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)

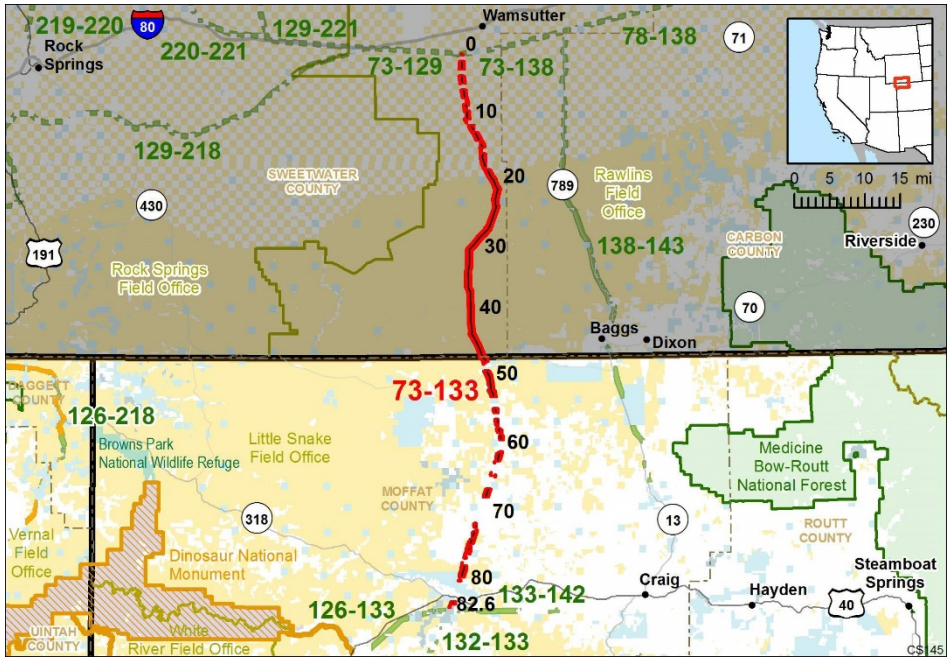
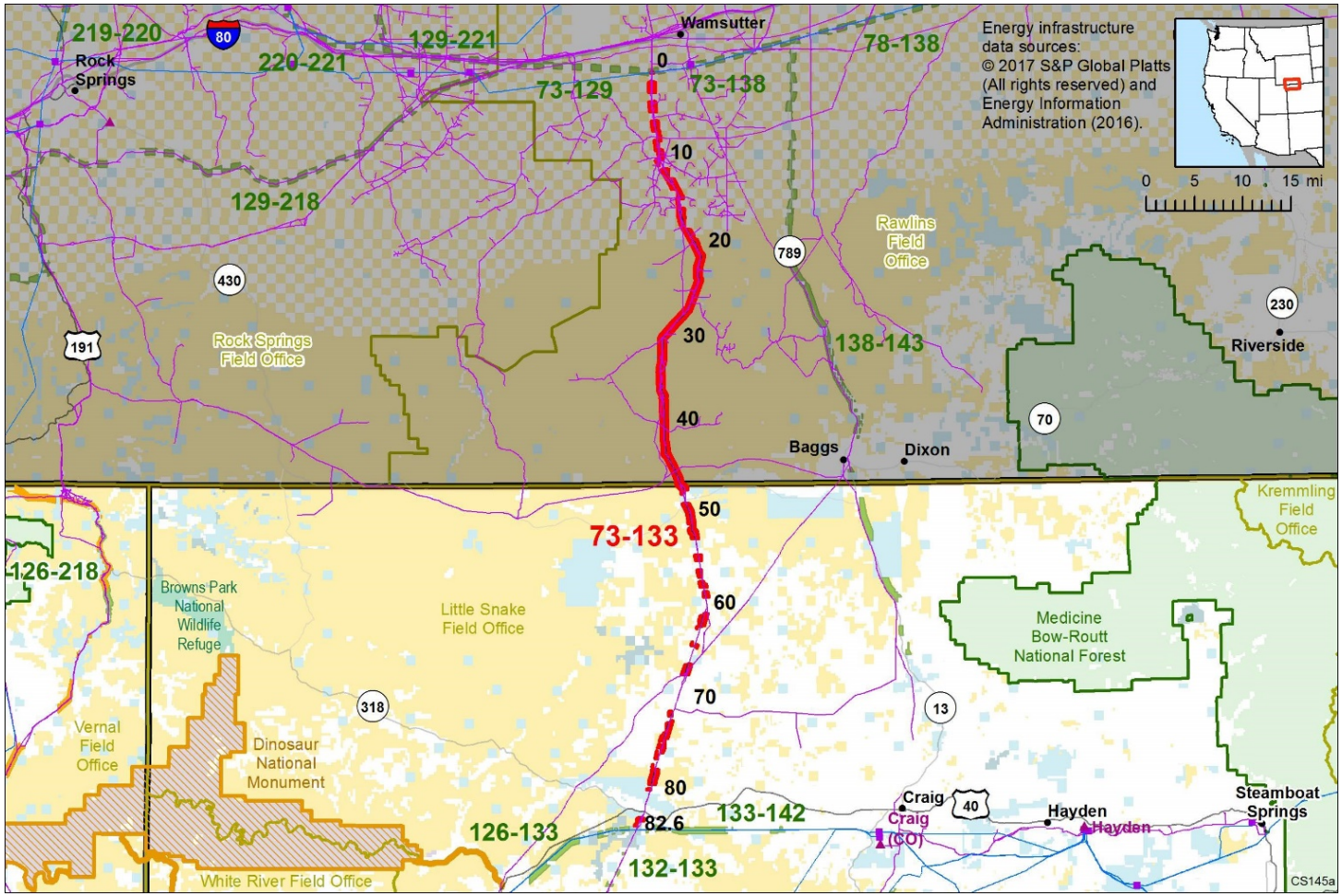


Figure 1. Corridor 73-133

Corridor history:
- Locally designated corridor prior to 2009 (N)
- Existing infrastructure (Y)
  - Pipelines:
    - 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)
    - 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

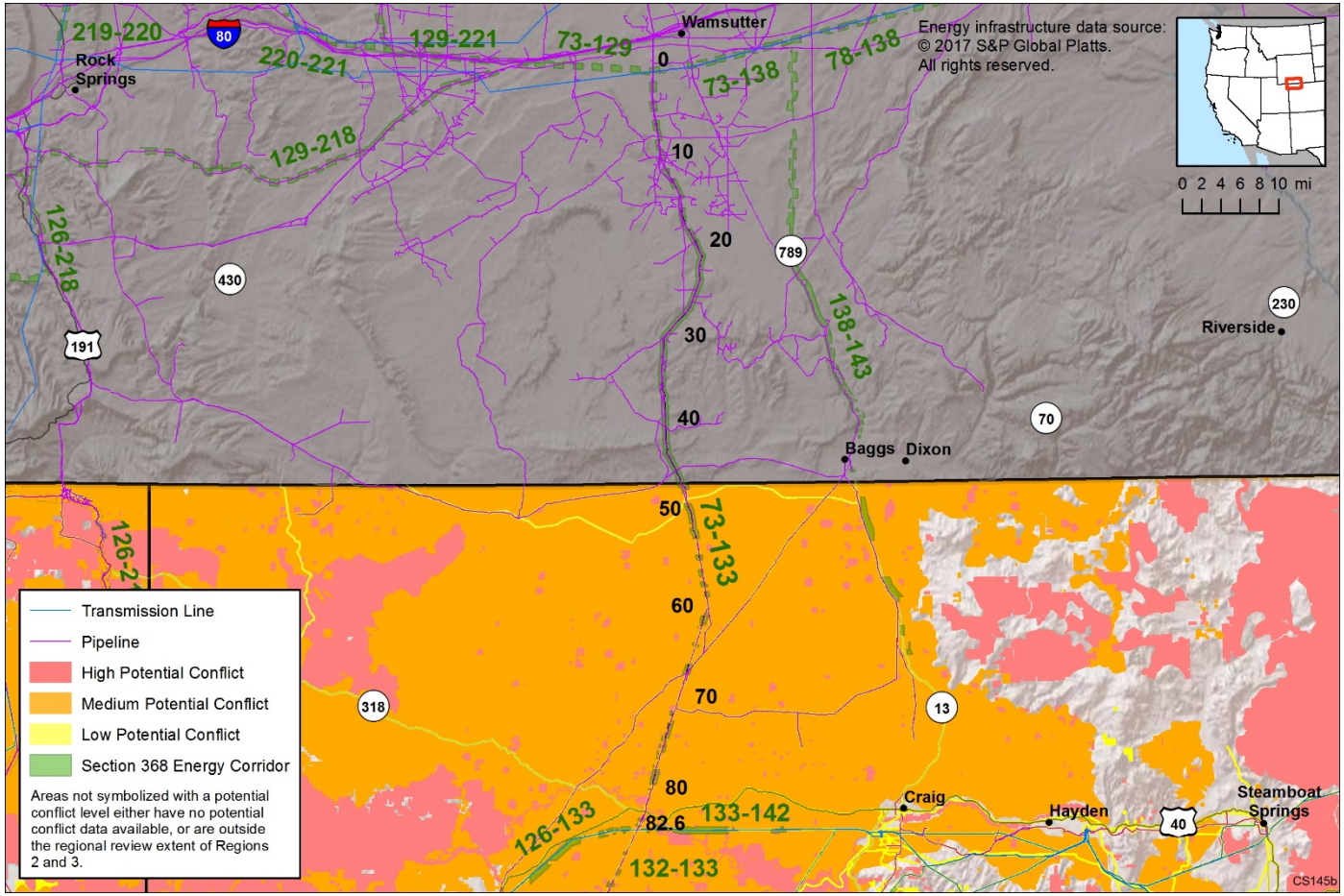


Figure 3. Map of Conflict Areas in Vicinity of Corridor 73-133

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/)

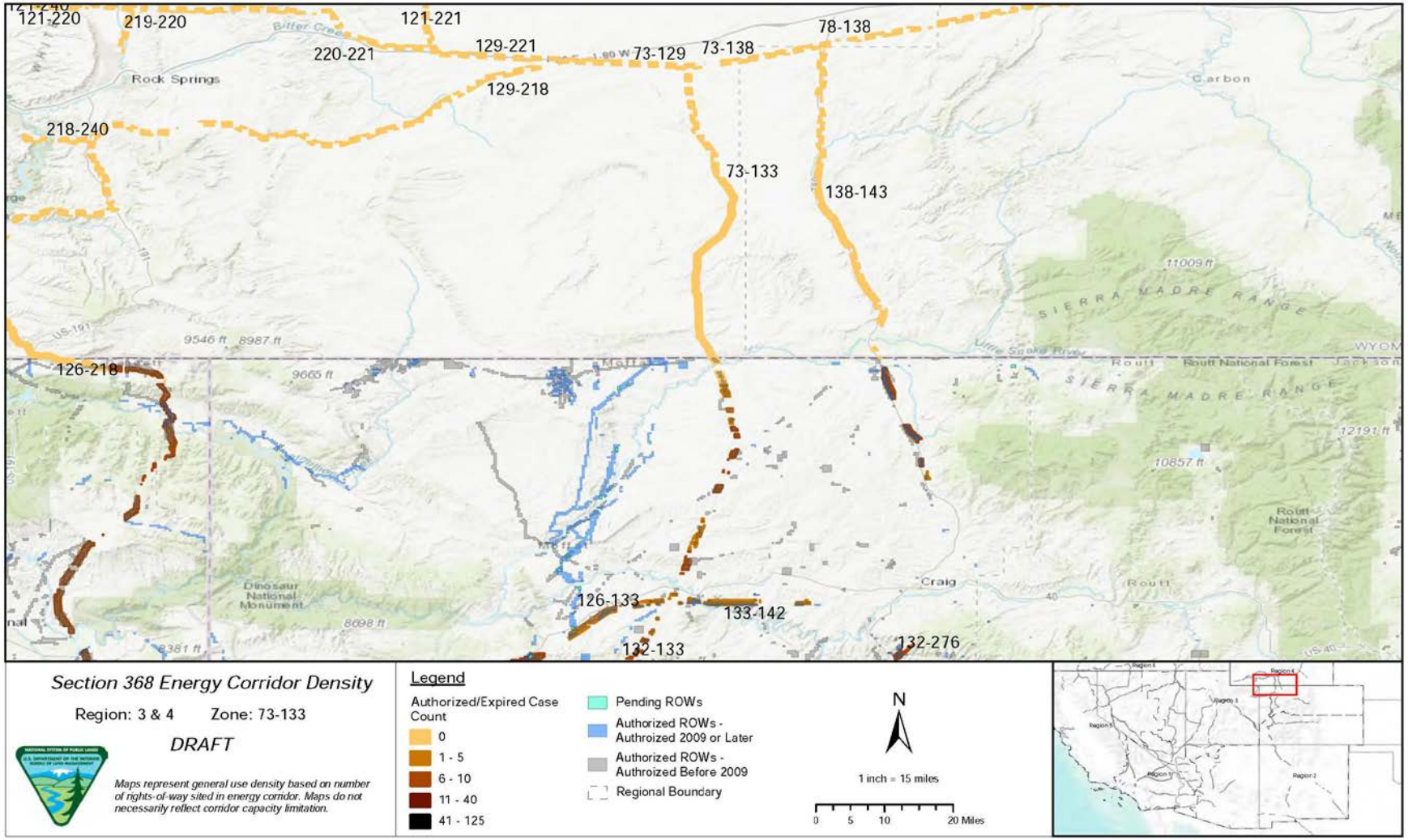


Figure 4. Corridor 73-133, Corridor Density Map

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)

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						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

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					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

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							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.