

Corridor 130-274/130-274(E)

San Juan/San Miguel Corridor

Corridor Rationale

Input regarding alignment from the National Grid and the Western Utility Group during the WWEC PEIS suggested following this route. There is no planned transmission or pipeline projects within the corridor and no pending or recently authorized major ROWs within or intersecting the corridor at this time. Concerns identified after the 2009 corridor designation revealed a perception that the corridor was aligned to serve coal-generated electricity and not renewable energy development. As part of revisions to the Colorado regional haze State Implementation Plan in December 2016, an agreement will result in the retirement of multiple coal-fired electrical generation plants in western Colorado, which may alleviate the previous concern. However, in 2013, BLM evaluated the Four Corners terrain and determined that there are no realistic opportunities for wind power generation.

Corridor location:

Colorado (Dolores, Montezuma, San Miguel Co.)

BLM: Tres Rios and Uncompahgre FOs
USFS: San Juan and Uncompahgre NFs
Regional Review Region(s): Region 2

Corridor width, length:

Width 3,500 ft

37.1 mi of designated corridor (Corridor 130-274) and 4.4 mi of designated corridor [Corridor 130-274(E)]

65.5 mile-posted route, including gaps (Corridor 130-274) and 4.6 mile-posted route, including gaps [Corridor 130-274(E)]

Sec 368 energy corridor restrictions: (Y)

- Corridor 130-274(E) is underground only; Corridor 130-274 is multi-modal.

Corridor of concern (Y)

- access coal, impacts on Gunnison Sage-grouse conservation areas and critical habitat, Colorado proposed Wilderness, and USFS Roadless Area.

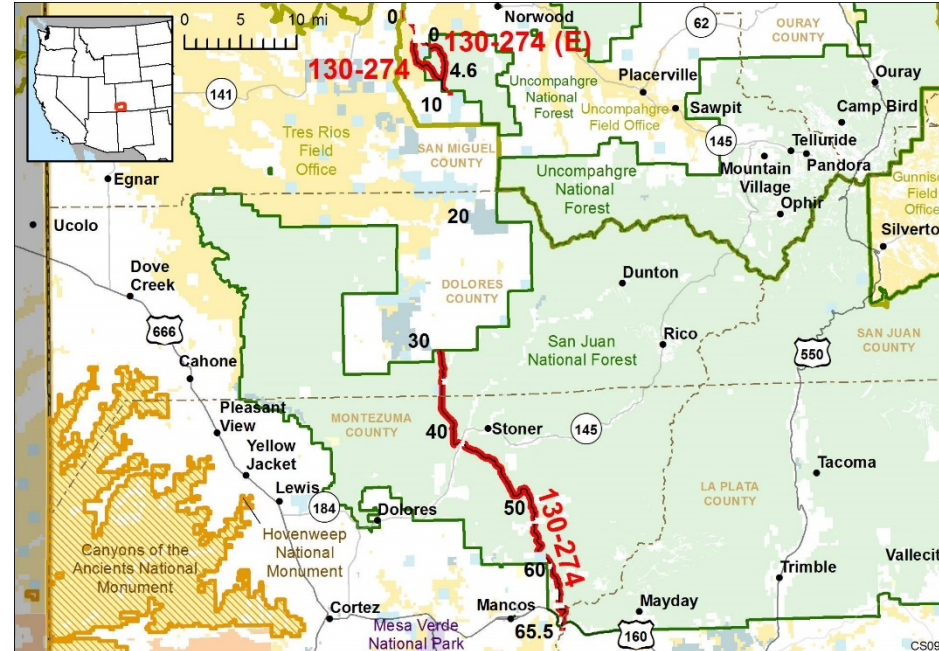


Figure 1. Corridor 130-274/130-274(E)

Corridor history:

- Locally designated corridor prior to 2009 (Y)
- Corridor 130-274 was previously designated from MP 30 to MP 66
- Existing infrastructure (Y)
 - Electric transmission:
 - 230-kV line (MP 30 to MP 37)
 - 345-kV line (MP 30 to MP 49 and MP 53 to MP 63)
 - Pipelines:
 - natural gas within Corridor 130-274 (MP 0 to MP 1, MP 7 to MP 9, and MP 29 to MP 66)
 - natural gas within Corridor 130-74(E) (MP 0 to MP 5)
- Energy potential near the corridor (N)
- Corridor changes since 2009 (N)

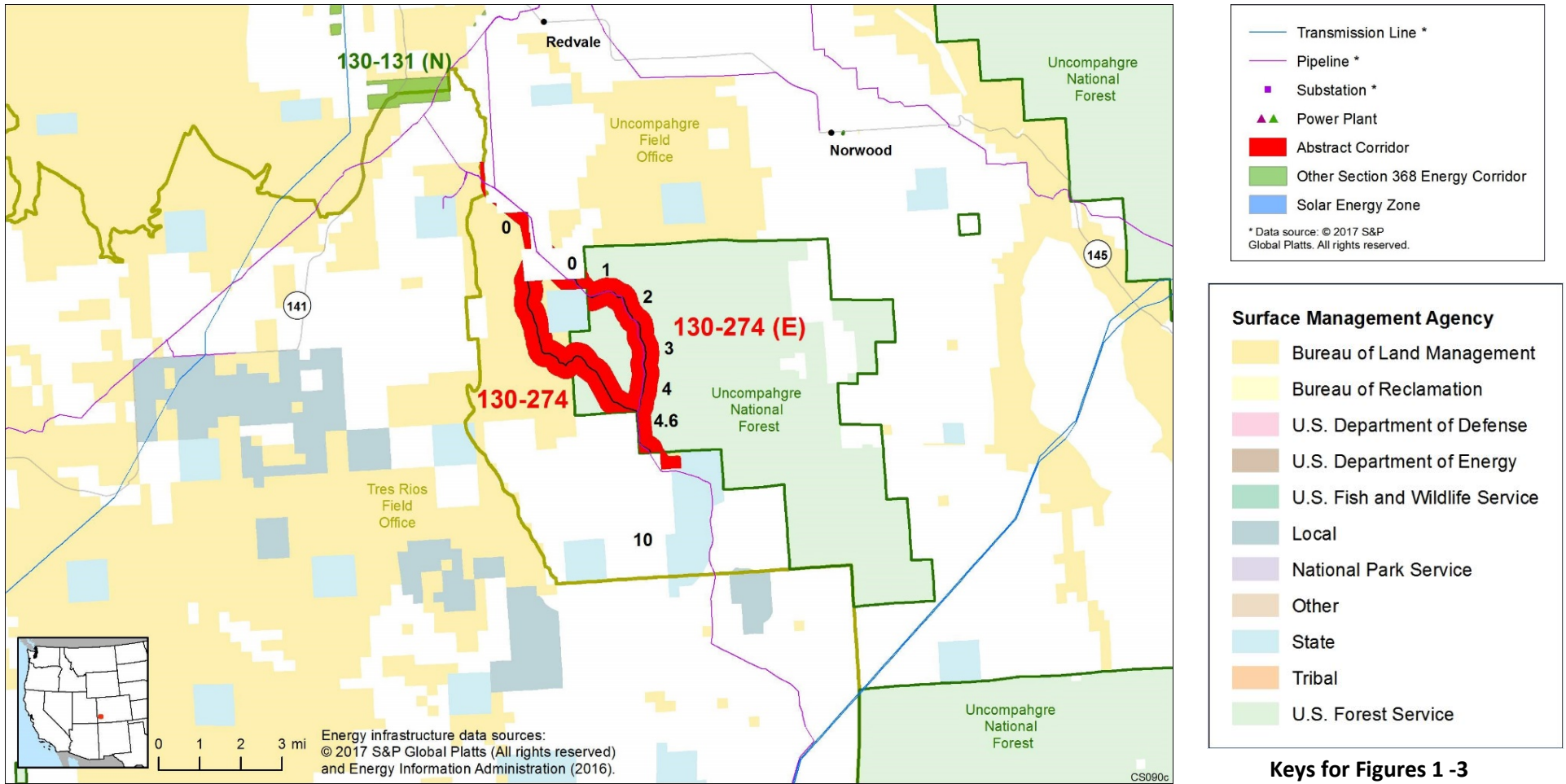


Figure 2. Corridor 130-274/130-274(E) (MP 0 to MP 8) and nearby electric transmission lines and pipelines

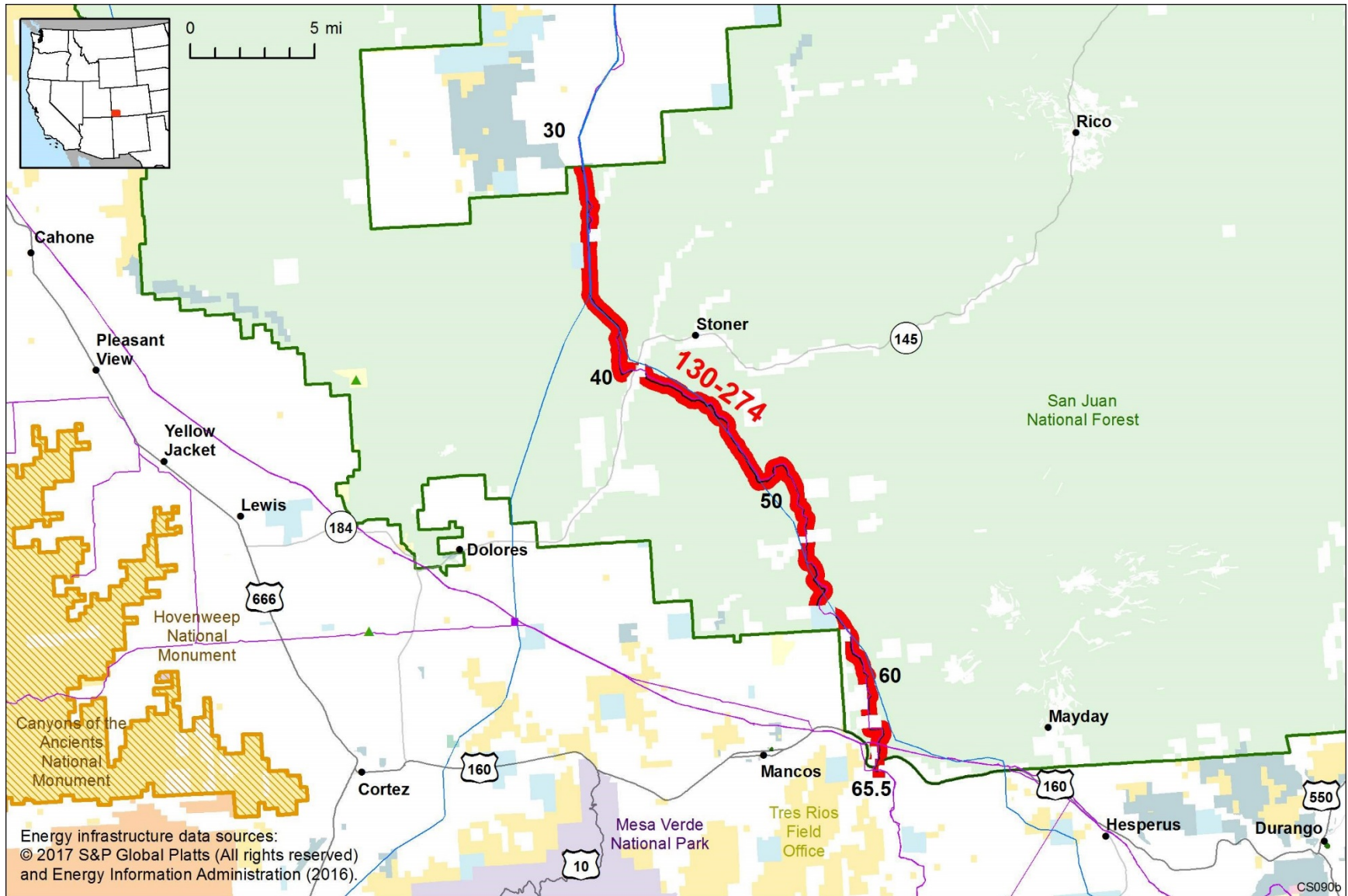


Figure 3. Corridor 130-274/130-274(E) (MP 30 to MP 65) and nearby electric transmission lines and pipelines

Conflict Map Analysis

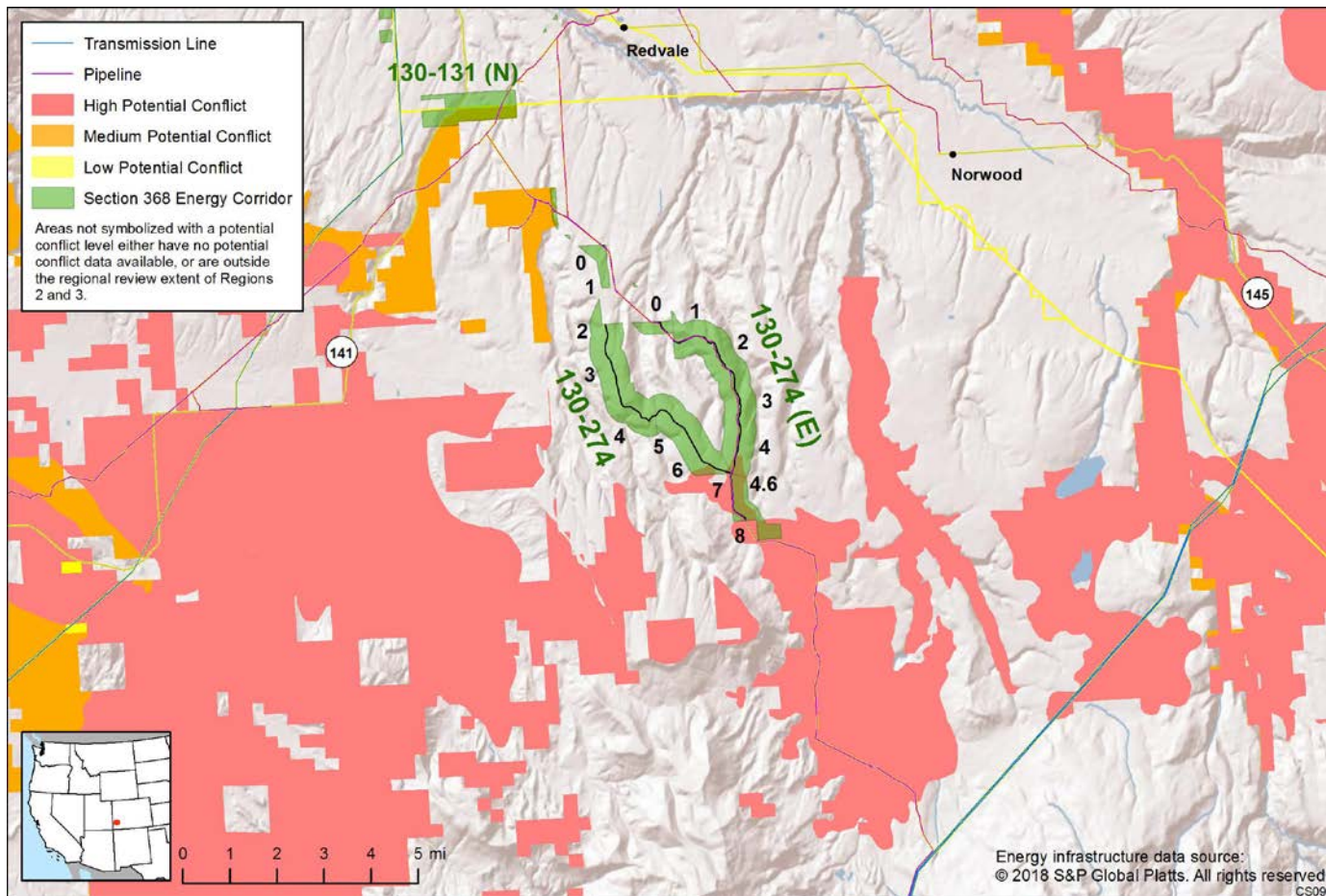


Figure 4. Map of Conflict Areas in Vicinity of Corridor 130-274/130-274(E) (MP 0 to MP 8)

Figures 4 and 5 reflect 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/>)

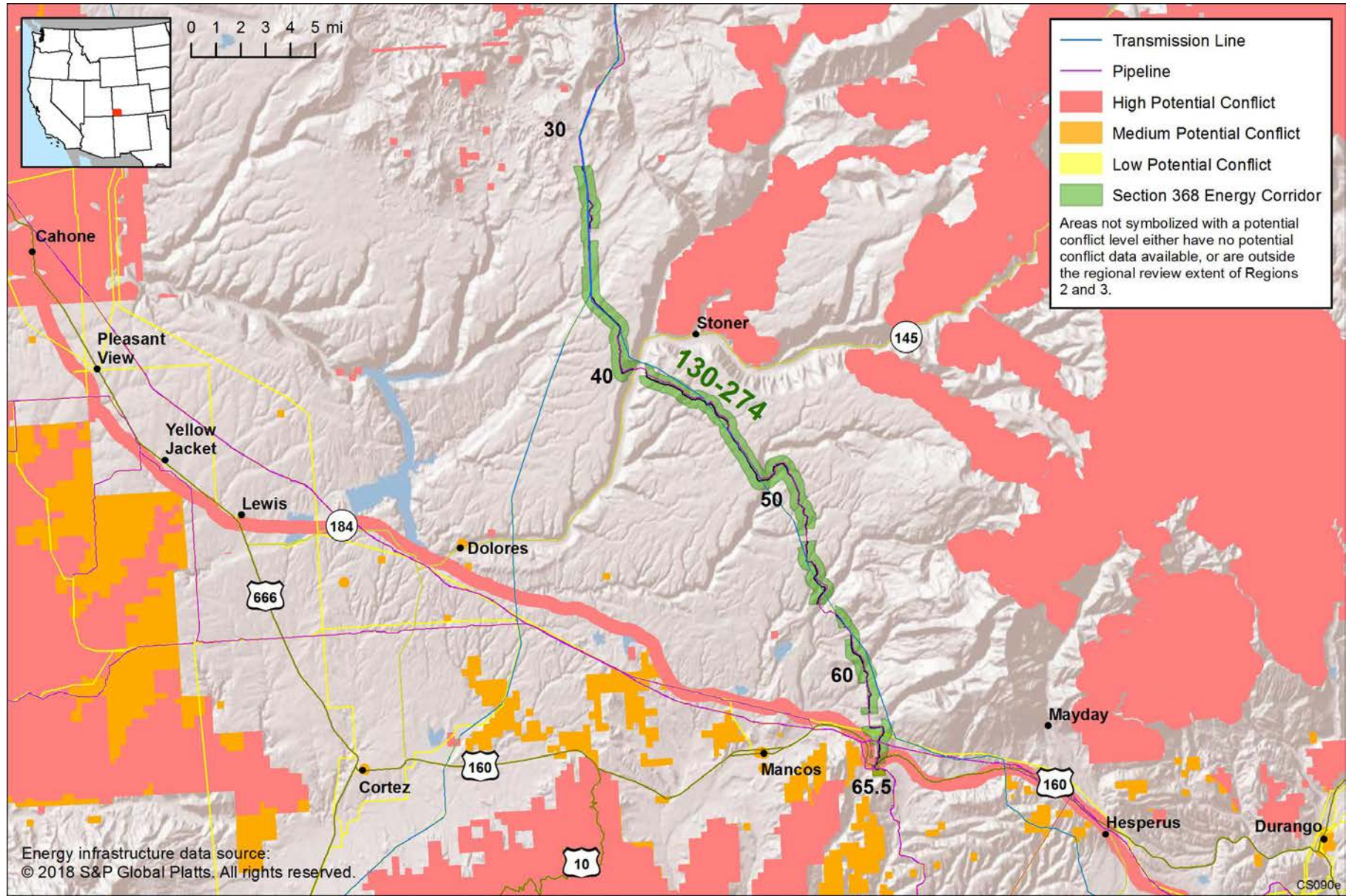


Figure 5. Map of Conflict Areas in Vicinity of Corridor 130-274/130-274(E) (MP 30 to MP 65)

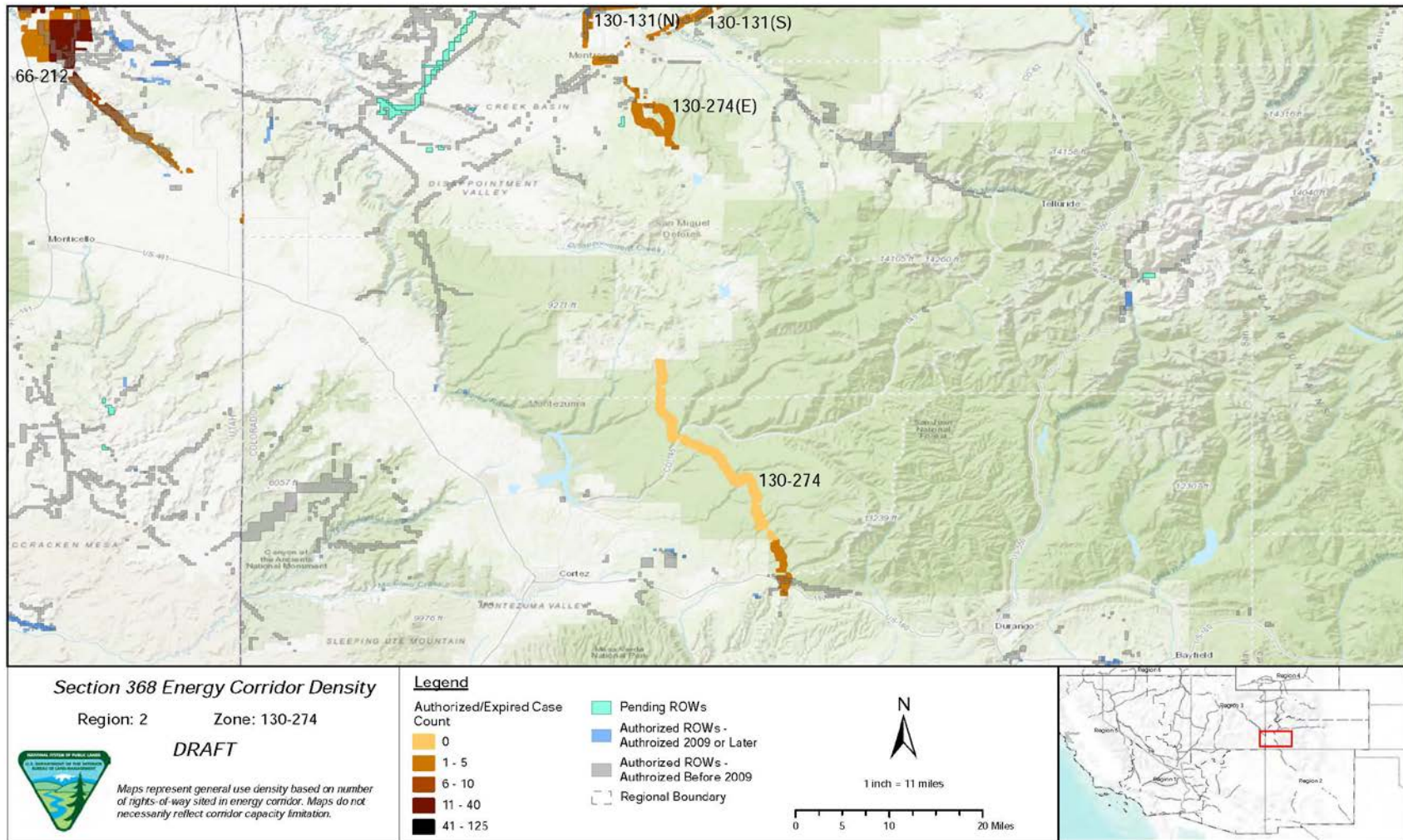


Figure 6. Corridor 130-274/130-274(E), Corridor Density Map

Figure 6 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

A stakeholder suggested that the Agencies demonstrate need and adequacy of the existing corridor in light of new information and circumstances since the PEIS. New information includes plant retirements, the listing of the GUSG and designation of critical habitat in November 2014, and Tri-State's plan to replace its existing 115-kV transmission line with a 230-kV upgrade over the 80-mile long Montrose-Nucla-Cahone overhead transmission line following the existing corridor. The stakeholder also recommended that if a corridor to accommodate overhead transmission lines is still warranted, it should examine the potential to be located within the footprint of an existing ROW having overhead transmission lines, such as the Tri-State Nucla-Cahone expansion, which has just completed an EIS process and seventeen years of study. The stakeholder recommended that the Agencies, in consultation with stakeholders, identify a different corridor alignment that would avoid environmentally sensitive areas on both Federal and non-Federal lands.

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 130-274/130-274(E) 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>							
130-274/ 130-274 (E) .001	USFS	San Juan National Forest	La Plata and Montezuma, CO	San Juan Skyway Scenic Byway	MP 41 and MP 65	GIS Analysis: the San Juan Skyway Scenic Byway and the corridor intersect.	The San Juan Skyway Scenic Byway is administered by CDOT, and future development in the corridor would require coordination with this agency. (3)
130-274/ 130-274 (E) .002	BLM and USFS	Uncompahgre FO and San Juan National Forest	Montezuma and San Miguel, CO	Naturita Canyon and Storm Peak Colorado Roadless Areas	MP 9 (near) and MP 38 to MP 46 (near)	Settlement Agreement; RFI: reroute to avoid concern. GIS Analysis: Storm Peak and Naturita Canyon Colorado Roadless Areas are over 1 mi from corridor. Comment on abstract: Avoid impacts and intersections with Naturita Canyon.	The corridor is not located in the Naturita Canyon and Storm Peaks Colorado Roadless Areas, and development and management inside of the corridor would not be affected. (1)
130-274/ 130-274 (E) .003	BLM and USFS	Tres Rios FO and San Juan	La Plata and Montezuma, CO	OSNHT	MP 65	GIS Analysis: the OSNHT and the	There is an opportunity for the Agencies to consider adding an IOP for NSTs and NHTs as well as adding an IOP

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1, 2}
		National Forest				<p>corridor intersect.</p> <p>Agency Input: San Juan National Forest Plan guidelines for development of the corridor include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Other resource activities should be designed in order to meet scenic quality objectives for these special designation trails (generally, a foreground and middle-ground of very high to high scenic integrity or VRM Class II). -A literature search and/or Class III cultural resources survey should be conducted within 2,600 ft of either side of the centerline of the congressionally designated OSNHT in high potential segments, prior to authorization of ground-disturbing activities or activities that could substantially interfere with the nature and purposes of the trail. 	related to Visual Resources to ensure appropriate consideration occurs with proposed development within the energy corridor. (2)
130-274/130-274 (E) .004	BLM	Tres Rios FO	Montezuma, CO	Menefee Mountain WSA	MP 65 (near)	<p>GIS Analysis: WSA over 1 mi southwest of corridor.</p> <p>Comment on abstract: avoid impacts and intersections to Menefee Mountain WSA.</p>	WSAs are an important resource that are considered carefully during corridor planning. The corridor's current location does not intersect the WSAs and best meets the siting principles. (1)
130-274/130-274 (E) .005	BLM	Tres Rios FO	San Miguel and Dolores, CO	McKenna Peak WSA	MP 18 to MP 20	Comment on abstract: McKenna Peak WSA is as close as 1 mi to corridor.	

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1, 2}
Ecology							
130-274/130-274 (E) .006	BLM and USFS	Uncompahgre FO and GMUG National Forest	San Miguel, CO	GUSG critical habitat (ESA-listed: threatened)	MP 4 to MP 5 within Corridor 130- 274(E) and MP 6 to MP 13	<p>Settlement Agreement; RFI: reroute to avoid concern.</p> <p>GIS Analysis: corridor intersects critical habitat in southernmost portion of the corridor on the GMUG National Forest.</p> <p>Comment on abstract: recommend that GUSG critical habitat within the satellite populations be designated as a ROW Exclusion Area and in the Gunnison Basin, designated as a ROW Avoidance Area and recommend that the corridor be rerouted to avoid GUSG critical habitat. Where existing transmission lines are present, recommend disturbance only within existing infrastructure footprint. If avoidance or collocation is not possible within the Gunnison Basin, recommend burying the transmission line and instituting compensatory mitigation.</p> <p>Corridor should be rerouted to avoid GUSG critical habitat. Any impacts to GUSG critical habitat should require compensatory mitigation.</p> <p>GUSG critical habitat should be designated a ROW Exclusion Area.</p>	<p>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 there are no alternative routes on BLM or USFS lands with existing infrastructure that would not go through areas of ESA-listed critical habitat. Another alternative would not lend-itself to collocation and would further fragment critical habitat. (1)</p> <p>At MP 8.5 , consider re-routing the corridor to avoid GUSG critical habitat or requiring sections that intersect with critical habitat or are within 4 miles of a lek to be underground and habitat restored to meet Primary Constituent Elements of critical habitat for PCE2 (Breeding).</p> <p>In the GMUG National Forest, Corridor 130-274E is designated underground only, which addresses much of the concerns for GUSG by avoiding vertical structures. Timing restrictions for future projects or maintenance would also help mitigate effects. For Corridor 130-274, consider designating the corridor underground use only in addition to timing restrictions noted above. (2)</p>

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1, 2}
						<p>Agencies should recognize BLM IM 2014-100 and adhere to the guidance requiring focusing any type of development in non-habitat areas. The Agencies should consider a revision to the corridor to adhere to this guidance.</p> <p>New infrastructure and ROWs should be excluded from critical habitat and avoided within 4-mi of leks and the BLM GUSG RMPA/EIS Decision Area.</p> <p>The Agencies have not analyzed cumulative impacts from repeated disturbance of the ROW of the existing pipeline for maintenance as or if there were to be other infrastructure collocated with it.</p> <p>Corridor creates impacts to habitat located within 2,600 ft of multiple leks of the Miramonte subpopulation of the San Miguel Basin population of GUSG. This is the most viable subpopulation of the GUSG.</p> <p>Comment on abstract: 7-mi segment of corridor intersects GUSG critical habitat or conservation areas. Reroute to avoid critical habitat.</p>	
130-274/130-274 (E) .007	USFS	GMUG National Forest	San Miguel, CO	GUSG conservation areas	Not specified.	Settlement Agreement; RFI: reroute to avoid concern.	Corridor 130-274 (E) is designated underground only, which addresses much of the concerns for GUSG by

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							avoiding vertical structures. Timing restrictions for future projects or maintenance would also help mitigate effects. For Corridor 130-274, consider designating the corridor underground use only in addition to timing restrictions noted above. (2)
130-274/130-274 (E) .008				Special Status Species	Not specified.	Comment on abstract: additional species not identified in the corridor abstract may be present: New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse, North American Wolverine, Mexican Spotted Owl, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bonytail Chub, Colorado Pikeminnow, Greenback Cutthroat Trout, Humpback Chub, Razorback Sucker, Mesa Verde Cactus. Conduct further analysis to determine the presence of abovementioned species.	This corridor location within the current range where these species may occur is not easily resolved or avoided by corridor-level planning because alternate routes would still require siting through the current range of these species. Further analysis to determine the presence of all species occurring within the area will be considered outside of corridor level planning. (3)
130-274/130-274 (E) .009	USFS	GMUG National Forest	Dolores, Montezuma, and San Miguel, CO	Big-game winter range	Corridor 130-274(E): entire corridor Corridor 130-274: MP 5 to MP 6, MP 32 to MP 65	Comment on abstract: seasonally restricted big-game winter range per the Forest Plan.	Big-game winter range is an important resource but further analysis is not a consideration for corridor-level planning. (3)
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics							
130-274/130-274 (E) .010				Citizens' proposed wilderness	Not specified.	Settlement Agreement; RFI: reroute to avoid concern.	The BLM's current inventory findings will be used in land use planning analyses related to the revision, deletion, or addition to the energy corridors. Consideration of citizens' wilderness proposals is beyond the Agencies scope and authority. As such, the corridor's current location best meets the siting principles. (1)

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1, 2}
							<p>At such time that citizens' inventory information is formally submitted, the BLM will compare its official Agency inventory information with the submitted materials, determine if the conclusion reached in previous BLM inventories remains valid, and update findings regarding the lands ability to qualify as wilderness in character.</p> <p>There are no wilderness proposals on the GMUG National Forest. The San Juan Mountain Wilderness Proposal currently identifies the Naturita Canyon, approximately 2 mi east of 130-274(E) as an area to be withdrawn from mineral leasing to prevent oil and gas leasing from occurring. Naturita Canyon is a CRA and is not affected by the existing TransColorado pipeline in Corridor 130-274 (E).</p>
Visual Resources							
130-274/130-274 (E) .011	BLM	Tres Rios FO	Montezuma, CO	VRM Class I	MP 66	GIS Analysis: VRM Class I areas are over 1 mi west of corridor.	The corridor does not cross VRM Class I areas. (1)
130-274/130-274 (E) .012	BLM	Uncompahgre FO	San Miguel, CO	VRI Class III	MP 0 to MP 5 MP 0 to MP 1	GIS Analysis: VRI Class III areas and the corridor intersect. No VRM indicated in the 1985 San Juan/San Miguel Planning Area RMP, so VRI data used.	The BLM utilizes the VRM system to manage and protect visual/scenic resources. VRM cannot occur in a systematic and objective manner without a proper inventory of visual resources. An accurate inventory of visual resources creates the needed baseline data to conduct VRM. The VRI is a methodical process intended to evaluate and determine the quality of visual resources and the value of those resources in a given area. A VRI was completed for the Uncompahgre FO in September of 2009. While not yet

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1, 2}
							incorporated into the current RMP, this data is the most recent and comprehensive data available for visual resources within the Uncompahgre FO. (3)
130-274/130-274 (E) .013	BLM	Tres Rios FO	San Miguel, Montezuma, and La Plata, CO	VRM Class III	MP 0 and MP 65 to MP 66 MP 65	GIS Analysis: VRM Class III areas and corridor intersect. Agency Input: The OSNHT and CO State Highway 109 transect a VRM Class III area of the corridor. A gas pipeline is currently located in the corridor	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)
130-274/130-274 (E) .014	USFS	San Juan National Forest	Montezuma and Dolores, CO	SIO classes	Not specified.	Agency Input: no Very High SIO but a few places of High SIO.	Future development within the corridor could be limited. Landscape character appears intact. Deviations may be present but must repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the landscape. (3)
130-274/130-274 (E) .015				Visual resources	Not specified.	Comment on abstract: transmission lines intersecting areas with scenic qualities/visual resources important to San Miguel County should be buried and sited to ensure retention of Wilderness/Roadless/wildland characteristics. If a corridor to accommodate overhead transmission lines is needed, preference should be given to locating it within the footprint of an existing ROW having overhead transmission lines, such as the Tri-State Nucla-Cahone expansion which has just completed an EIS process. The abstract does not take into consideration the protection of	There is an opportunity for the Agencies to consider an IOP(s) for roadless areas, lands with wilderness characteristics, and Visual Resources to ensure appropriate consideration occurs with proposed development within the energy corridor. (2) The BLM RMPs may have exclusion or avoidance prescriptions for utility corridors that would intersect VRM areas depending on the location (e.g., within a SRMA). The San Juan/San Miguel RMP does not designate any ROW exclusion or avoidance areas related to VRM, and the Uncompahgre RMP revision has not been finalized although it may address San Miguel County concerns with regards to VRM in the area of concern.

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1, 2}
						visual resources desired by San Miguel County and its citizens.	
Cultural Resources							
130-274/130-274 (E) .016	BLM	Tres Rios FO		Cultural sites	Not specified.	Agency Input: large known cultural sites with associated surveys. The corridor crosses an archeologically dense area with many sites eligible for the National Register.	The potential for cultural resources is a concern for the Agencies that cannot be resolved during corridor-level planning. Surveys will occur as part of the ROW application process. 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							
Public Access and Recreation							
130-274/130-274 (E) .017	State	Colorado Parks & Wildlife	Montezuma, CO	Mancos State Park	MP 57 to MP 60	GIS Analysis: park is within 2 mi west of corridor.	The park does not intersect the corridor and is therefore not a consideration for use of the corridor at corridor-level planning. (1)
Other noted land use concerns							
130-274/130-274 (E) .018	NA	State and private lands	San Miguel and Dolores, CO	State and private lands within corridor gap	MP 9 to MP 32	RFI: impact that development within the corridor could have on state or privately owned parcels (jurisdictional corridor gaps) that are located between designated corridor segments on Federal lands. Recommend that the Agencies extend assessment of existing corridors to non-Federal lands, including private and state trust lands. Comment on abstract: corridors, where gaps have high-conflict areas and environmentally sensitive areas, should not be designated, as they are not leading to the location of corridors in favorable landscapes or maximizing	There may be an opportunity for the Agencies to consider revising the corridor by shifting it to the east from MP 9 to MP 30 to locate the corridor along existing energy infrastructure on private lands. However, BLM and USFS can only authorize projects on Federally administered lands. Development in corridor gap would require coordination outside of the Agencies. Additional authorization across these lands would require close coordination with the landowner, the easement holder, and the proponent to avoid and resolve conflicts. (2)

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						avoidance of environmentally sensitive areas. Corridors should not be sited where there will be impacts as great or greater than those that led to avoided siting in similar areas on Federal lands.	
130-274/130-274 (E) .019	State	Colorado Parks and Wildlife		Conservation easements	Not specified.	<p>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.</p> <p>Corridors should avoid CPW-owned land and private lands encumbered by conservation easements. The Agencies should obtain current data on the</p>	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.

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					MP 5 to MP 17 and MP 7 to MP 17	locations, extents, and primary conservation values of conserved lands within San Miguel County. Reroute corridor to avoid repeated disturbances to GUSG critical habitat, state lands managed for wildlife including GUSG, and private lands encumbered with conservation easements.	
130-274/130-274 (E) .020	BLM and USFS	Tres Rios FO and San Juan National Forest	Montezuma and La Plata, CO	NSO Area	MP 65	GIS Analysis: NSO Area intersects corridor. Agency Input: NSO for riparian habitat exists in a small area of Corridor 130-274(E).	No opportunity to avoid NSO Area within BLM-administered lands. Pipeline must accommodate directional underground drilling only within two extremely steep river/canyon corridors that are subject to landslides, including the Dolores River Canyon and Lost Canyon within the San Juan National Forest. Substantial investments in mitigation efforts/bonding are likely in these canyon corridors, if surface disturbance is warranted. (3)
130-274/130-274 (E) .021	USFS	GMUG National Forest	San Miguel, CO	Oil and gas leases	Not specified.	Agency Input: in the GMUG, the corridor is in an area available for oil and gas leasing per 1993 leasing decision.	Controlled surface use stipulations would apply in corridor areas. There are no existing leases on the GMUG National Forest; however, there are existing leases to the west and northwest. (1)

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

BLM = Bureau of Land Management; CDOT = Colorado Department of Transportation; CPW = Colorado Parks and Wildlife; ESA = Endangered Species Act; FO = Field Office; EIS = Environmental Impact Statement; GIS = geographic information system; GMUG = Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison; GUSG = Gunnison Sage-grouse; IM = Instruction Memorandum; IOP = interagency operating procedure; LRMP = Land and Resources Management Plan; MP = milepost; NF = National Forest; NHT = National Historic Trail; NSO = no surface occupancy; NST = National Scenic Trail; OSNHT = Old Spanish National Historic Trail; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; RFI = request for information; RMP = Resource Management Plan; RMPA = Resource Management Plan Amendment; ROW = right-of-way; SIO = Scenic Integrity Objective; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; VRI = Visual Resource Inventory; VRM = Visual Resource Management; WSA = Wilderness Study Area; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor.