

Corridor 223-224

Junction US-95/Hwy-160 to Northwest Las Vegas

Introduction

Corridor 223-224 extends east-west along U.S. Highway 95 to the south of Desert National Wildlife Range and Nellis Air Force Range and north of Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (RRCNCA) and the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area. The corridor ends at the junction of Corridors 18-224 and 224-225 near Mercury, NV. Federally-designated portions of this corridor are entirely on BLM-administered land, with a 3,500-ft width for the majority of the corridor and a reduced 2,050-ft width between the Nevada Test and Training Range and RRCNCA from Mileposts (MP) 6.8 to 17.5. It is designated as a multi-modal corridor that can accommodate both electrical transmission and pipeline projects. The corridor spans a 47.2-mile distance, with 45.2 designated centerline miles. The designated area is 17,786 acres/ 27.8 square miles. BLM jurisdictions in Nevada include the Las Vegas Field Office in Clark County, and the Pahrump Field Office in southern Nye County. This corridor is also entirely in Priority Region 1 for purposes of the regional review.

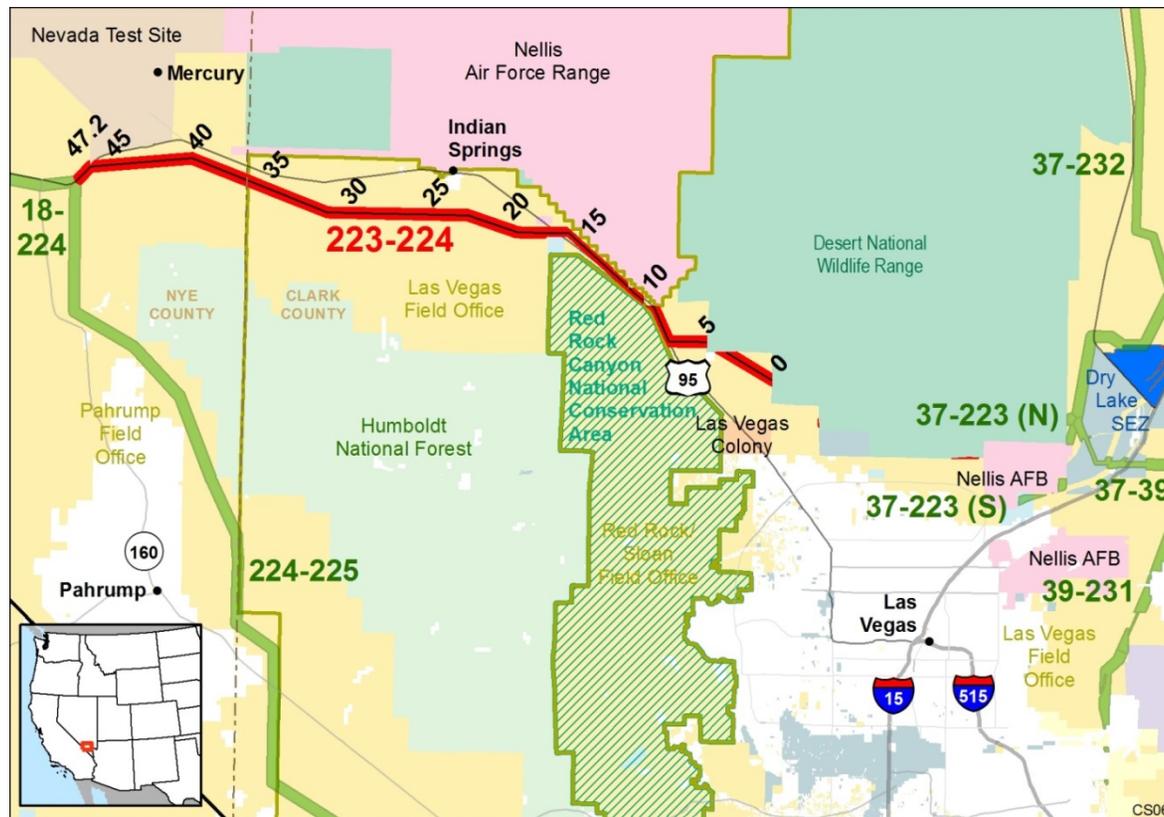


Figure 1. Corridor 223-224 (Key for Figures 1-2 can be found on the last page of the abstract)

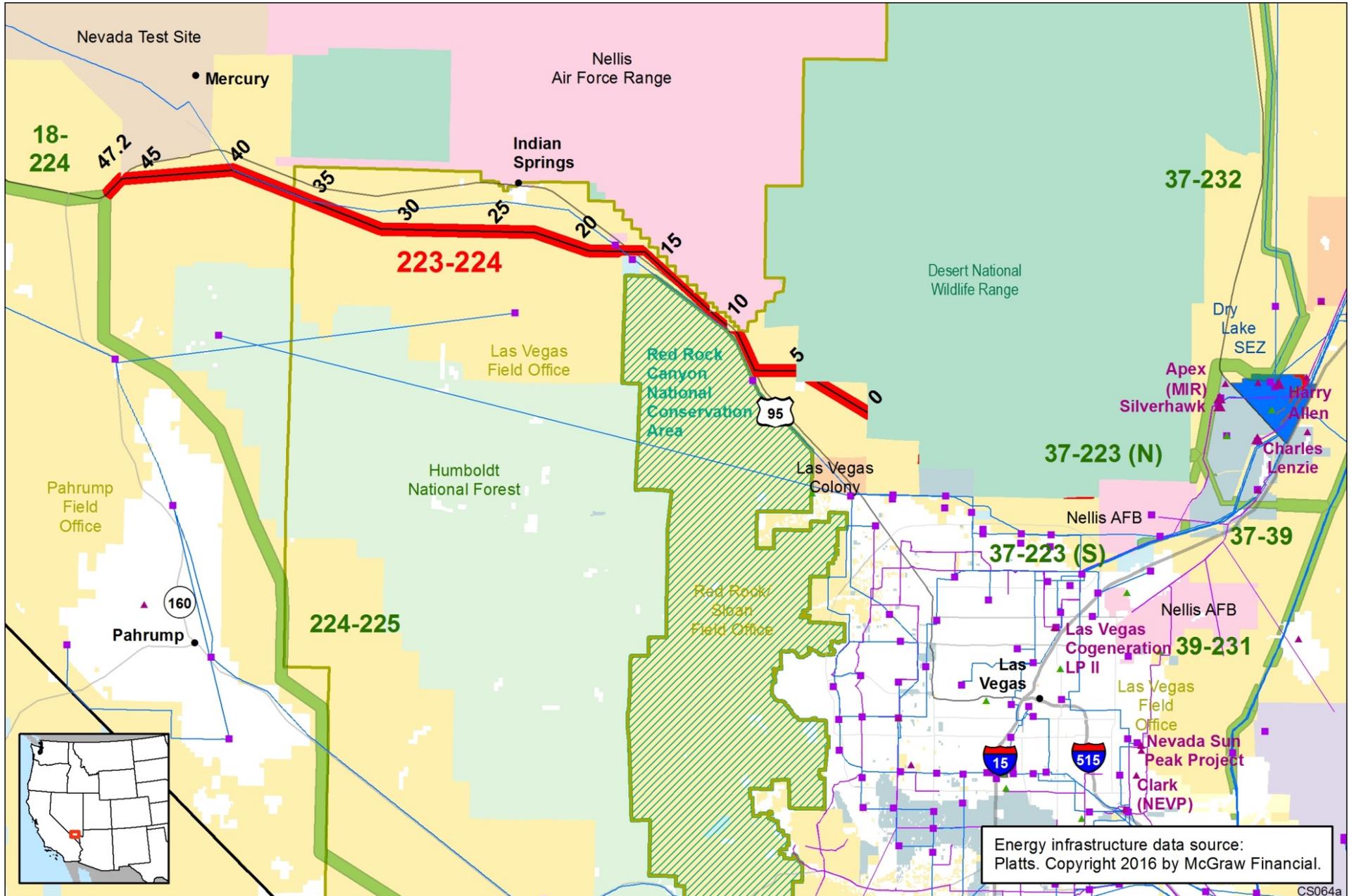


Figure 2. Corridor 223-224, including existing energy infrastructure

Corridor Rationale

During scoping for the WWEC PEIS, routes generally following this route were not suggested. However, the route was added to provide a connection across the northern portion of the Las Vegas area between major north-south routes. The corridor is occupied by U.S. Highway 95 from MP 6.7 to 17.1 and 45.5 to 47.2 and a Nevada Power Company electric transmission crossing at MP 17.3 and located within the corridor from MP 33.4 to 39.9. There are several authorized rights-of-way (ROWS) that partially traverse the corridor and include three 138-kV transmission lines; 69-kV, 12.5-kV, 7.2-kV, and 4-kV power distribution lines; a 12-kV underground distribution line; telephone and fiber optic communication lines; and several pending ROWS.

Corridor of Concern Status

Corridor 223-224 is a Corridor of Concern. Concerns regarding Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and the Desert National Wildlife Range were identified in the Settlement Agreement. These issues are highlighted in yellow in the Corridor Analysis table below.

Corridor Analysis

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

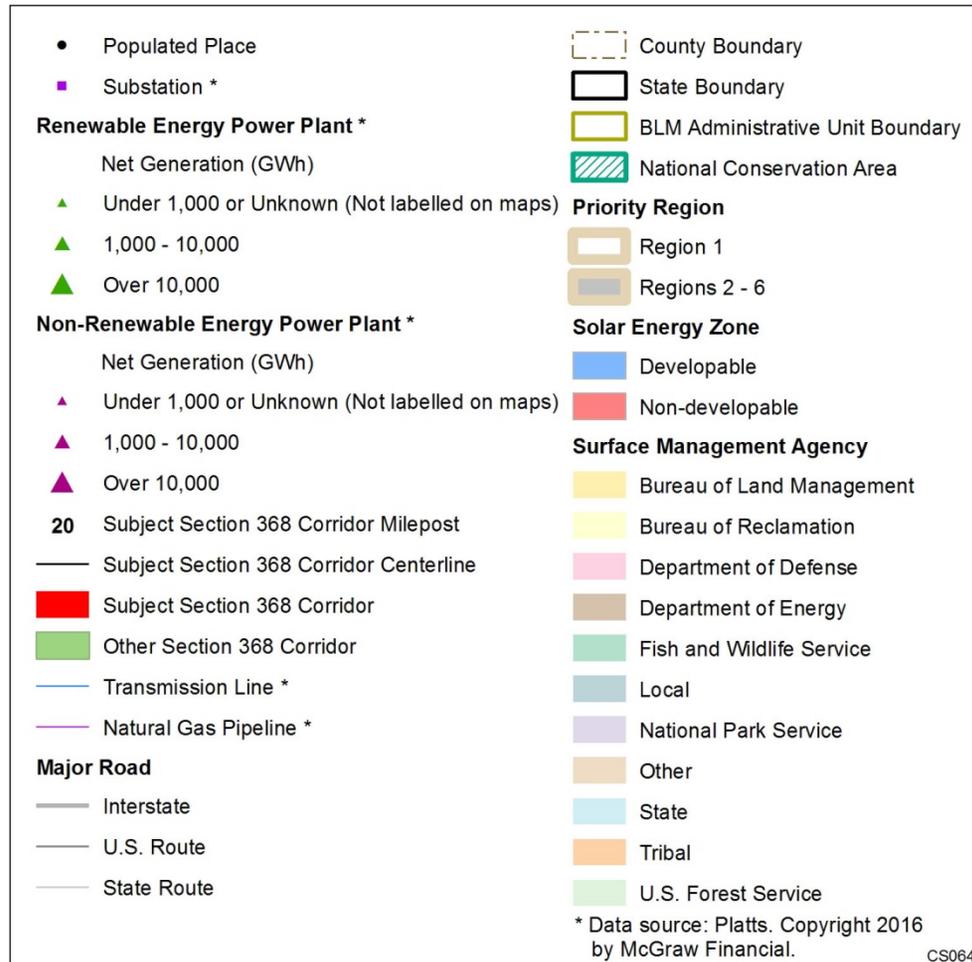
Interagency Operating Procedures

ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern/ Opportunity	Length of Affected Corridor (by Milepost [MP])	Source/Context	BLM/FS Review and Analysis
ENERGY PLANNING CONCERNS							
Jurisdictional Concern							
223-224 .001	DOD	Las Vegas FO, NV	Clark, NV	Discontinuous or reduced corridor width	MP 9.2 to 12.6	GIS Analysis/Discontinuous or reduced width portion of corridor includes 2 acres of DOD-administered land in Nellis Air Force Range that were studied in the WECC PEIS as part of this corridor, but not designated.	Yes, this is a constraint. This corridor is constrained by lands withdrawn to DoD north of US-95 and Red Rock Canyon NCA south of US-5. Consider reducing width and realigning corridor south of US-95 with the 1998 RMP-designated corridor labeled US-95-Crater-Flat-Red Rock within the subject area.
223-224 .002	FWS	Las Vegas FO, NV	Clark, NV	Undesignated gap	MP 3.2 to 4.6, and east of MP 0 to 37-223	GIS Analysis/An undesignated gap and an eastern portion of the corridor connecting to Corridor 37-223 includes 7,458 acres of USFWS-administered land in the Desert National Wildlife Range that were studied in the WWEC PEIS as part of this corridor, but not designated	Yes, this is a constraint. This corridor is constrained by lands withdrawn to the National Park Service for the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument and the USFWS Desert National Wildlife Range. The referenced eastern portion appears to overlap the 400 ft. wide Renewable Energy Transmission Corridor that was established by Congress in 2014 pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2015, Public Law 113-291. This law is commonly referred as the NDAA, or Tule Springs Bill. Consistent with the NDAA, the Renewable energy corridor also traverses lands transferred to the State of Nevada for the UNLV North Campus. The eastern portion also falls within formerly used defense sites (FUDS). Consider reducing width and realigning corridor near MP 3.2 to 4.6 and deleting the corridor near MP 0.0.
LAND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS							
Ecology: Special Status Animal Species							
223-224 .003	BLM	Pahrump FO, Las	Nye and Clark, NV	Tortoise Conservation Area	Entire corridor	RFI/Re-route to avoid siting new facilities in TCAs	Not a constraint. Impacts to connectivity habitat can be mitigated

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		Vegas FO		(TCA)		without existing transmission, and minimize additional transmission siting in TCAs.	and minimized through ESA Sec. 7 consultation with the USFWS.
Ecology: Terrestrial Wildlife, Big Game, Non-Migratory Birds, and Aquatic Biota							
223-224 .005				Priority 1 & 2 Connectivity Habitat	Data needed	RFI/Re-route to avoid siting new facilities within this habitat without existing transmission, and minimize additional transmission siting in these areas	Not a constraint. Impacts to connectivity habitat can be mitigated and minimized through ESA Sec. 7 consultation with the USFWS.
Hydrology: Surface Water							
223-224 .006	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Intermittent Stream: Willow Creek	MP 1.8, 4.6, 27.4	GIS Analysis	Not a constraint. Utilities can either span or be buried under intermittent streams. Riparian vegetation could be avoided or impacts mitigated.
Lands and Realty: Military and Civilian Aviation							
223-224 .007	BLM	Pahrump FO, Las Vegas FO	Nye and Clark, NV	Military Training Route – Visual Route	MP 11.7 to 47.2	GIS Analysis	Not a constraint. Adherence to IOPs would be required such as to avoid conflict with Federal and non-Federal operations; the applicant shall be aware of liabilities pertaining to environmental hazards, safety standards, and military flying areas; and an electricity transmission project shall be planned by the applicant to comply with FAA regulations, including lighting regulations, and to avoid potential safety issues associated with proximity to airports, military bases or training areas, or landing strips.
223-224 .008	BLM	Pahrump FO, Las Vegas FO	Nye and Clark, NV	Military Training Route – Instrument Route	MP 32.4 to 47.2	GIS Analysis	Not a constraint. Adherence to IOPs would be required, such as noted above.
Lands and Realty: Transportation							
223-224 .009	BLM	Pahrump FO, Las Vegas FO	Nye and Clark, NV	U.S. Highway 95	MP 6.7 to 17.2, 45.6 to 47.2	GIS Analysis	Not a constraint. Coordination with Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) would be required.
Specialty Designated Areas							
223-224	BLM	Las Vegas	Clark, NV	Desert National	MP 2.7 to 4.6	RFI/The corridor crosses the	Not a constraint. The WWEC PEIS

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.010		FO		Wildlife Range		Desert National Wildlife Range in non-federal gap	designated corridors on BLM and Forest Service administered land. Adherence to IOPs required. Under review by USFWS.
223-224 .011	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Mt. Charleston Scenic Byway	MP 10.7	GIS Analysis	Not a constraint.
223-224 .012	BLM	Red Rock/Sloan FO	Clark, NV	Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (RRCNCA)	Abuts corridor on south side, MP 4.6 to 17.1	GIS Analysis	Not a constraint. While the corridor is located adjacent to the Red Rock Canyon NCA, the corridor does not traverse the NCA. However, the proximity to the NCA does require a narrower corridor width and limits the amount of additional development that would be allowed.
Visual Resources							
223-224 .013	BLM	Pahrump FO, Las Vegas FO	Nye and Clark, NV	VRM Class III	Entire corridor MP 0.0 to 47.2	GIS Analysis	Not a constraint. However, restrictions would be applied commensurate with designated VRM class; development must be in conformance with VRM objectives outlined in BLM Manual 8400.
INTERAGENCY OPERATING PROCEDURES (IOPS, OR BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES)							
223-224 .004	BLM			Wildlife resources	No designated critical habitat intersects the corridor	RFI/Consult closely with state fish and game agencies and the USFWS to ensure that valuable wildlife resources are protected from the "Very High" risk to Imperiled Species posed by this segment.	Adherence to IOPs is required.

Abbreviations: ACEC = Area of Critical Environmental Concern; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; BOR = Bureau of Reclamation; DO = District Office; DoD = Department of Defense; ESA = Endangered Species Act; FAA = Federal Aviation Administration; FO = Field Office; FS = Forest Service; FUDS = formerly used defense sites; GIS = geographic information system; IOP = Interagency Operating Procedures; MP = milepost; NCA = National Conservation Area; NDAA = National Defense Authorization Act; NDOT = Nevada Department of Transportation; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; RFI = Request for Information; RMP = Resource Management Plan; ROW = right-of-way; RRNCA = Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area; TCA = Tortoise Conservation Area; UNLV = University of Nevada-Las Vegas; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; VRM = Visual Resource Management; WECC = Western Energy Coordinating Council; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor



Key