

Corridor 136-139

Montrose Sub-NW Corridor

Corridor Rationale

Input regarding alignment from National Grid during the WVEC PEIS suggested following this route. There is one planned transmission line project within the corridor and one recently BLM-authorized ROW in the corridor for a transmission line project.

Corridor location:

Colorado (Montrose Co.)
BLM: Uncompahgre Field Office
Regional Review Region(s): Region 2

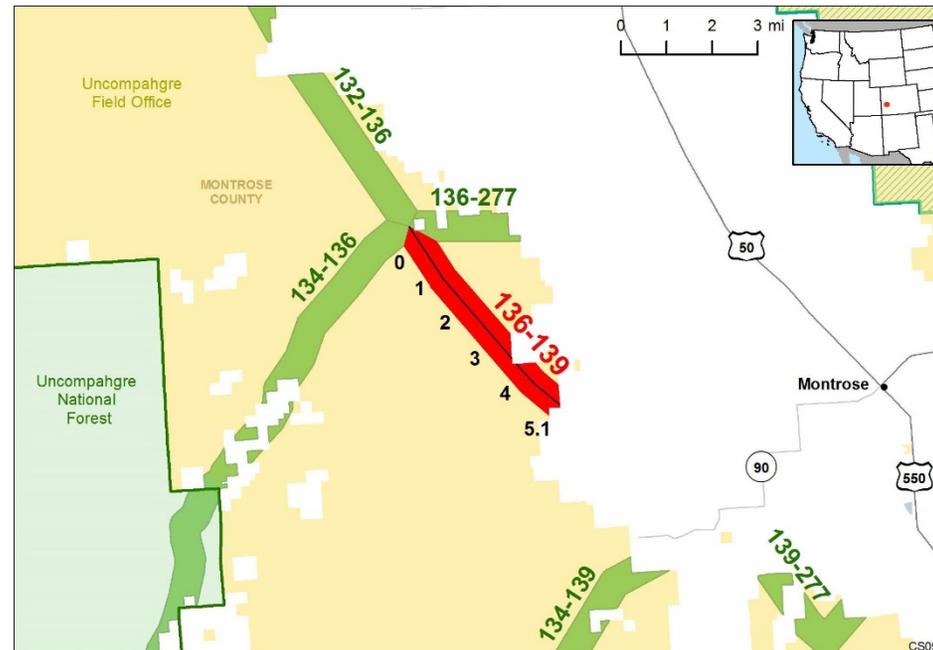
Corridor width, length:

Width - 3,500 ft
5 miles of designated corridor
5.1 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:
 - 115-kV line (MP 0 to MP 5)
 - 345-kV line (MP 0 to MP 3)
- Energy potential near the corridor (N)
- Corridor changes since 2009 (N)

Figure 1. Corridor 136-139

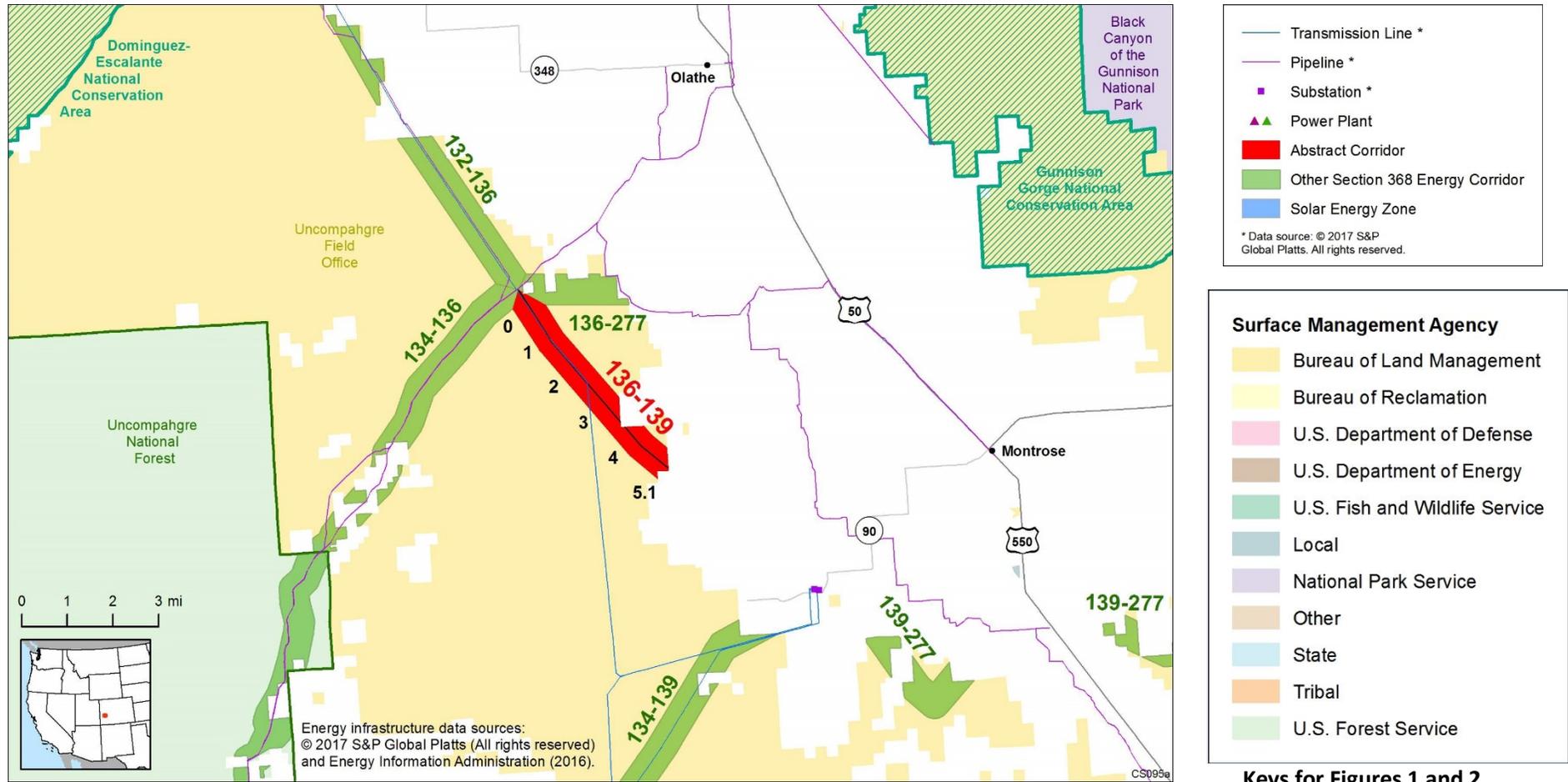


Figure 2. Corridor 136-139 and nearby electric transmission lines and pipelines

Conflict Map Analysis

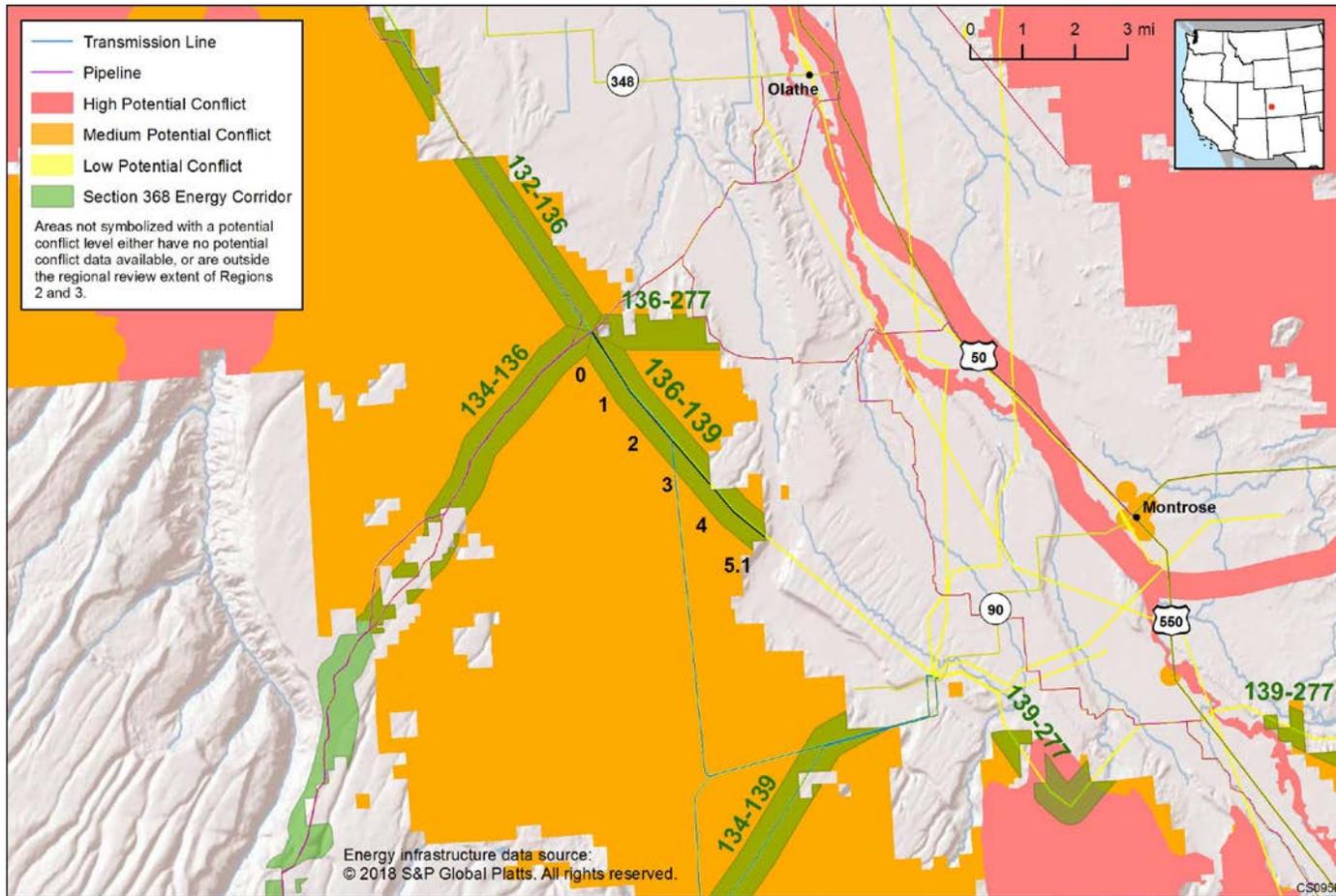


Figure 3. Map of Conflict Areas in Vicinity of Corridor 136-139

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/>)

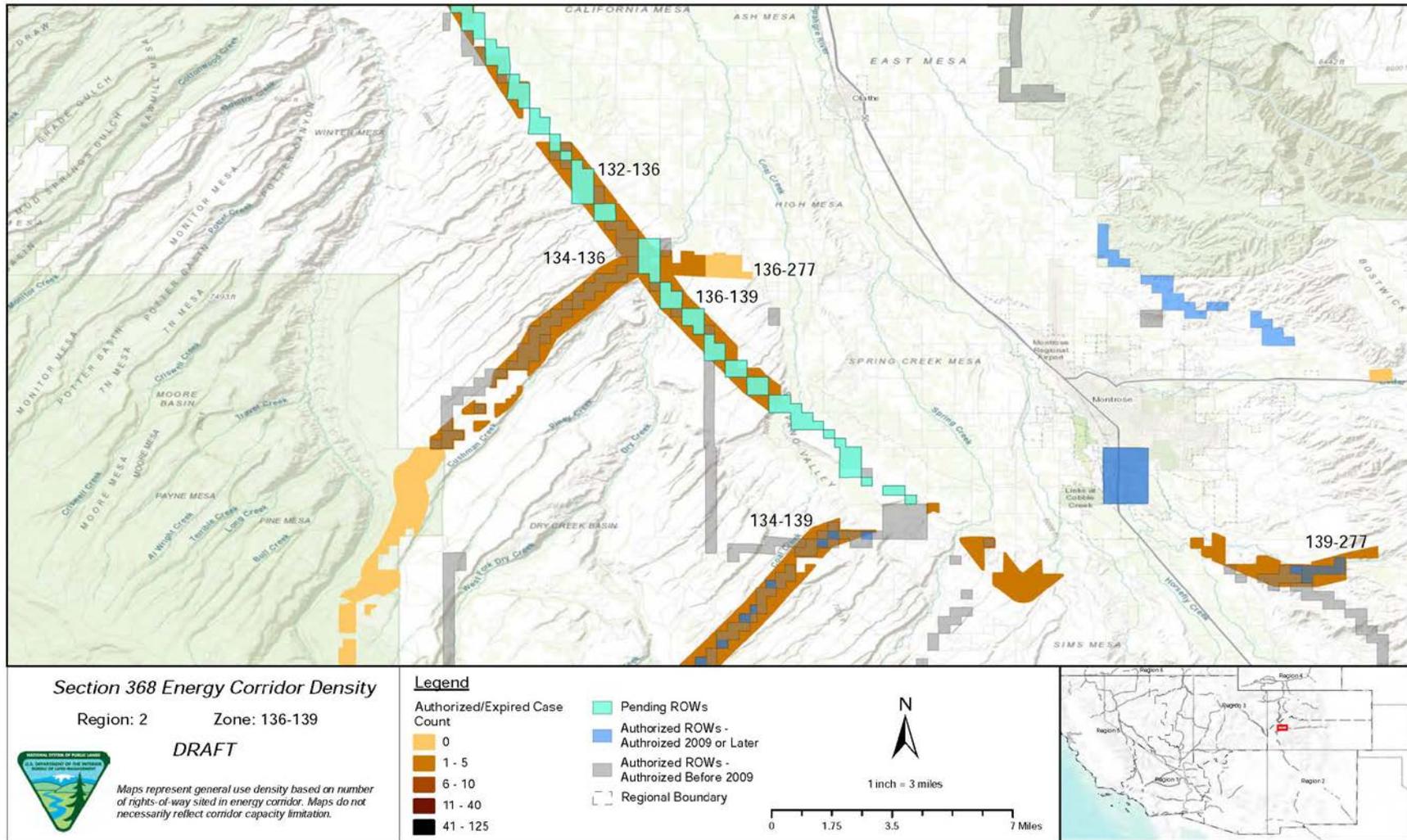


Figure 4. Corridor 136-139, Corridor Density Map

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 136-139 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>							
136-139 .001				Special Status Species	Not specified.	<p>Comment on abstract: additional species not identified in the corridor abstract may be present: Canada Lynx, North American Wolverine, Gunnison Sage-grouse, Mexican Spotted Owl, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bonytail Chub, Colorado Pikeminnow, Greenback Cutthroat Trout, Humpback Chub, Razorback Sucker, Clay-loving Wild Buckwheat, and Colorado Hookless Cactus.</p> <p>Conduct further analysis to determine the presence of abovementioned species.</p>	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)
<i>Visual Resources</i>							
136-139 .002	BLM	Uncompahgre FO	Montrose, CO	VRM Class III	Entire length of corridor	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)

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; ESA = Endangered Species Act; FO = Field Office; GIS = geographic information system; IOP = Interagency Operating Procedures; MP = milepost; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; ROW = right of way; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; VRM = Visual Resource Management; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor.