

Corridor 68-116

Page Corridor

Corridor Rationale

Input regarding alignment from National Grid, the Seams Steering Group-Western Interconnection, and the Western Utility Group during the WVEC 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. The planned Lake Powell pipeline is located near the corridor but the preferred route follows Highway 89, not Corridor 68-116. Current and reasonably foreseeable applications to build solar farms on SITLA lands could potentially underscore the continued need for the corridor due to future renewable energy development.

Corridor location:

Arizona (Coconino Co.)

Utah (Kane Co.)

BLM: Arizona Strip and Kanab FOs

Regional Review Region(s): Region 3

Corridor width, length:

Width: 5,280 ft (Arizona Field Office) and 3,500 ft (rest of corridor)

37.7 miles of designated corridor

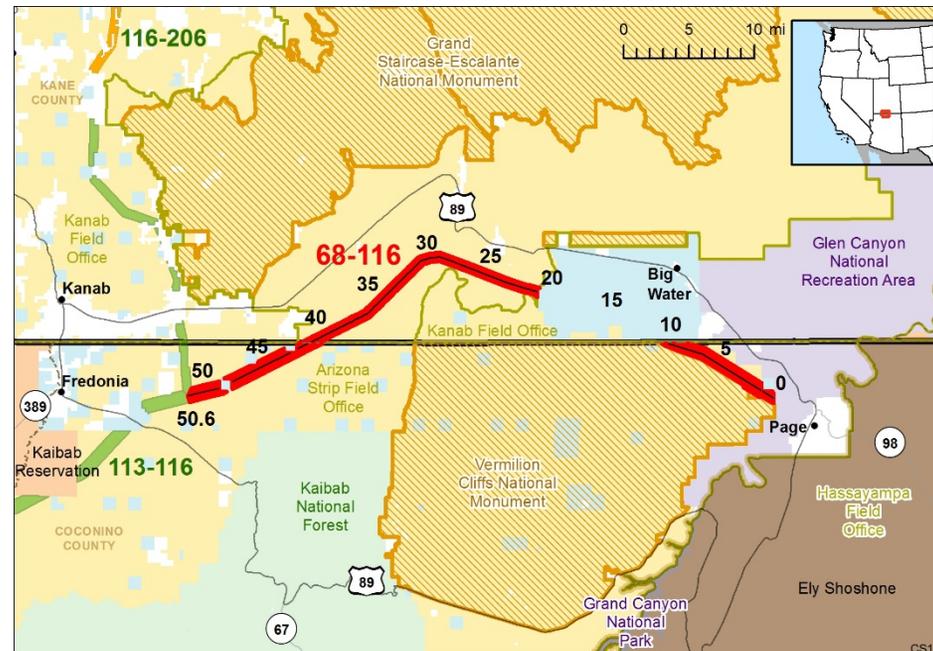
50.6 mile-posted route, including gaps

Sec 368 energy corridor restrictions: (N)

- corridor is multi-modal

Corridor of concern (Y)

- access to coal plants and impacts to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Wild & Scenic Rivers, and a scenic byway.



Corridor history:

- Locally designated corridor prior to 2009 (Y)
- Locally designated in Arizona Strip FO
- Existing infrastructure (Y)
- Electric transmission:
 - 500 kV (MP 0 to MP 51)
 - 69 kV (MP 0 to MP 27)
 - 230 kV (MP 0 to MP 7)
- Energy potential near the corridor (Y)
- Glen Canyon Dam Hydroelectric Plant (1,312 MW) < 3 mi east of MP 0
- REDA adjacent to corridor between MP 1 and MP 2
- Corridor changes since 2009 (N)

Figure 1. Corridor 68-116

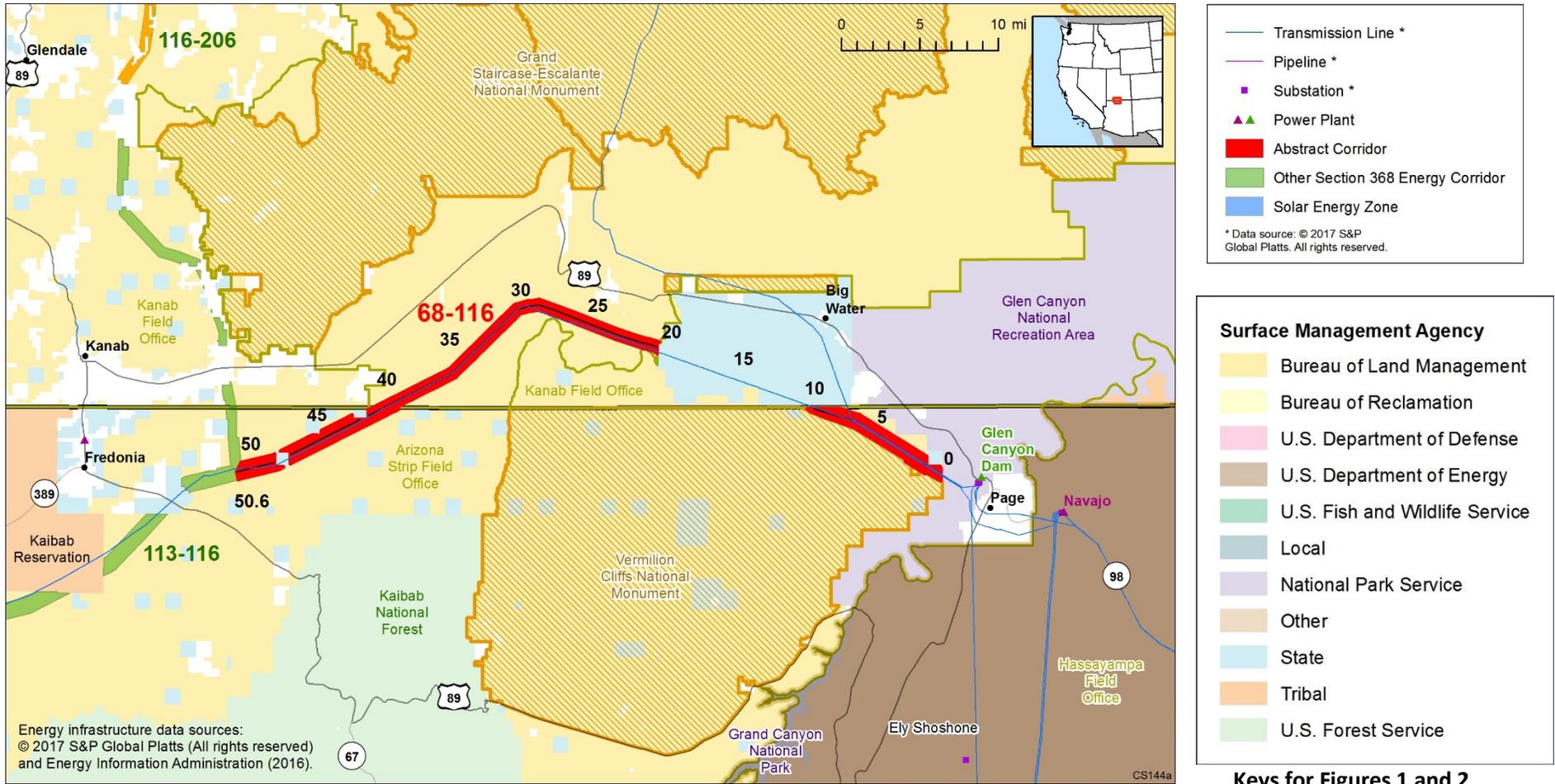


Figure 2. Corridor 68-116 and nearby electric transmission lines and pipelines

Conflict Map Analysis

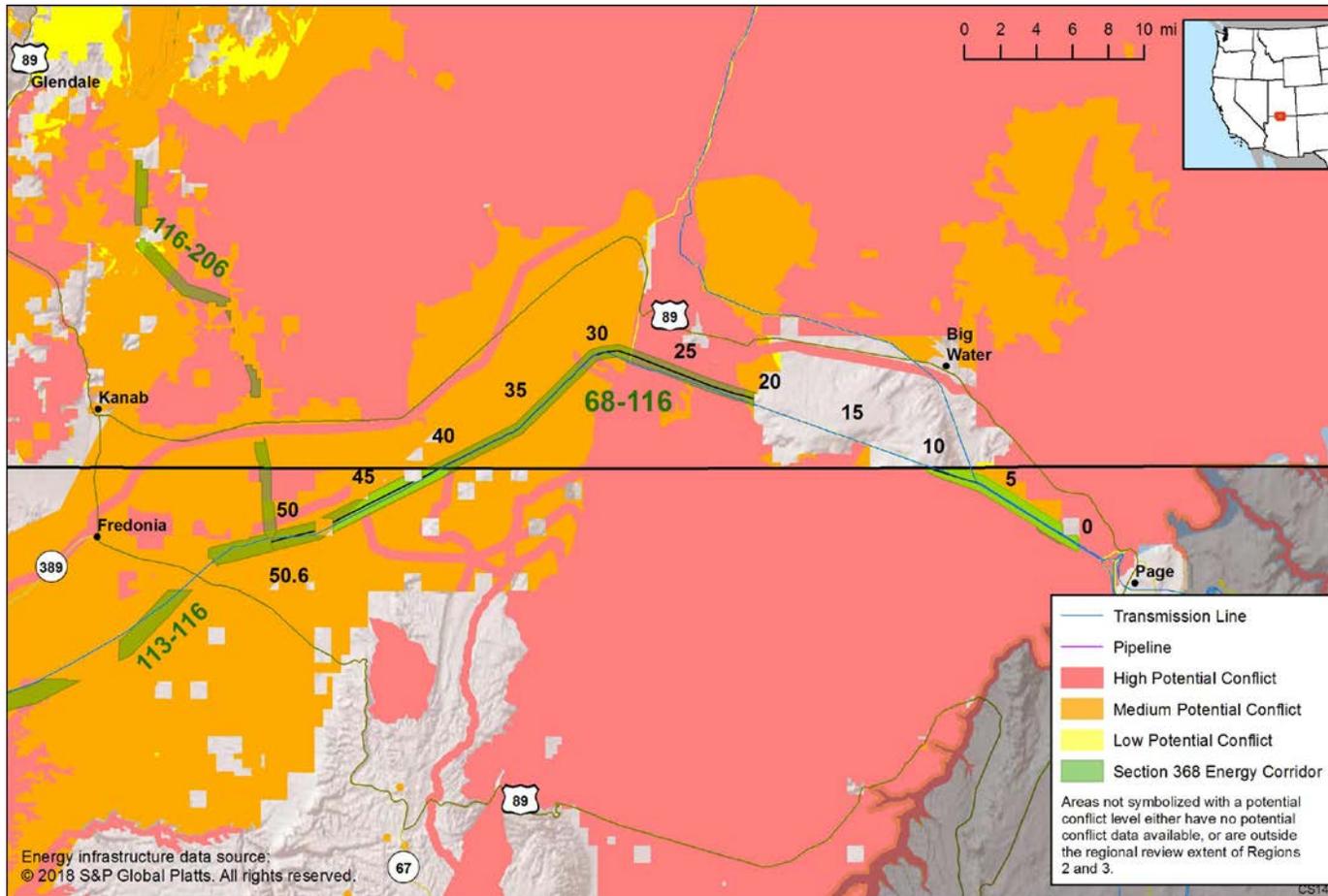


Figure 3. Map of Conflict Areas in Vicinity of Corridor 68-116

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/>)

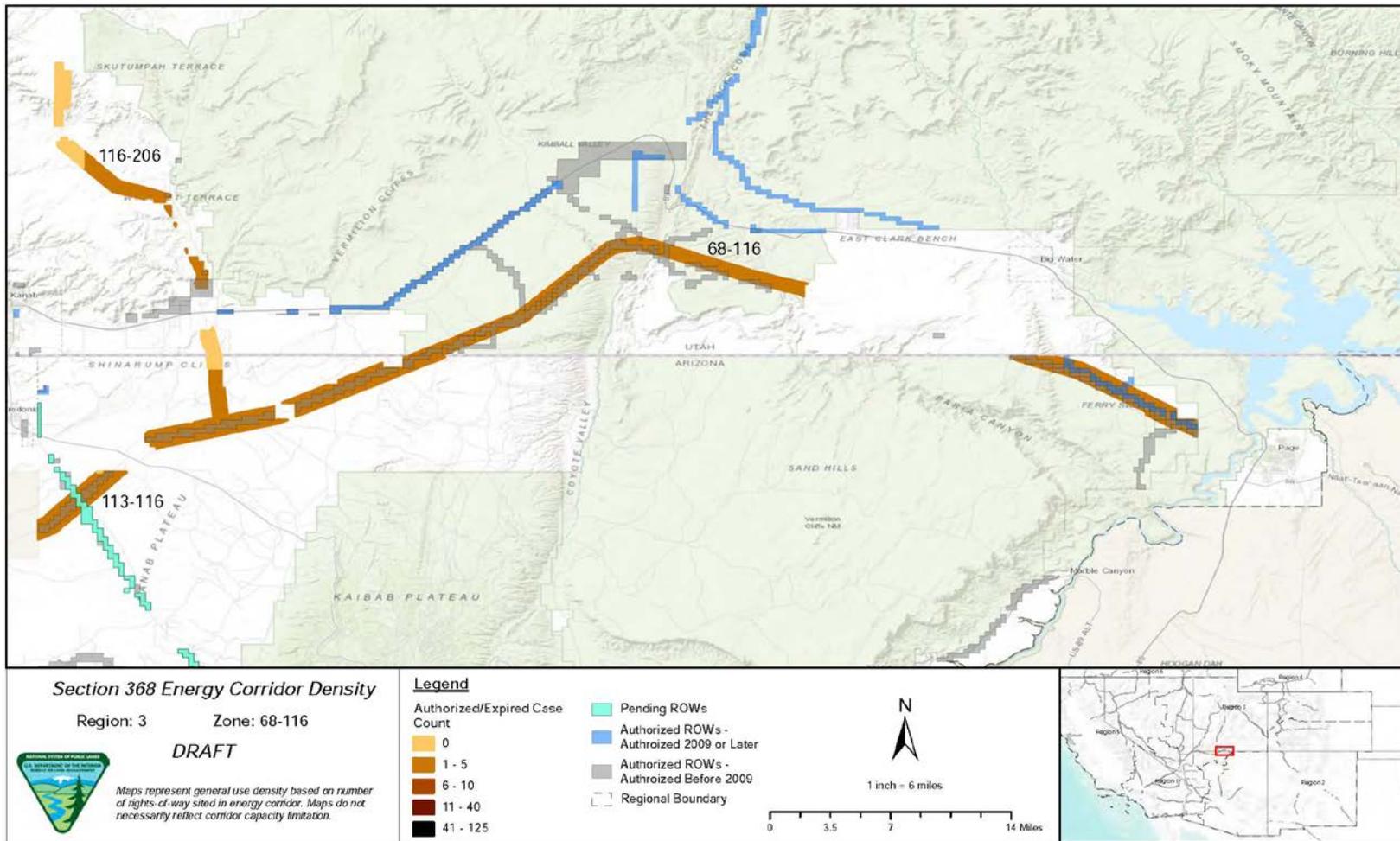


Figure 4. Corridor 68-116, Corridor Density Map

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

The State of Utah has not identified any conflicts with the corridor and requests that the corridor remain open to infrastructure development.

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 68-116 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>							
68-116 .001	BLM	Kanab FO	Kane, UT	Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.		<p>Settlement Agreement RFI: re-route to avoid Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. At a minimum, the corridor should be re-routed to existing road ROWs to reduce conflicts with the natural and cultural resources of the National Monument.</p> <p>Comment on abstract: due to the modifications to the Grand-Staircase-Escalante National Monument, the corridor is now entirely outside of the National Monument, removing any conflicts between the energy corridor and the National Monument. Moreover, the management prescriptions in the Grand-Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan allowed for utility ROWs in “Front County” and “Outback” zone, and thus there were not exclusions or</p>	The boundaries of the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument were revised and the corridor is no longer within the boundaries of the National Monument. (1)

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						<p>avoidance prescriptions for the corridor within the National Monument.</p> <p>Comment on abstract: corridor intersects the southern portion of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. We maintain that Proclamation No. 9682 reducing the size of the National Monument is an unlawful revocation of the existing National Monument and will be overturned in a court of law. While this corridor has existing transmission within it, additional transmission or other energy infrastructure should not be sited in the National Monument, and therefore corridor designation is inappropriate.</p>	
68-116.002				WSR	Not specified.	<p>Settlement Agreement. RFI: re-route to avoid WSR.</p> <p>Comment on abstract: the proximity of the corridor to the Paria River does not warrant any changes to the corridor's route.</p>	The corridor does not cross any designated WSRs. However, it does intersect a suitable segment of the Paria River that is tentatively classified as recreational. Suitable rivers are generally analyzed to ensure that actions do not affect their free-flowing condition, outstandingly remarkable values or tentative classification. The Paria River would be addressed on project-specific basis if the segment is formally designated as a WSR (3)
68-116.003			AZ	scenic byway	Not specified.	<p>Settlement Agreement RFI: re-route to avoid scenic Byway.</p>	There are no BLM backcountry byways, state scenic highways, national scenic byways, or all-American roads that intersect or are adjacent to or near the corridor; therefore, they are not a

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							consideration for use of the corridor during this regional review. The Fredonia-Vermilion Cliffs Scenic Road is a state scenic highway 5 mi from the corridor at its closest point. (1)
68-116 .004	BLM	Arizona Strip FO	Coconino, AZ	Vermilion Cliffs NM	MP 0 to MP 9	GIS Analysis: NM adjacent to corridor	The NM does not intersect the corridor and best meets the siting principles. (1)
68-116 .005	BLM	Kanab FO, Arizona Strip FO, and state land	Kane, UT and Coconino, AZ	Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area	MP 21 MP 1 to MP 9, MP 13 to MP 21, MP 21 to MP 30	GIS Analysis: wilderness area is adjacent to corridor. GIS Analysis: wilderness area as close as 1,000 ft south of corridor and corridor gap.	Wilderness areas are an important resource that are considered carefully during corridor planning. The corridor's current location does not intersect the wilderness area and best meets the siting principles. (1)
68-116 .006	BLM	Arizona Strip FO and state land	Coconino, AZ	Johnson Spring ACEC	MP 47 to MP 50	GIS Analysis: ACEC as close as 7,400 ft north of corridor and corridor gap.	ACECs are an important resource that are considered carefully during corridor planning. The corridor's current location does not intersect the ACEC and best meets the siting principles. (1)
68-116 .007	BLM	Arizona Strip FO, Kanab FO	Coconino, AZ and Kane, UT	Sand Hills and Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Extensive SRMAs	MP 0 to MP 9, MP 20 to MP 27, MP 31 to MP 37, and MP 39 to MP 50	GIS Analysis: SRMAs intersect and are adjacent to corridor.	There are no management prescriptions for SRMAs in the Arizona Strip RMP or Kanab RMP that would affect development within the corridor. (3)
Ecology							
68-116 .008				Special status species	Not specified.	Comment on abstract: threatened and endangered species that may occur along this corridor include California Condor, Mexican Spotted Owl, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Jones Cycladenia, and Siler Pincushion Cactus. Welsh's Milkweed occurs approximately 5 mi from the corridor and may be a concern if corridor is relocated. Projects taking place in this corridor may	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)

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1,2}
						<p>require ESA Section 7 consultation with the USFWS. We recommend that projects within this corridor are evaluated for impacts to listed species and their habitats and measures are incorporated to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts.</p> <p>Comment on abstract: additional species not identified in the corridor abstract may be present: California Condor Spotted Bat, Allen’s Big-eared Bat, Small-footed Myotis, Fringed Myotis, Speckled Dace, Western Burrowing Owl, Houserock Valley Chisel-toothed Kangaroo Rat, Chuckwalla, and Northern Sagebrush Lizard.</p> <p>Conduct further analysis to determine the presence of abovementioned species.</p>	
68-116 .009				Siler Pincushion Cactus	Not specified.	Comment on abstract: potential conflict with Siler Pincushion Cactus according to data from the AZ Heritage Data Management System.	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)
68-116 .010				Flowlines	Not specified.	RFI: re-route to avoid "Very High" risk to the number and magnitude of flowline crossings	Connectivity flowlines is not a BLM-recognized term. The Agencies are exploring an opportunity for adding an

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						by WWEC segments. Where flowlines must unavoidably be crossed, minimize impacts to connectivity.	IOP related to wildlife migration corridors and habitat to ensure appropriate consideration occurs with proposed development within the energy corridor. (2).
Paleontological Resources							
68-116 .011	BLM	Kanab FO	Kane, UT	Paleontological resources	Not specified.	Agency Input: Moenkopi Formation (Triassic) and Page Sandstone (Jurassic) have vertebrate tracks.	Major concern in this area is crossing Comb Ridge, which has many localities in the Kayenta Formation and has Chinle Formation at its base. The identified potential of paleontological resources is a concern for the Agencies that cannot be resolved during corridor-level planning. Assessments will occur as part of the ROW application process. (3)
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics							
68-116 .012	BLM	AZ Strip FO		BLM-inventoried lands with wilderness characteristics not managed for protection	Not specified.	RFI: Corridor 68-116 intersects the Paria Canyon, Exp. 4 lands with wilderness characteristics unit. This unit was analyzed in the 2008 Kanab RMP and is not managed to protect wilderness characteristics. Exclude energy corridors from all wilderness-quality lands.	The BLM retains broad discretion regarding the multiple use management of lands possessing wilderness characteristics without Wilderness, 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 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

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							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. At this time, given the information available the corridor is determined as best meeting the siting principles of the settlement agreement. (1)
68-116 .013				Citizens' proposed wilderness	MP 20 MP 27 MP 31 to MP 37	RFI: Paria Canyon, Exp. 2 Pine Hollow. Comment on abstract: corridor intersects with BLM wilderness-quality lands. 5 acres overlap (Paria Canyon Exp. 2-Citizen). 0 acres overlap (Pine Hollow-Citizen). Corridor impacts the Pine Hollow citizen-proposed wilderness. Recommend de-designation of the corridor. 532 acres overlap (Pine Hollow-Citizen). Exclude energy corridors from all wilderness-quality lands.	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 citizen wilderness proposals is beyond the Agencies scope and authority. As such, the corridor's current location best meets the siting principles. (1) At such time that citizen's 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.
Visual Resources							
68-116 .014	BLM	Kanab FO	Kane, UT	VRM Class I	MP 21	GIS Analysis: VRM Class I area is adjacent to corridor.	The corridor does not cross any VRM Class I areas. Adjacent VRM Class I

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						Agency Input: corridor is adjacent to VRM Class I area of Paria Canyon – Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area. (Kanab FO)	areas limit potential to consider shifting or widening the corridor. (1)
68-116 .015	BLM	Arizona Strip FO and Kanab FO	Coconino, AZ and Kane, UT	VRM Class I	MP 1to MP 10 and MP 12 to MP 32	GIS Analysis: VRM Class I area is as close as 1,100 ft south of corridor.	
68-116 .016	BLM	Arizona Strip FO, Kanab FO	Coconino and Kane, AZ	VRM Class II	MP 0 to MP 10, MP 21 to MP 28, MP 29 to MP 31, MP 40, MP 45 to MP 46	GIS Analysis: VRM Class II areas are adjacent to and intersect corridor.	Future development within the corridor could be limited as VRM Class II allows for low level of change to the characteristic landscape. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. (3)
68-116 .017	BLM	Arizona Strip FO, Kanab FO	Coconino, AZ and Kane, UT	VRM Class III	MP 2 to MP 10, MP 20 to MP 21, MP 24, MP 27 to MP 51	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)
68-116 .018	BLM	Arizona Strip FO	Coconino, AZ	VRM Class IV	MP 0 to MP 10 and MP 40 to MP 51	GIS Analysis: VRM Class IV areas and corridor intersect.	The existing corridor location best meets the siting principles. (1)
Cultural Resources							
68-116 .019	BLM	Kanab FO	Kane, Co	Cultural Resources	MP 10 to MP 20	GIS Analysis: NRHP-eligible cultural resource sites are present within corridor. Comment on abstract: the Agencies should not assume that all of the historic properties could be mitigated through the Section 106 Process.	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)

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Issue	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source	Agency Review and Analysis ^{1,2}
Land Use Concerns							
Military and Civilian Aviation							
68-116 .020	BLM	Arizona Strip FO	Coconino, AZ	MTR – IR	MP 45 to MP 51	GIS Analysis: IR intersects corridor.	The concern related to MTRs is noted and the adherence to existing IOP regarding coordination with DoD would be required to ensure this potential conflict is considered at the appropriate time. In addition, there is an opportunity to consider a revision to the existing IOP to include height restrictions for corridors in the vicinity of DoD training routes.(2)
Other noted land use concerns							
68-116 .021	NPS	Glen Canyon NRA	Coconino, AZ	Glen Canyon NRA	MP 0	RFI: corridor crosses the southern end of Glen Canyon NRA. Consider adjusting corridor to eliminate crossing of NPS land in Glen Canyon NRA GIS Analysis: NRA is at one end of the corridor at MP 0	BLM can only authorize projects on BLM-administered land. There are two existing transmission lines in the corridor gap within the NRA. Development within the NRA would require coordination with NPS. (3)
68-116 .022	BLM	Arizona Strip FO	Coconino, AZ	NRA, other infrastructure	MP 0 to MP 1	GIS Analysis: Glen Canyon NRA, Town of Page, AZ, projects in corridor gap.	Glen Canyon NRA and existing infrastructure could affect the potential for additional future development within the corridor. (3)
68-116 .023	BLM	Kanab FO	Kane, AZ	Topography	MP 30	GIS Analysis: corridor crosses canyon.	Topography could affect the potential for additional development within the corridor. (3)
68-116 .024	NA	private	Utah	Agricultural lands	Not specified.	Comment on abstract: energy development may have impact on agriculture in adjacent areas if not developed and maintained properly (e.g., invasive and noxious weed species). Ensure that all developments, changes, or alterations to energy corridors do not adversely affect agriculture and domestic	Corridor-level planning does not entail the detail necessary to prescribe operation and maintenance procedures on hypothetical projects or corridor revisions. The concern will be addressed with specific, current information at the time of energy development proposal(s) (3).

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						livestock grazing in the affected areas.	

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

ACEC = Area of Critical Environmental Concern; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; DoD = Department of Defense; ESA = Endangered Species Act; FO = Field Office; GIS = geographic information system; IOP = interagency operating procedure; IR = Instrument Route; MP = milepost; MTR = Military Training Route; NPS = National Park Service; NRA = National Recreation Area; NRHP = National Register of Historic Places; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; REDA = Renewable Energy Development Area; RFI = request for information; RMP = Resource Management Plan; ROD = Record of Decision; ROW = right-of-way; SRMA = Special Recreation Management Area; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; VRM = Visual Resource Management; WSR = Wild and Scenic River; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor.