

Corridor 39-113

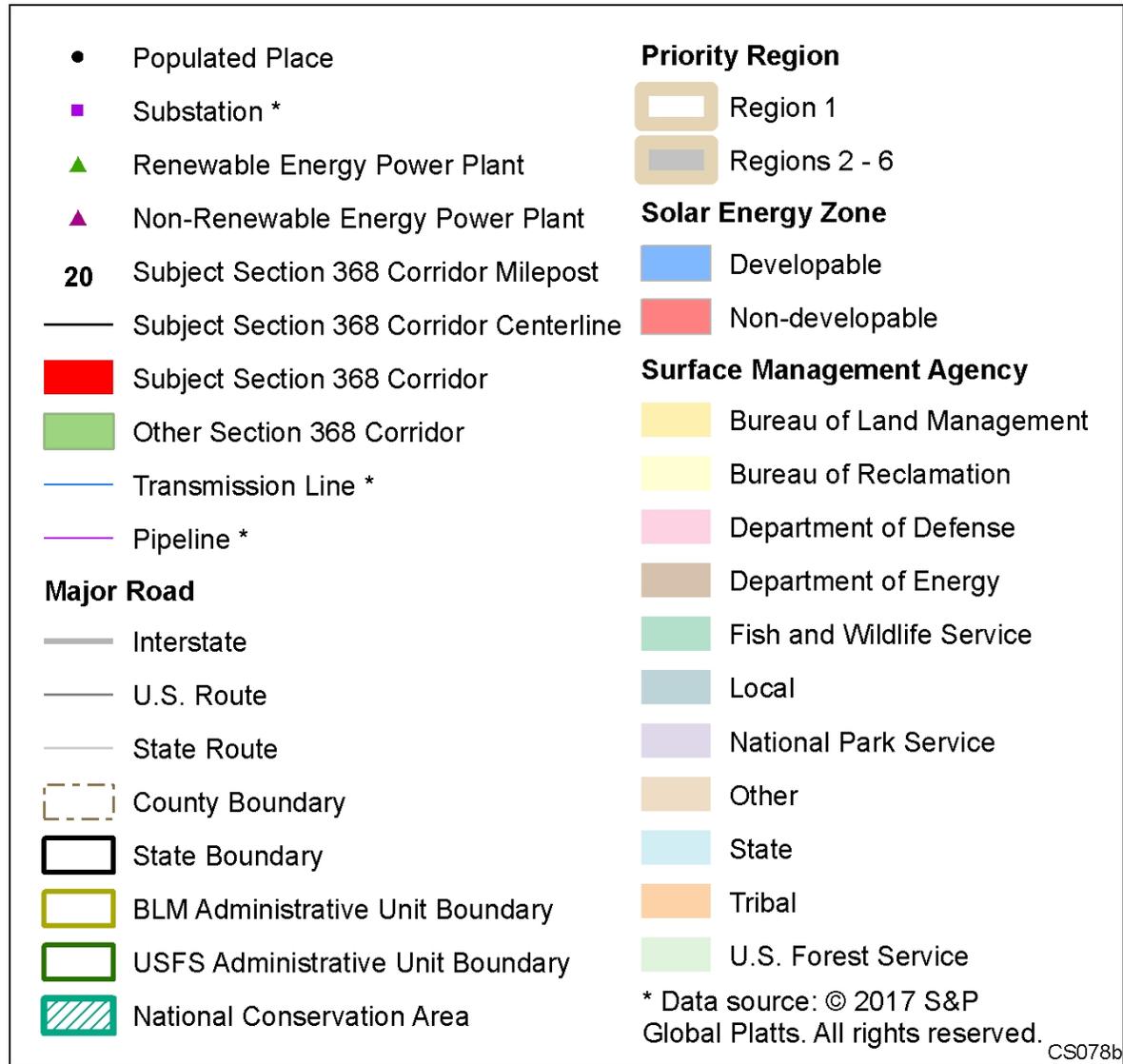
East Apex/Mormon Mesa to St. George

Introduction

Corridor 39-113 (Figures 1 and 2) extends northeast, beginning at the intersection with Corridors 37-39 and 37-231 northeast of Las Vegas in southern Nevada to intersect with Corridors 113-114 and 113-116 northwest of Mesquite. Federally designated portions of this corridor are entirely on BLM-administered land, with a 3,500-ft width over its entire extent. Corridor 39-113 is designated as multimodal corridor and can therefore accommodate both electrical transmission and pipeline projects. The corridor spans 56.8 miles, with 49.7 miles designated on BLM-administered lands. The corridor's area is 21,071 acres or 36.9 square miles. This corridor is in Clark and Lincoln counties in Nevada under the jurisdiction of the BLM Las Vegas and Caliente Field Offices and the Southern Nevada and Ely District Offices in Nevada. This corridor is primarily in Region 1 but extends into Region 3 between MP 46.8 and MP 56.8.



Figure 1. Corridor 39-113



Key



Figure 2. Corridor 39-113, Including Existing Energy Infrastructure

Corridor Rationale

During scoping for the WWEC PEIS, routes generally following this corridor were suggested by Frontier Line, RMATS, Western Utility Group, and National Grid. A Section 368 energy corridor in this location was determined necessary by the multiple number of proposals during scoping for the WWEC PEIS to connect routes from the north, through Utah to the Las Vegas area.

Existing Infrastructure: The corridor is partially occupied, and I-15, State Route 169, and a main railroad intersect the corridor. The Platts data indicate two existing Kern River natural gas pipelines and five existing transmission lines (the LADWP Intermountain Power Project [500 kV DC], LADWP [500 kV], Nevada Power Co. d/b/a Nevada Energy [Nevada Energy] [345 kV], and two Nevada Energy [500-kV lines] within the northern portion of the corridor).

Potential Future Development: There is additional interest for use of the corridor with five pending ROWs and three planned transmission lines (PacifiCorp. [345 kV and 500 kV] and Centennial II [500 kV]). Proposed out-of-state transmission projects that could affect this corridor include the following: Southwest Intertie Project, TransWest Express Transmission Project, and Zephyr Power Transmission Project.

Corridor of Concern Status

Corridor 39-113 is a corridor of concern. Concerns regarding the Pahrnagat NWR, Rainbow Gardens ACEC, proximity to the proposed Gold Butte NCA, and Black Mountain tortoise habitat 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 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 report for the Region 1 Regional Review.

Additions to the corridor analysis table, based on input from stakeholders and additional Agency analysis, include WWEC purpose (solar energy development), jurisdictional concerns, cultural resources, military aviation, special status species, specially designated areas (Valley of Fire State Park), public access and recreation, 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. There were stakeholder recommendations in the 2014 RFI to reroute this corridor to avoid Pahrnagat NWR, Rainbow Gardens ACEC, the proposed Gold Butte NCA, and Black Mountain tortoise habitat. Suggestions for corridor revision, deletion, or addition in response to the release of the draft abstracts included deleting the corridor to avoid desert tortoise habitat, scenic landscapes, Valley of Fire State Park, and ACECs. Based on Agency analysis, as well as input provided by stakeholders, to address a corridor gap the Agencies recommended realigning the corridor segment between MP 0 and MP 46 with an existing locally designated corridor with existing infrastructure west of the Section 368 energy corridor that avoids currently undeveloped areas and identified environmental and recreational issues. The Moapa Ban of Paiute Indians, the BIA, and the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) would need to be engaged.

Corridor Analysis

The corridor analysis table below identifies the concerns affecting Corridor 39-113, 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
- 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 39-113 – 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>WWEC Purpose</i>							
39-113 .007	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Dry Lake SEZ	MP 3.7	GIS Analysis: the Dry Lake SEZ is 3.5 miles northwest of corridor. Comment on corridor abstract: current development in Dry Lake SEZ would not use the corridor because all of the power goes to the Harry Allen Substation located in the SEZ.	Although solar energy generation from the Dry Lake SEZ does not currently use the corridor, it could provide an opportunity for the corridor to accommodate transmission tied to renewable energy development.
39-113 .new1	BLM/ BIA	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	250-MW Moapa Southern Paiute Solar Project	MP 11 to MP 23	Comment on corridor abstract.	The Moapa Southern Paiute Solar Project would provide opportunity for the corridor to accommodate transmission tied to renewable energy development.

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ENERGY PLANNING CONCERNS							
Corridor Alignment and Spacing							
39-113 .001	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Nevada Power Co. 500-kV transmission line	MP 0 to MP 3.5	GIS Analysis.	This would be addressed through implementation of IOPs, BMPs, and standard stipulations.
39-113 .002	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Nevada Power Co. 500-kV transmission line	MP 0 to MP 4.1	GIS Analysis.	This would be addressed through implementation of IOPs, BMPs, and standard stipulations.
39-113 .003	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Intermountain Power Agency 1,000-kV DC transmission line	MP 0 to MP 4.1, MP 45.4 to MP 46.7	GIS Analysis.	This would be addressed through implementation of IOPs, BMPs, and standard stipulations.
39-113 .004	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Two Kern River natural gas pipelines	MP 44.5 to MP 46.8	GIS Analysis.	The two natural gas pipeline ROWs are held by Kern River (N-42581) and Holly Energy/UNEV (N-82385), within MDM, T.13S, R.68E, Secs. 1, 11 and 12. This would be addressed through implementation of IOPs, BMPs, and standard stipulations.
39-113 .005	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	LADWP 500-kV transmission line	MP 44.7 to MP 46.7	GIS Analysis.	This would be addressed through implementation of IOPs, BMPs, and standard stipulations.
39-113 .006	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Nevada Power Co. 345-kV transmission line	MP 46.0 to MP 46.7	GIS Analysis.	This would be addressed through implementation of IOPs, BMPs, and standard stipulations.
Jurisdictional Concerns							
39-113 .new2	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Valley of Fire State Park	MP 18 to MP 28	Comment on Corridor abstract: delete corridor to avoid Valley of Fire State Park.	The Agencies are recommending a corridor revision to avoid Valley of Fire State Park. The potential corridor re-alignment would connect to an existing 3,000-ft-wide transportation and utility corridor referred as the Moapa Corridor, which passes through the Moapa River Indian Reservation. A tribal resolution would be needed from the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians consenting to the grant of a ROW by BIA. BIA cannot grant ROWs without tribal consent.

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LAND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS							
Cultural Resources							
39-113 .new3				Arrowhead Highway	MP 4.0 to MP 40.0	The corridor is near the Arrowhead Highway from approximately MP 4.0 to MP 40.0. The Arrowhead Highway was built in the 1920s and was the first automobile road to connect Los Angeles to Salt Lake City via Las Vegas. The road was later numbered Highway 91 and parts of the road are now part of Interstate 15.	Impacts would be analyzed and mitigated as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA, the NHPA, and other Federal laws.
Ecology: Special Status Animal Species							
39-113 .008 .009 .010	BLM	Las Vegas FO, Caliente FO	Clark and Lincoln, NV	TCAs ; Priority 1 and 2 connectivity habitat; Desert Tortoise habitat Intersects a Southern California Wildlands Linkage	Desert tortoise habitat MP 38.9 to MP 55.2, MP 55.8 to MP 56.8	Settlement Agreement. RFI: reroute to avoid siting new facilities in TCAs, Priority 1 and 2 connectivity habitat, and desert tortoise habitat, including Black Mountain tortoise habitat, without existing transmission, and minimize additional transmission siting in these areas. Delete corridor to avoid Desert Tortoise habitat.	There is no nearby alternative route that would avoid Desert Tortoise habitat and provide a route from southern Idaho to Las Vegas in a corridor with existing infrastructure. Analysis would be completed through the NEPA process (i.e., for RMP revision) 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.
Hydrology: Surface Water							
39-113 .011	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	California Wash intermittent stream crosses corridor.	MP 5.8 to MP 6.9	GIS Analysis.	Linear ROWs can either span intermittent streams or be buried underneath them.

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39-113 .012	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Muddy River stream crosses in corridor gap.	MP 28.3 to MP 28.6	GIS Analysis.	Linear ROWs can either span intermittent streams or be buried underneath them.
39-113 .013	BLM	Caliente FO	Lincoln, NV	Toquop Wash intermittent stream crosses corridor.	MP 56.3	GIS Analysis.	Linear ROWs can either span intermittent streams or be buried underneath them.
Lands and Realty: Military and Civilian Aviation							
39-113 .014	BLM	Las Vegas FO, Caliente FO	Clark and Lincoln, NV	Military Training Route – Visual Route	MP 46, MP 44.5 to MP 56.8	GIS Analysis. Comment on Corridor Abstract: military training route (VR-209) with floor of 200-ft AGL. Potential for an obstruction in airspace used for military operations.	DoD identified no impact if structure remains below 200-ft AGL. Taller structures would require FAA approval and further analysis for operational impact. Adherence to IOP 1 under Project Planning in the WWEC PEIS Records of Decision regarding coordination with DoD would be required.
39-113 .015	BLM	Caliente FO	Lincoln, NV	Military Training Route – Instrument Route	MP 52.6 to MP 56.8	GIS Analysis.	Adherence to IOP 1 under Project Planning in the WWEC PEIS Records of Decision regarding coordination with DoD would be required.
Lands and Realty: Transportation							
39-113 .016	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Union Pacific rail lines	MP 26.7 to MP 28.3	GIS Analysis: Union Pacific rail lines cross corridor edge and through gap in corridor	Issue relates to a small segment within MDM, T.15S, R.67E, Sec. 21. Consistent with BLM ROW regulations, notification to adjacent ROW holders would be provided.
39-113 .017	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	State Route 169	MP 29.7	GIS Analysis: State Route 169 intersects corridor.	Issue relates to an area within MDM, T.15S, R.67E, Secs. 9 and 16. Coordination with NDOT would be required. Consistent with BLM ROW regulations, notification to adjacent ROW holders would be provided.
39-113 .018	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	I-15	MP 38.1 to MP 39.2	GIS Analysis: I-15 crosses corridor.	Issue relates to an area within MDM, T.14S, R.68E. Coordination with NDOT would be required. Consistent with BLM ROW regulations, notifications to adjacent ROW holders would be provided.

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Public Access and Recreation							
39-113 .new4	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Logandale Trails Recreation Area located east of the corridor and Valley of Fire State Park	East of MP 21.0 to MP 27.0	GIS Analysis.	Logandale Trails is the only developed nonfee site within the Southern Nevada District planning area. The site includes several parking areas, interpretive kiosks and panels, restrooms, picnic tables, and protective fence structures. In 2012, based on electronic vehicle counter data, the area received over 168,000 visitors. The Logandale Trails area is not an exclusion area for linear ROW, which could have a major impact on recreation, as linear ROW may change the recreation setting characteristics and detract from the naturalness and remoteness of the area. Impacts would be analyzed as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws. A potential corridor revision has been identified that would avoid impacts.
Specialty Designated Areas							
39-113 .019	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Special management areas (Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge, Rainbow Gardens ACEC, Gold Butte National Conservation Area)	At MP 0, Rainbow Gardens ACEC is 5.8 miles to the southwest. At MP 45.3, Pahranagat NWR is 48.5 miles to the northwest. At MP 40, Gold Butte National Monument is 9 miles to the southeast.	Settlement Agreement. Corridor Study: intersects special management areas (Pahranagat NWR, Rainbow Gardens ACEC, near proposed Gold Butte National Conservation Area). Reroute to avoid concern. Delete corridor to avoid scenic landscapes and ACECs.	Corridor is neither within the subject Clark County ACEC on BLM-administered lands nor within the Refuge. Congress has not designated Gold Butte as an NCA (instead an area farther from the corridor was designated a National Monument). Impacts would be analyzed and mitigated as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.

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39-113 .020	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Bitter Springs Back Country Byway	MP 10.4	GIS Analysis: Bitter Springs Back Country Byway crosses corridor.	The corridor crosses the Bitter Springs National Backcountry Byway. The byway is managed for the scenic viewshed and other resource values. To mitigate the corridor crossing, BLM will consider realigning the corridor northwest and have it cross at the start of the byway, not the center. If realignment cannot occur, adherence to IOPs and other mitigation stipulations would be required.
39-113 .021	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT) and Mormon Mesa Trail	MP 32.6 to MP 33.3	GIS Analysis: OSNHT and Mormon Mesa Trail cross the corridor.	Both the OSNHT and Mormon Mesa Trail cross the corridor; the former is a congressionally designated corridor. Adherence to IOPs would be required; however, the Agency is responsible for cultural compliance and tribal consultation, not the applicant or the applicant’s contractor. 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. Trail administrators 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

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							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)]. Analysis would be completed through the NEPA process on a case-by-case basis with a full range of alternatives. A potential corridor revision has been identified that would avoid impacts.
39-113 .022	BLM	Las Vegas FO, Caliente FO	Clark and Lincoln, NV	Mormon Mesa ACEC	MP 38.9 to MP 56.8	GIS Analysis: corridor intersects Mormon Mesa ACEC.	This is one of four ACECs within the BLM SNDO that is specifically designated to protect desert tortoise critical habitat. Corridor 39-113 traverses the ACEC for approximately 8 miles. Except within designated corridors, the ACEC is managed as an avoidance area to linear ROWs, and as an exclusion area to site-type ROWs (except within 0.5 mile of the centerline of federal aid highways). Adherence to IOPs and use of BMPs would be required to avoid incompatible uses within the corridor. A potential corridor revision has been identified that would avoid impacts.
Visual Resources							
39-113 .024	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	VRM Class II	MP 24.5 to MP 26.1	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). A potential critical KOP location where authorizing additional facilities may have
39-113 .025	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	VRM Class III	MP 0 to MP 22.3, MP 26.9 to MP 47.0	GIS Analysis.	

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							potential conflict with meeting the VRM Class (currently VRM Class III).
39-113 .025	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	VRM Class IV	MP 33.5 to MP 35.5	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).
Other Issues							
39-113 .new5						Stakeholders clarified existing capacity and identified potential for new capacity.	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; AGL = above ground level; BIA = Bureau of Indian Affairs; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; BMP = best management practice; CFR = Code of Federal Regulations; DoD = Department of Defense; ESA = Endangered Species Act; FO = Field Office; GIS = geographic information system; IOP = Interagency Operating Procedure; KOP = Key Observation Point; LADWP = Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; MDM = Mount Diablo Meridian; MP = milepost; NCA = National Conservation Area; NDOT = Nevada Department of Transportation; NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; OSNHT = Old Spanish National Historic Trail; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; RFI = Request for Information; RMATS = Rocky Mountain Area Transmission Study; RMP = Resource Management Plan; ROW = right of way; SEZ = Solar Energy Zone; SNDO = Southern Nevada District Office; TCA = Tortoise Conservation Area; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; VRM = Visual Resource Management; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor.