BLM managed lands are written.

[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

ARMPA = Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; CPW = Colorado Parks and Wildlife; ESA = Endangered Species Act; FO = Field Office; GHMA = General Habitat Management Area; GIS = geographic information system; GRSG = Greater Sage-grouse; MP = milepost; NWCO = Northwest

Colorado; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; PHMA = Priority Habitat Management Area; RFI = request for information; RMP = Resource Management Plan; ROW = right-of-way; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; VRM = Visual Resource Management; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor.

Corridor 73-133

Region 4 Review

Corridor 73-133

Wamsutter to Maybell Corridor

Corridor Purpose and Rationale

The corridor provides a north-south pathway from Wyoming into Colorado. The corridor connects multiple Section 368 energy corridors on both the north and south ends, creating a continuous corridor network across southern Wyoming and western Colorado across BLM- and USFS-administered lands. Input regarding alignment from National Grid and the Western Utility Group during the WWEC PEIS suggested following this route. The corridor is being considered for the Zephyr Transmission Line Project. TransWest Express and Energy Gateway South are located east of and parallel to the corridor in a new 3,500-ft Wamsutter-Powder Rim locally designated corridor that was designated in the TransWest Express ROD. TransWest Express and Energy Gateway South intersect and cross the corridor at MP 44. Two additional natural gas pipelines are planned within and adjacent to the Wyoming portion of the corridor from MP 0 to MP 46. The Region 3 portion of the corridor (MP 46 to MP 82) was evaluated during the Regions 2 and 3 regional review.

Corridor location:
Wyoming (Sweetwater Co.)
BLM: Rawlins Field Office
Regional Review Regions: Region 3 and Region 4

Corridor width, length (Region 4 portion):
Width 3,500 ft
38 miles of designated corridor
46 miles to posted route, including gaps

Designated Use:
- corridor is underground only

Corridor of concern (N)

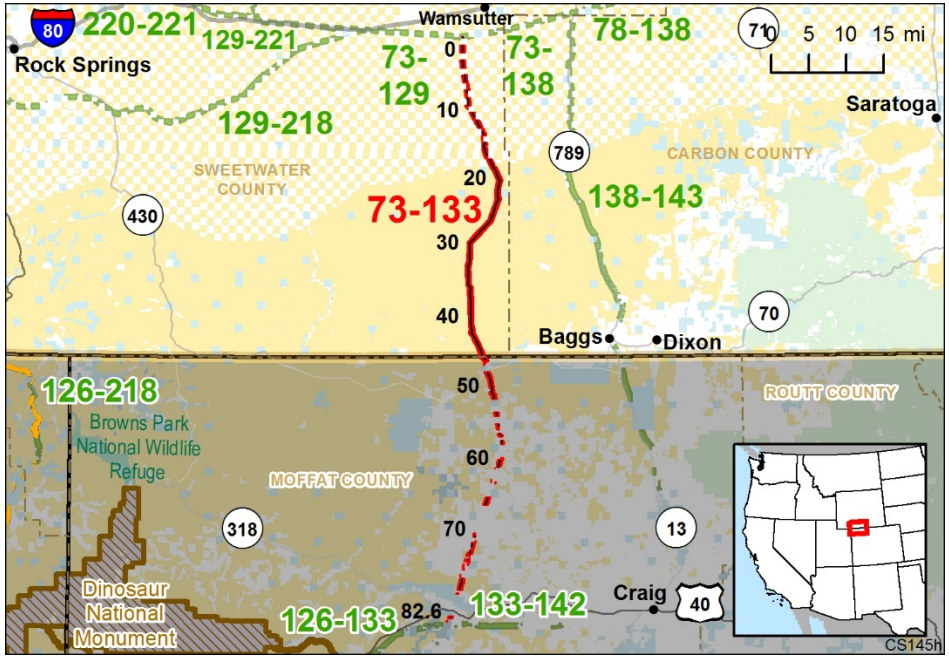
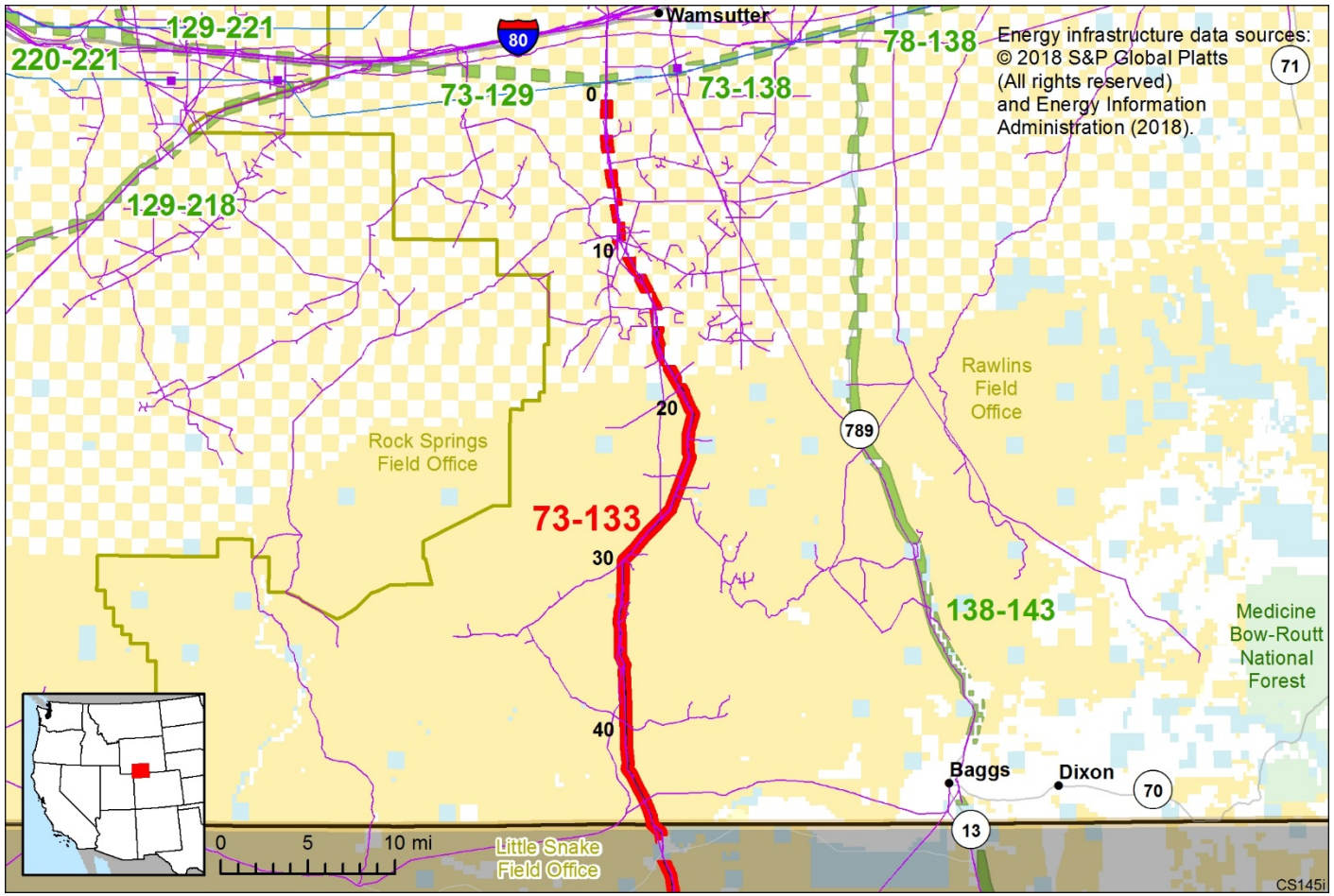
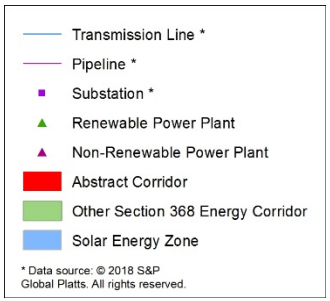


Figure 1. Corridor 73-133

Corridor history:
- Locally designated prior to 2009 (N)
- Existing infrastructure (Y)
  - Multiple natural gas pipelines and a refined product pipeline are within or adjacent to the corridor.
- Energy potential near the corridor (Y)
  - 1 substation is within 5 mi of the corridor.
- Corridor changes since 2009 (N)





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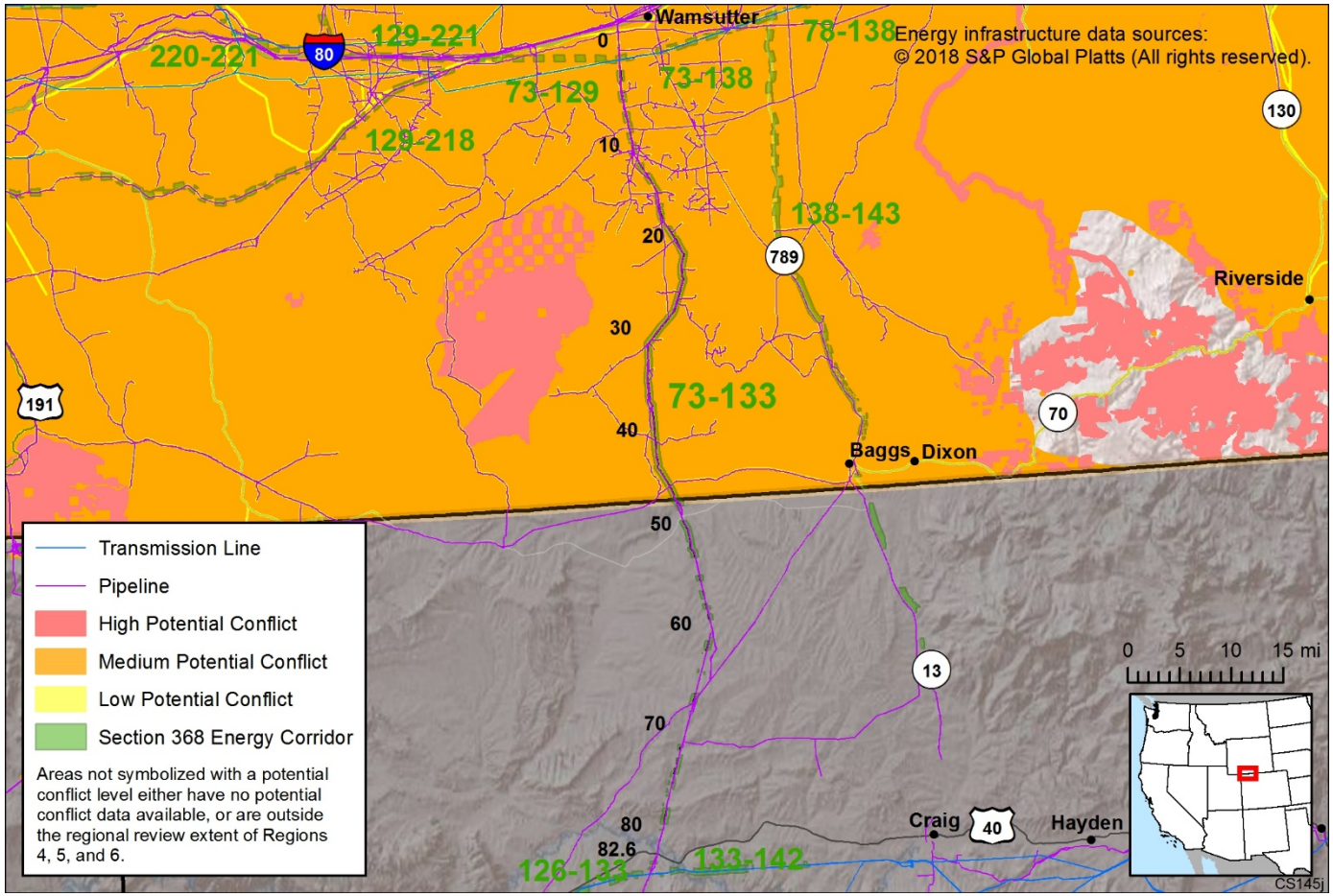
Conflict Map Analysis



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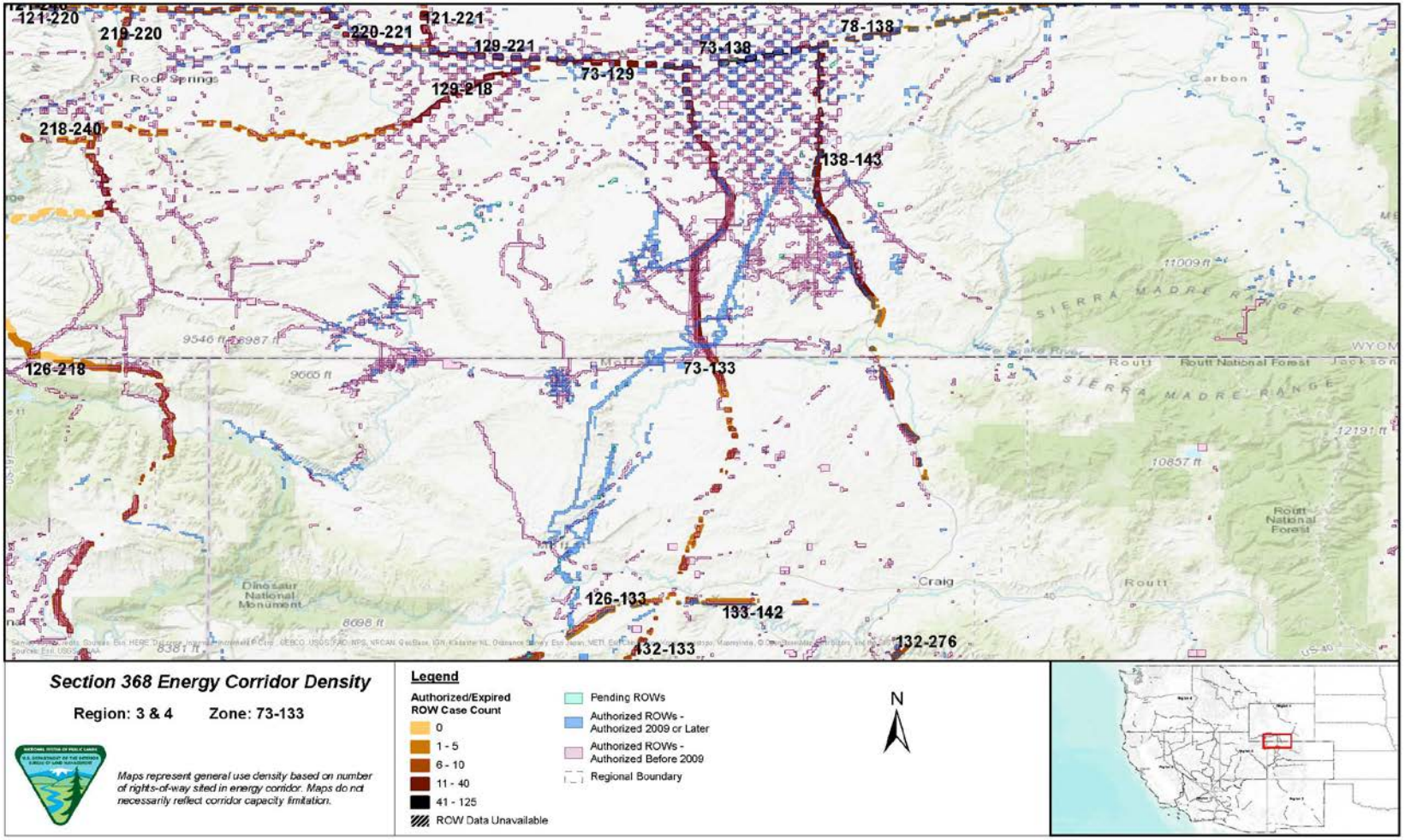

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Corridor Review Table

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 73-133 REVIEW			
POTENTIAL COMPATIBILITY ISSUES or CONCERNS TO EXAMINE	**MILEPOST (MP)[1]**	**STAKEHOLDER INPUT and OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION**	**POTENTIAL RESOLUTIONS BASED ON SITING PRINCIPLE ANALYSIS [2]**
BLM Jurisdiction: *Rawlins Field Office* ***Agency Land Use Plan:*** *Rawlins RMP (2008)*			
Four Trails Feasibility Study Trail and the corridor intersect – The RMP states that actions resulting in linear crossings of the trails will occur in previously disturbed areas and will be managed in accordance with BMPs.	MP 13 to MP 14 (Overland Trail) and MP 42 to MP 43 (Cherokee Trail)	Several pipelines occur within the corridor where it and the trail intersect. 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 corridor intersection here appears to best meet the siting principles. Existing infrastructure, minimal areas of intersection and the absence of more preferable alternatives suggest that the corridor cannot be relocated to a more preferred area for development. Additionally the corridor is designated underground only to reduce visual impacts. Agencies could consider a new IOP for NSTs and NHTs to enhance BMPs for proposed development within the energy corridor.
BLM Jurisdiction: *Rawlins Field Office* ***Agency Land Use Plan:*** *Wyoming GRSG ROD and ARMPA – March 2019*			
GRSG GHMA and the corridor intersect - The 2019 ROD/ARMPA indicates that collocating new 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	MP 0 to MP 46		The location appears to best meet the siting principles. This is an underground only corridor, and collocation of future ROWs with the existing pipelines will minimize disturbance of GHMA. The GHMA encompasses a broad area surrounding the corridor which cannot be avoided.

CORRIDOR 73-133 REVIEW			
POTENTIAL COMPATIBILITY ISSUES or CONCERNS TO EXAMINE	**MILEPOST (MP)[1]**	**STAKEHOLDER INPUT and OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION**	**POTENTIAL RESOLUTIONS BASED ON SITING PRINCIPLE ANALYSIS [2]**
corridors, including Section 368 energy corridors, will remain open in all habitat management areas.			

[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, shown below. The information below is provided to facilitate further discussion during stakeholder review.

Potential Corridor Revisions:

- Consider one alternate route instead of two parallel corridors: Corridor 73-133 and Corridor 138-143 (comment on abstract).

Analysis: Corridors 73-133 and 138-143 both follow existing infrastructure. Corridor 73-133 is designated underground only and the Region 3 portion of Corridor 138-143 is designated electric only, allowing for both pipeline and transmission line energy transport between Colorado and Wyoming. The Agencies could consider upgrading the 3,500-ft Wamsutter-Powder Rim locally designated utility corridor along the authorized TransWest Express route to a Section 368 energy corridor (electric-only).

Lands with wilderness characteristics:

- Rotten Springs lands with wilderness characteristics overlaps 173 acres of the corridor (MP 40), opportunity to avoid Rotten Springs lands with wilderness characteristics by adjusting east (comment on abstract).

Analysis: The corridor could be reduced in width between MP 40 and MP 41 or moved to the east to avoid the Rotten Springs lands with wilderness characteristics. However, the lands with wilderness characteristics is adjacent to a gas pipeline that already runs through the corridor. The corridor is also designated underground only which would limit visual impacts.

Abstract Acronyms and Abbreviations

ARMPA = Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; BMP = best management practice; GHMA = general habitat management area; GIS = geographic information system; GRSG = Greater Sage-grouse; IOP = interagency operating procedure; MP = milepost; 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.