

Corridor 133-142

Maybell to Craig Corridor

Corridor Rationale

Input regarding alignment from National Grid 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 BLM-authorized ROWs within or intersecting the corridor at this time.

Corridor location:

Colorado (Moffat Co.)
BLM: Little Snake Field Office
Regional Review Region(s): Region 3

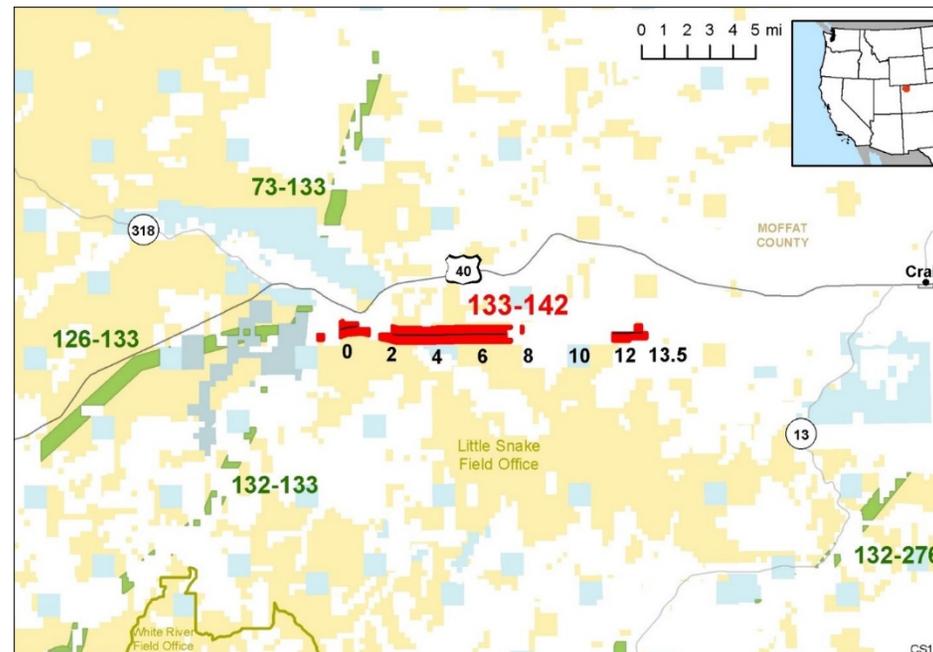
Corridor width, length:

Width 3,500 ft
7.2 miles of designated corridor
13.5 mile-posted route, including gaps

Sec 368 energy corridor restrictions: (N)

- corridor is multi-modal

Corridor of concern (N)



Corridor history:

- Locally designated corridor prior to 2009 (N)
- Existing infrastructure (Y)
 - Electric transmission:
 - 138 kV, 345 kV (MP 0 to MP 13)
- Energy potential near the corridor (N)
- Corridor changes since 2009 (N)

Figure 1. Corridor 133-142

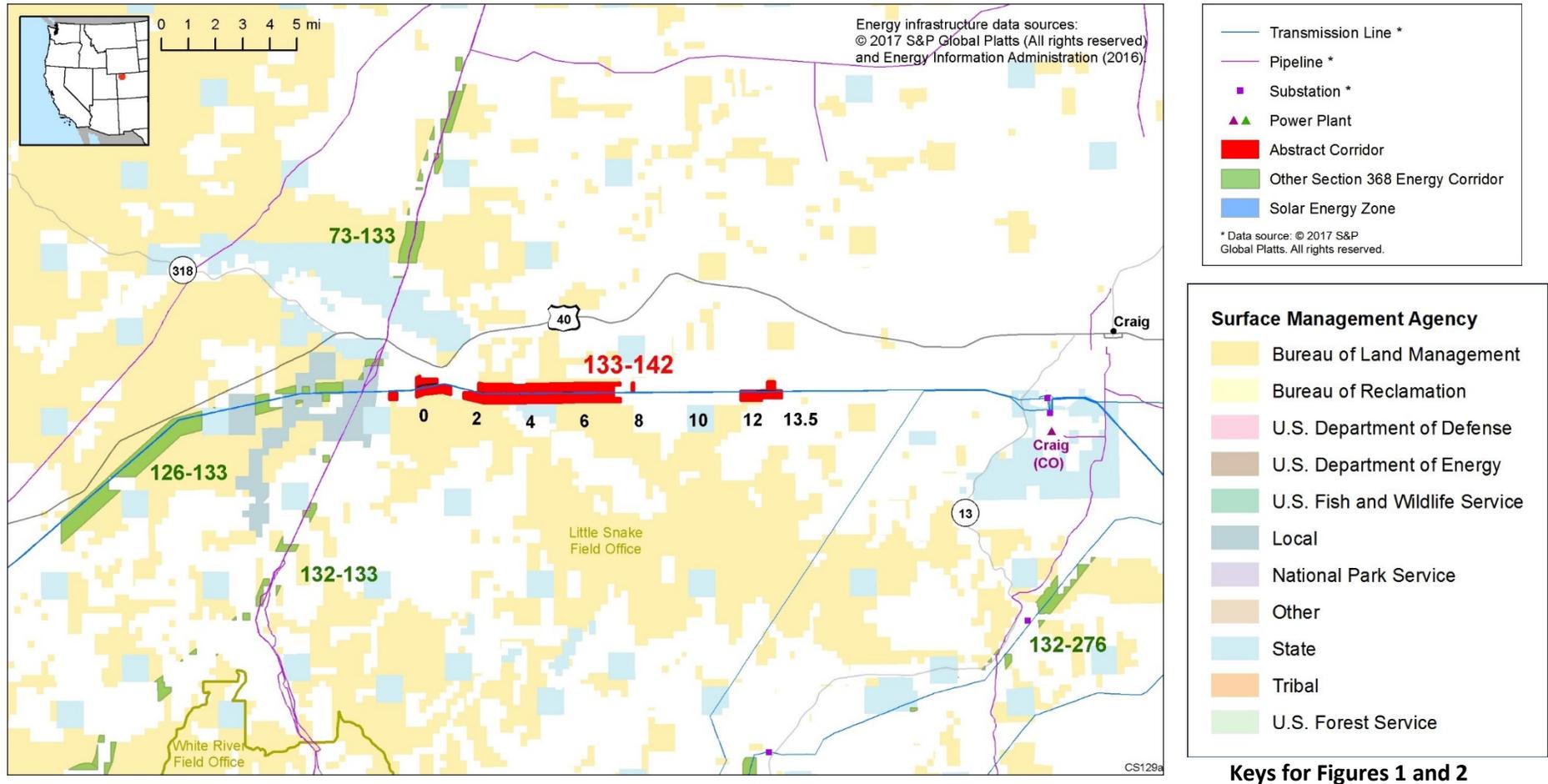


Figure 2. Corridor 133-142 and nearby electric transmission lines and pipelines

Conflict Map Analysis

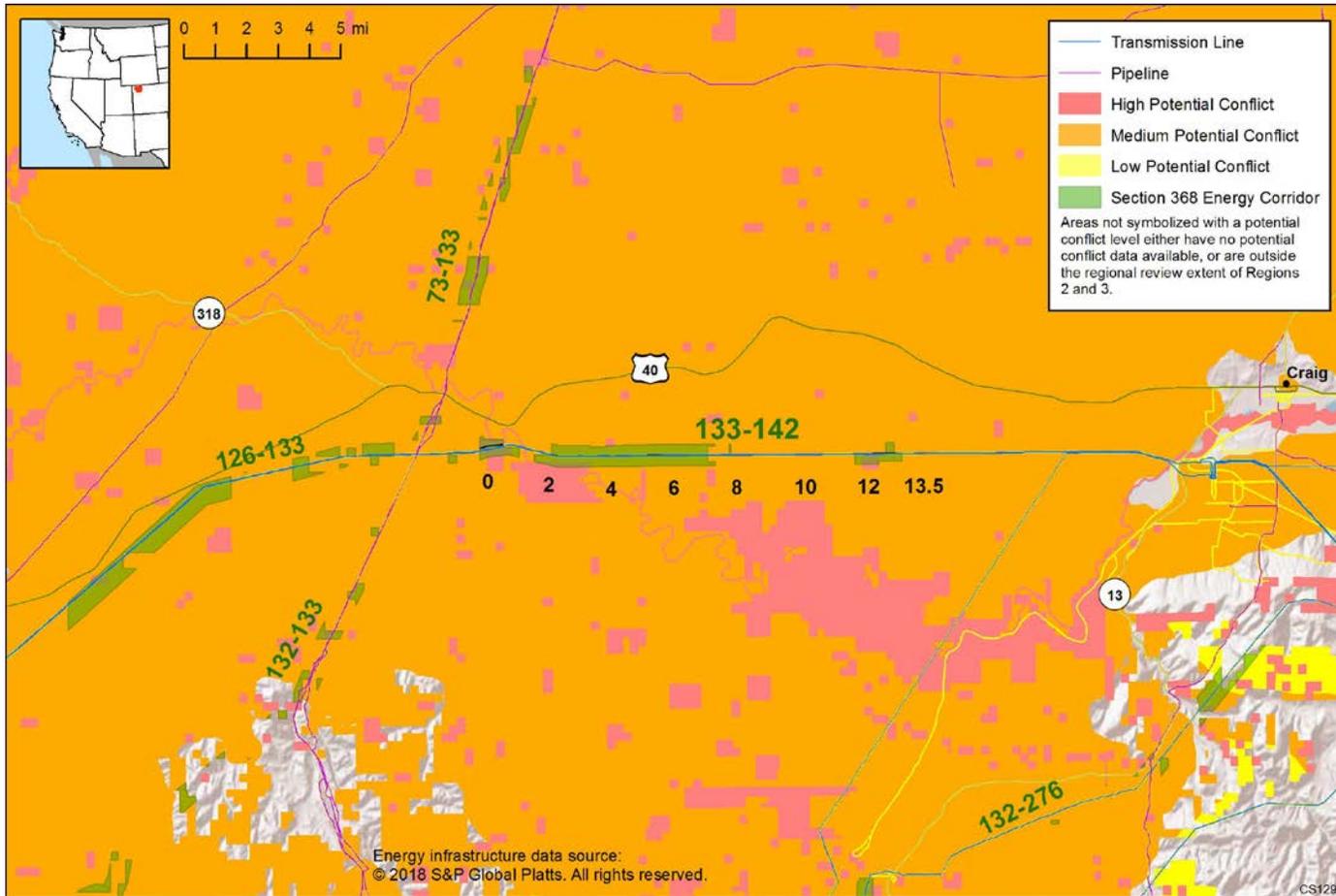


Figure 3. Map of Conflict Areas in Vicinity of Corridor 133-142

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/>)

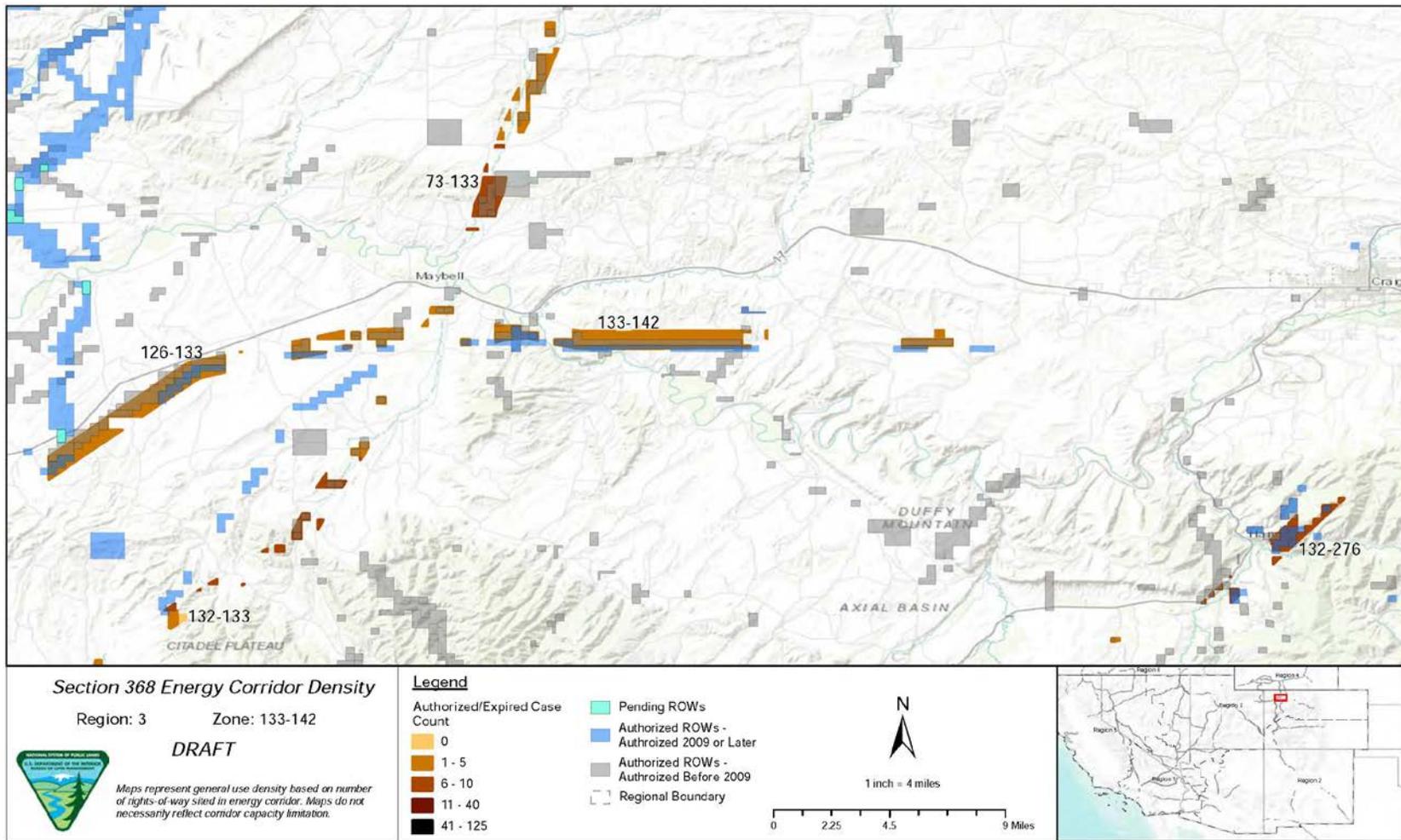


Figure 4. Corridor 133-142, Corridor Density Map

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

Stakeholders did not provide specific input on corridor utility.

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 133-142 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>Ecology</i>							
133-142 .001	BLM	Little Snake FO	Moffat, CO	GRSG (BLM sensitive species)		RFI: re-route or exclude new infrastructure ROWs and avoid all new energy infrastructure development within GRSG PACs (47% overlap). Use full mitigation hierarchy to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts within 4 mi of important GRSG breeding areas. Consult closely with state fish and game Agencies and WGA to implement the full mitigation hierarchy for CHAT resources at "Very High" risk.	The NWCO GRSG ARMPA: -Manage areas within PHMA as avoidance areas for BLM ROW permits. -Manage areas within GHMA as avoidance areas for major transmission lines greater than 100 kV and pipelines greater than 24 in. and minor BLM ROW permits. -PHMA and GHMA are designated as avoidance areas for high-voltage transmission line ROWs: -ROWs may be issued after documenting that the ROWs would not adversely affect GRSG populations -Any new projects within PHMA would be subject to the 3% disturbance cap. Within existing designated utility corridors, the 3% disturbance cap may be exceeded at the project scale if the site-specific NEPA analysis indicates that a net conservation gain to the species will be achieved. (3)
				GRSG PHMA	MP 0 and MP 4 to MP 12	GIS Analysis: GRSG PHMA intersects corridor.	
				GRSG GHMA	MP 0 to MP 4 and MP 12 to MP 14	GIS Analysis: GRSG GHMA intersects corridor.	
						Comment on abstract: supports PHMAs and GHMAs ROW avoidance areas. Recommend	

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						that these identified corridors be re-routed to avoid PHMA and GHMA. In areas where existing transmission lines are present, recommend disturbance be within the existing infrastructure footprint. If avoidance or collocation is not possible, recommend burying the transmission line and instituting compensatory mitigation.	
133-142 .002	BLM	Little Snake FO	Moffat, CO	Colorado Pikeminnow critical habitat (ESA-listed: endangered)	MP 1	GIS Analysis: critical habitat intersects corridor.	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 any alternative route would go through areas of ESA-listed critical habitat and would not lend-itself to collocation and would further fragment critical habitat. (1)
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics							
133-142 .003				Citizens' proposed wilderness	Not specified.	RFI: Yampa River	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) At such time that citizens' inventory information is formally submitted, the

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							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.
133-142 .004	BLM	Little Snake FO	Moffat, CO	Lands with wilderness characteristics	MP 7 to MP 13	<p>Comment on abstract: corridor intersects with BLM wilderness-quality lands. 300 acres overlap (Little Yampa Canyon-BLM).</p> <p>Exclude energy corridors from all wilderness-quality lands.</p> <p>GIS Analysis: Little Yampa Canyon land with wilderness characteristics intersects corridor</p>	<p>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 including energy projects. Furthermore, the impairment of wilderness characteristics does not, in and of itself, constitute a significant impact; or on it's 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</p>

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<i>Visual Resources</i>							
133-142 .005	BLM	Little Snake FO	Moffat, CO	VRM Class III	Entire length of corridor	GIS Analysis: VRM Class III areas intersect 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)
<i>Land Use Concerns</i>							
<i>Other noted land use concerns</i>							
133-142 .006	State	Colorado Parks and Wildlife		Conservation easements	Not specified.	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	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 rights-of-way/easements, additional uses may be compatible within that footprint, depending on how the conservation easements and the WAPA easements across non-BLM managed lands are written. (3)

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						values due to corridor development must be compensated for and replaced.	
133-142 .007	BLM	Little Snake FO	Moffat, CO	NSO	Scattered along corridor from MP 0 to MP 4 and MP 12 to MP 13	GIS Analysis: NSO areas intersect corridor.	The Little Snake RMP has no ROW exclusion or avoidance prescriptions for NSOs related to utility corridors. The 2015 GRSG ARMPA has amended the Little Snake RMP. NSOs protect certain resources in the Little Snake FO depending on the area. Since an NSO would prohibit surface occupancy, this could be an issue for future development in the corridor. (3)

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

ARMPA = Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; CHAT = Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool; CPW = Colorado Parks and Wildlife; ESA = Endangered Species Act; FO = Field Office; GHMA = General Habitat Management Area; GIS = geographic information system; GRSG = Greater Sage-grouse; IOP = interagency operating procedure; MP = milepost; NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act; NSO = no surface occupancy; NWCO = Northwest Colorado; PAC = Priority Area for Conservation; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; PHMA = Primary Habitat Management Area; RFI = request for information; RMP = Resource Management Plan; ROW = right-of-way; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; VRM = Visual Resource Management; WGA = Western Governors’ Association; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor.