

# Corridor 121-220

## Northwest Rock Springs Corridor

### Corridor Purpose and Rationale

This short corridor provides an east-west pathway in southwest Wyoming. The corridor connects multiple corridors to the east and west, creating a continuous corridor network in southern Wyoming across BLM- and USFS-administered lands. Input regarding alignment from multiple organizations<sup>1</sup> during the WVEC PEIS suggested following this route. The recently approved 500 kV Energy Gateway West transmission line project is adjacent or very close along the entire length of the corridor. The corridor was designated electric-only because no underground use was anticipated. However, the Wyoming Pipeline Corridor Initiative (WPCI) is proposed to follow this segment. WPCI is a proposed pipeline ROW network designed to connect sources of CO<sub>2</sub> to existing oil fields to support further extraction of oil/gas reserves while sequestering CO<sub>2</sub> in the ground.

#### Corridor location:

Wyoming (Sweetwater Co.)  
BLM: Rock Springs Field Office  
Regional Review Region: Region 4

#### Corridor width, length:

Width 3,500 ft  
7 miles of designated corridor  
13 miles to posted route, including gaps

#### Designated Use:

- corridor is electric only

#### Corridor of concern (N)

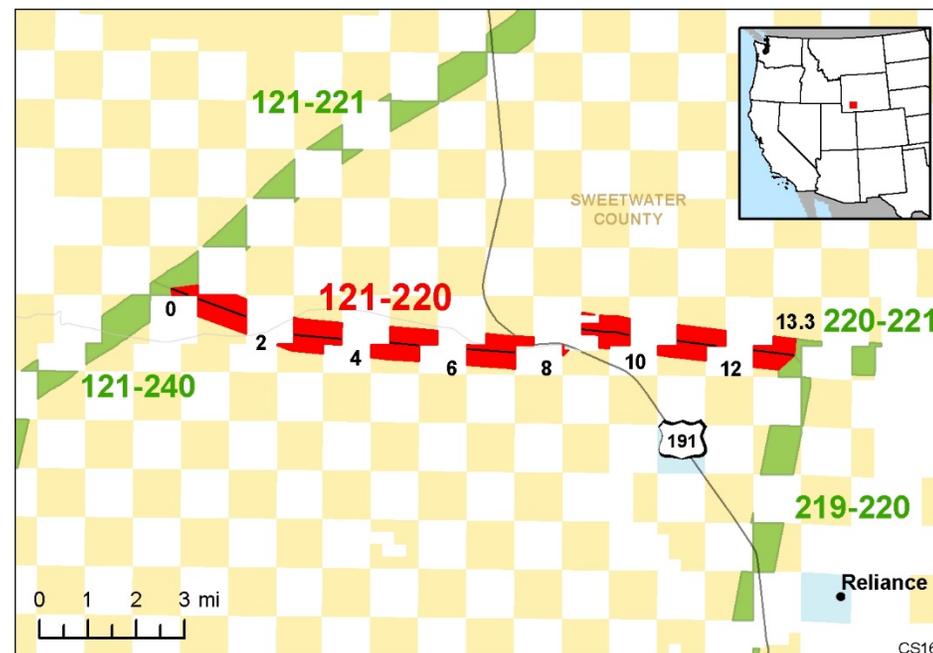


Figure 1. Corridor 121-220

#### Corridor history:

- Locally designated prior to 2009 (N)
- Existing infrastructure (Y)
  - Three 345-kV transmission lines are centered within the corridor for its full length.
- Energy potential near the corridor (Y)
  - 1 substation is within the corridor.
- Corridor changes since 2009 (N)

<sup>1</sup> Frontier Line, Idaho Power Company, National Grid, PacifiCorp, Rocky Mountain Area Transmission Study, Western Utility Group, and Wyoming Natural Gas Pipeline Authority

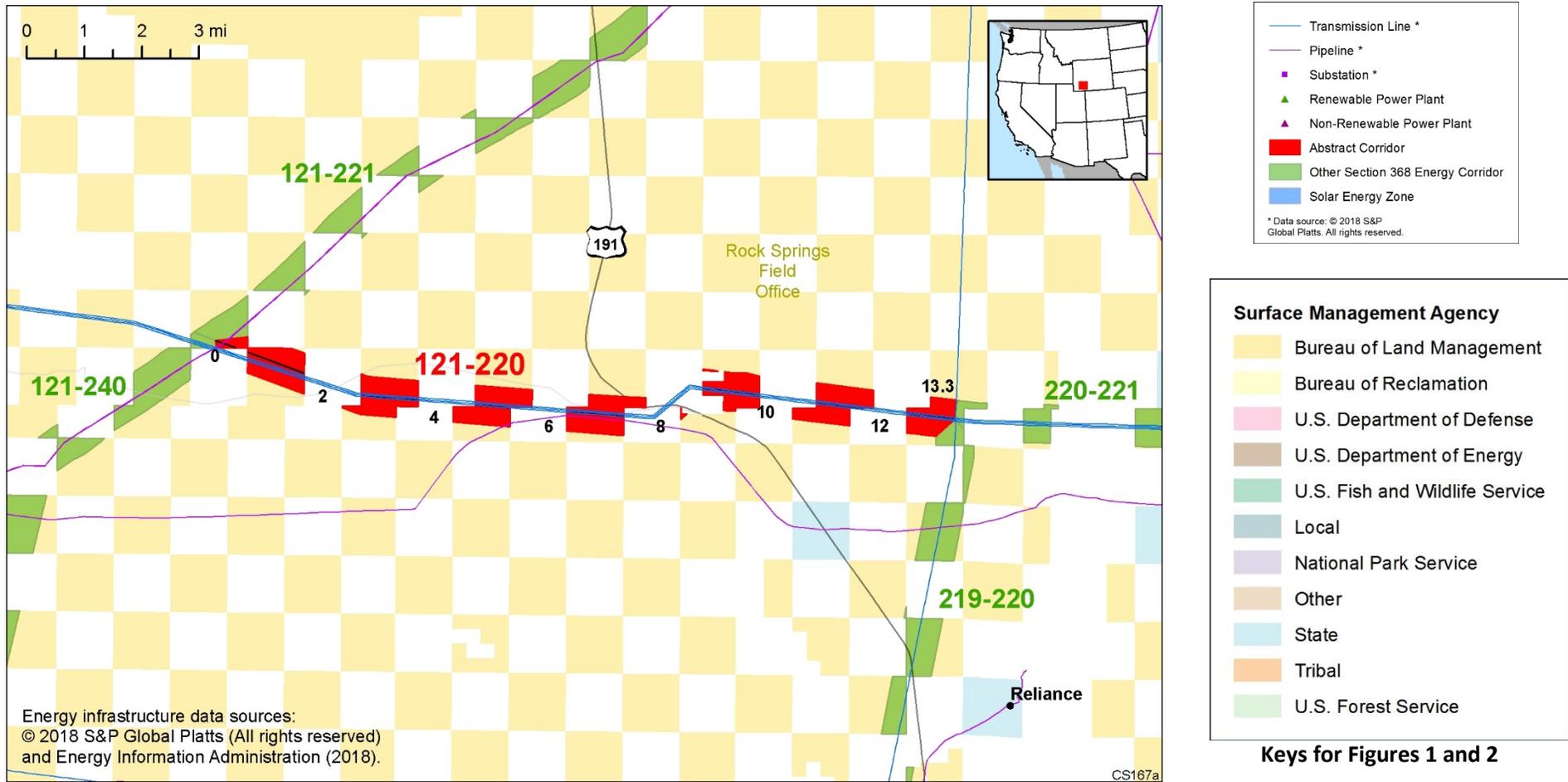
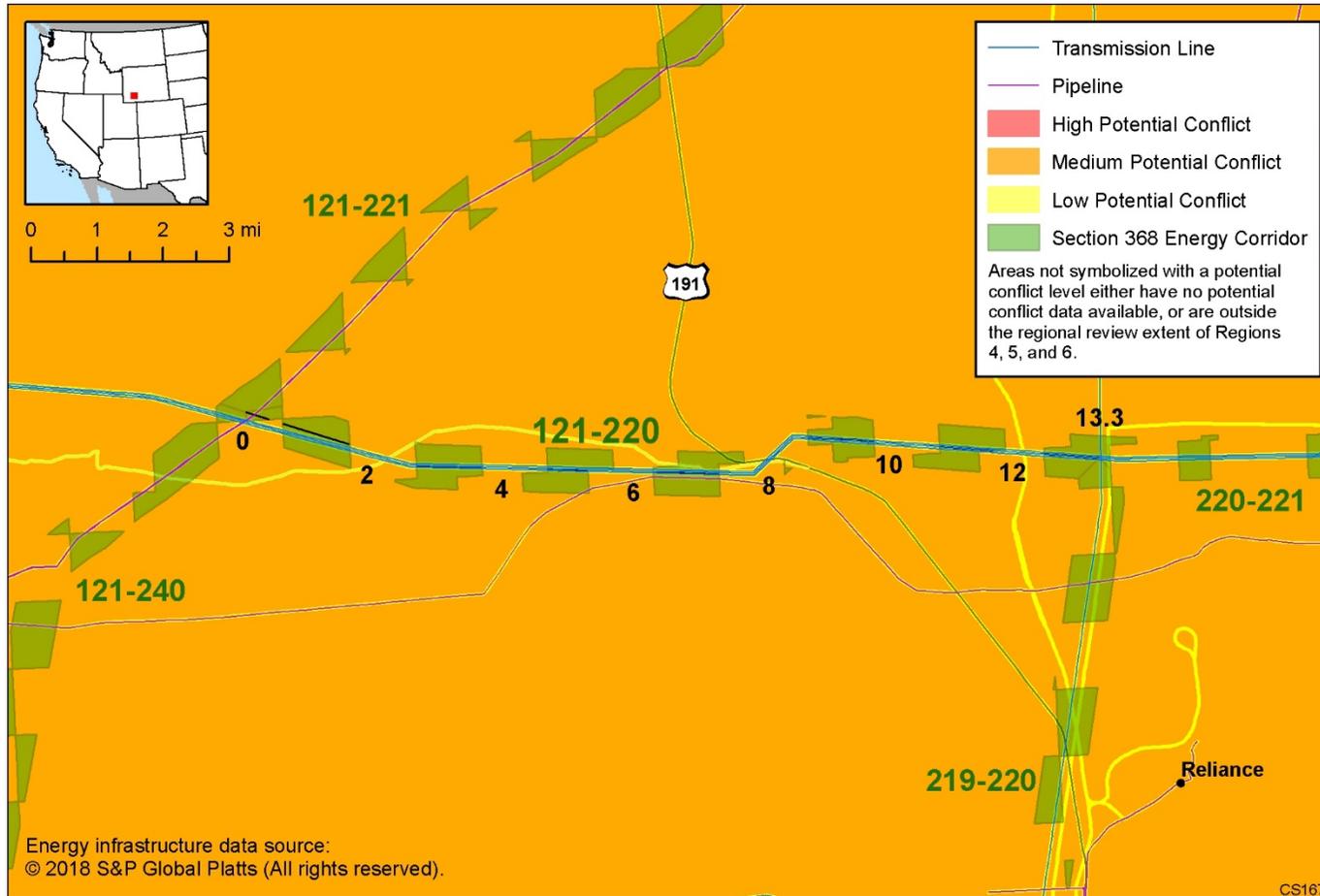


Figure 2. Corridor 121-220 and nearby electric transmission lines and pipelines

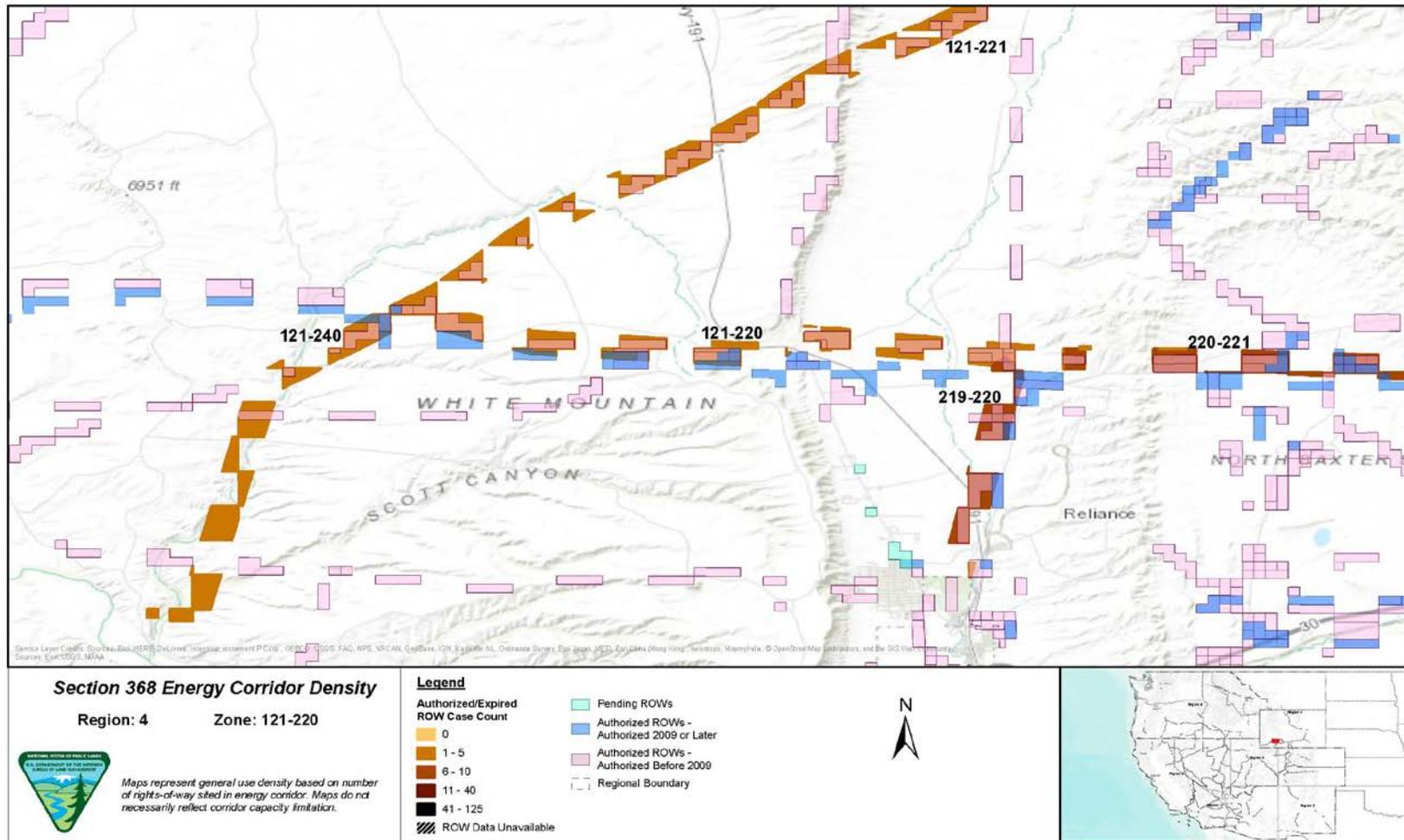
## Conflict Map Analysis



**Figure 3. Map of Conflict Areas in Vicinity of Corridor 121-220**

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 WVEC Information Center at [www.corridoreis.anl.gov](http://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 121-220, 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 pink; 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.

## Corridor Review Table

Designated energy corridors are areas of land prioritized for energy transmission infrastructure and are intended to be predominantly managed for multiple energy transmission infrastructure lines. Other compatible uses are allowable as specified or practicable. Resource management goals and objectives should be compatible with the desired future conditions (i.e., responsible linear infrastructure development of the corridor with minimal impacts) of the energy transmission corridor. Land management objectives that do not align with desired future conditions should be avoided. The table below identifies serious concerns or issues and presents potential resolution options to better meet corridor siting principles.

The preliminary information below is provided to facilitate further discussion and input prior to developing potential revisions, deletions, or additions.

<b>CORRIDOR 121-220 REVIEW</b>			
<b>POTENTIAL COMPATIBILITY ISSUES or CONCERNS TO EXAMINE</b>	<b>MILEPOST (MP)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>STAKEHOLDER INPUT and OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION</b>	<b>POTENTIAL RESOLUTIONS BASED ON SITING PRINCIPLE ANALYSIS <sup>2</sup></b>
<i>BLM Jurisdiction: Rock Springs Field Office</i>			
<i>Agency Land Use Plan: Green River RMP (1997)</i>			
Four Trails Feasibility Study Trail and the corridor intersect – The RMP does not include the Four Trails Feasibility Study Trail since it pre-dates the 2009 legislation designating the Study Trail (Public Law 111-11).	MP 4 to MP 8	The Act (Public Law 111-11; 2009) directs the Secretary of the Interior to revise the original feasibility studies of the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California, and Pony Express NHTs.  BLM Manual 6280 directs the BLM to maintain the values, characteristics, and settings for which the trail is being studied or for which the trail was recommended as suitable.	There are no management prescriptions preventing development within the corridor and the corridor is collocated with existing transmission lines. However, the corridor could be shifted to the north to avoid the Trail (in some locations this would move the corridor away from the existing transmission lines).  Agencies could consider a new IOP for NSTs and NHTs to enhance BMPs for proposed development within the energy corridor.
<i>BLM Jurisdiction: Rock Springs Field Office</i>			
<i>Agency Land Use Plan: Wyoming GRSG ROD and ARMPA – March 2019</i>			
GRSG PHMA (ROW avoidance area) and the corridor intersect – The 2019 ROD/ARMPA indicates that collocating new infrastructure within existing ROWs and maintaining and upgrading ROWs is preferred over the creation of new ROWs or the construction of new facilities in all management areas. Existing designated corridors, including Section 368 energy corridors, will remain open in all habitat management areas.	MP 0 to MP 5	RFI comment: re-route or exclude new infrastructure ROWs and avoid all new energy infrastructure development within GRSG PACs (43% overlap). Use full mitigation hierarchy to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts within four miles of important GRSG breeding areas.	ROW avoidance areas are not compatible with the corridor’s purpose as a preferred location for infrastructure. However, the corridor is collocated with existing transmission lines. The PHMA encompasses a broad area around the corridor which cannot be avoided.
GRSG GHMA and the corridor intersect – The 2019 ROD/ARMP indicates that collocating new	MP 5 to MP 13	RFI comment: re-route or exclude new infrastructure ROWs and avoid	The location appears to best meet the siting principles because the corridor is collocated with existing

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<sup>1</sup> Mileposts are rounded to the nearest mile.

<sup>2</sup> Siting Principles include: *Corridors are thoughtfully sited to provide maximum utility and minimum impact on the environment; Corridors promote efficient use of landscape for necessary development; Appropriate and acceptable uses are defined for specific corridors; and Corridors provide connectivity to renewable energy generation to the maximum extent possible, while also considering other generation, in order to balance the renewable sources and to ensure the safety and reliability of electricity transmission.* Projects proposed in the corridor would be reviewed during their ROW application review process and would adhere to Federal laws, regulations, and policy.

**Additional Compatibility Concerns**

No additional concerns have been identified for Corridor 121-220.

**Abstract Acronyms and Abbreviations**

ARMPA = Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; BMP = best management practice; GHMA = general habitat management area; GIS = geographic information system; GRSG = Greater Sage-grouse; IOP = interagency operating procedure; MP = milepost; NHT = National Historic Trail; NST = National Scenic Trail; PAC = priority area for conservation; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; PHMA = priority habitat management area; RFI = request for information; RMP = resource management plan; ROD = Record of Decision; ROW = right-of-way; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; WPCI = Wyoming Pipeline Corridor Initiative; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor.