Corridor 138-143

Baggs Corridor

Corridor Rationale

Input regarding alignment from the National Grid and the Western Utility Group during the WWEC PEIS suggested following this route. There are no planned transmission or pipeline projects within the corridor and no pending or recently authorized major ROWs within or intersecting the corridor at this time.

Corridor location (Region 3 portion):
Colorado (Moffat Co.)
BLM: Little Snake Field Office
Regional Review Region(s): Region 3 and Region 4

Corridor width, length (Region 3 portion):
Width 3,500 ft
10 miles of designated corridor
18.9 mile-posted route, including gaps

Sec 368 energy corridor restrictions: (Y)
- corridor is designated electric-only

Corridor of concern (N)

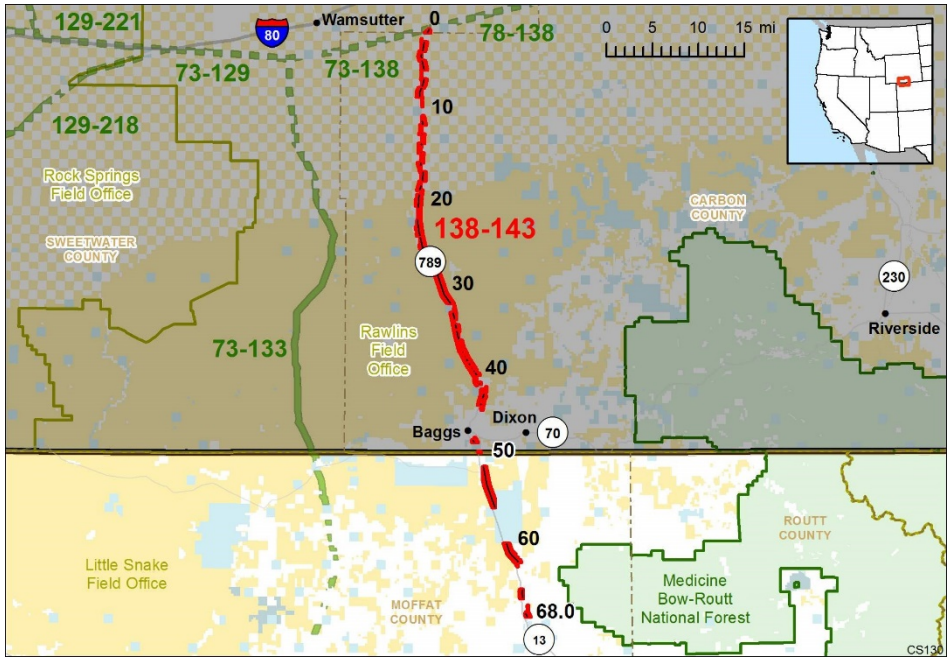
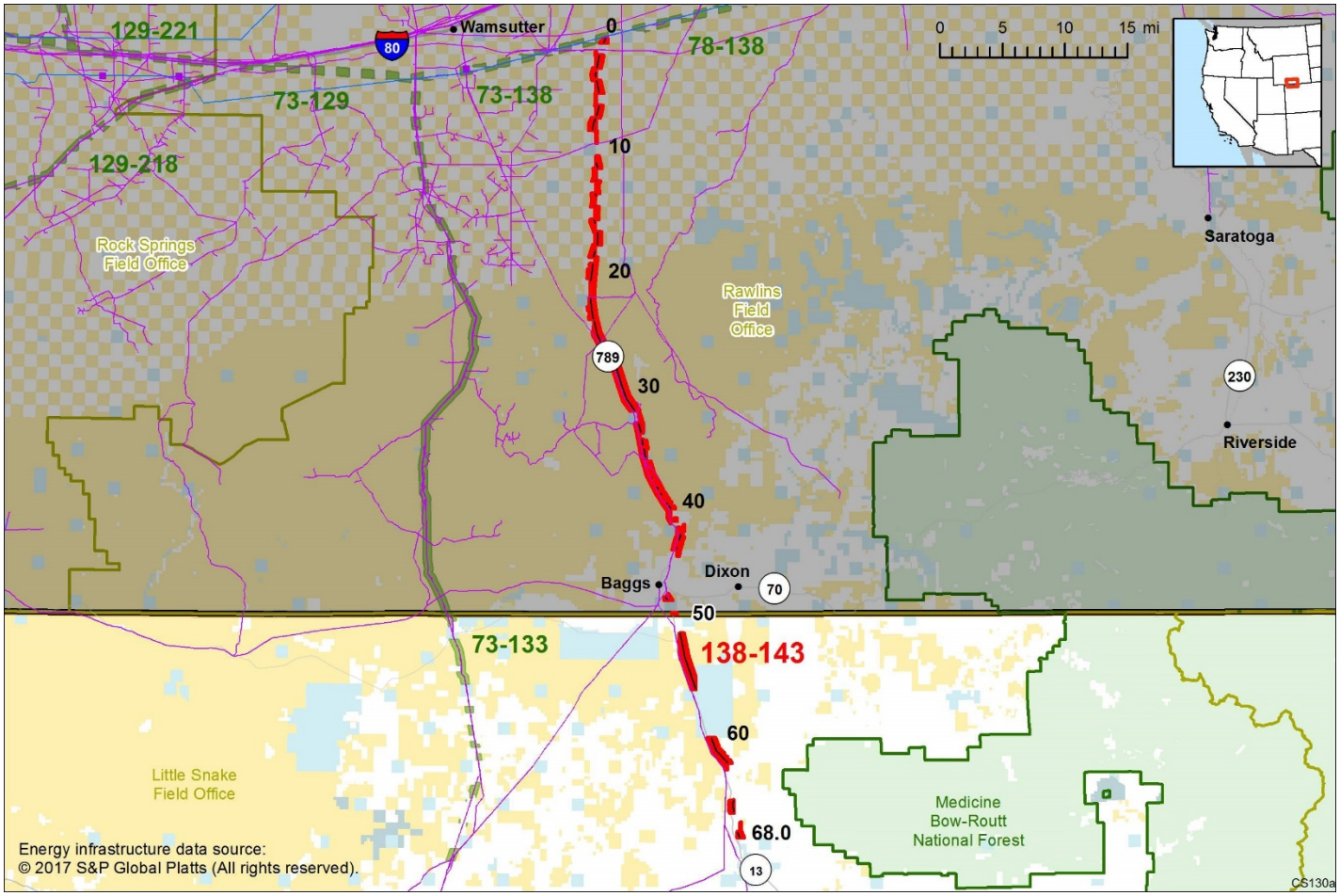
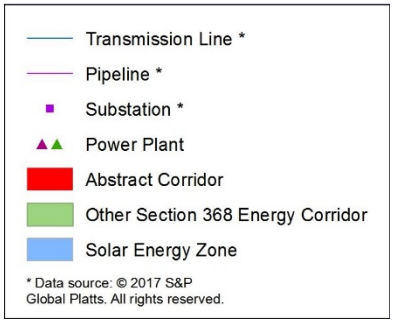


Figure 1. Corridor 138-143

Corridor history:
- Locally designated corridor prior to 2009 (N)
- Existing infrastructure (Y)
  - Highways:
    - Colorado Hwy 13 (MP 52 to MP 66)
- Energy potential near the corridor (N)
- Corridor changes since 2009 (N)





Keys for Figures 1 and 2

Figure 2. Corridor 138-143 and nearby electric transmission lines and pipelines (grayed out area outside of Region 3)

Conflict Map Analysis

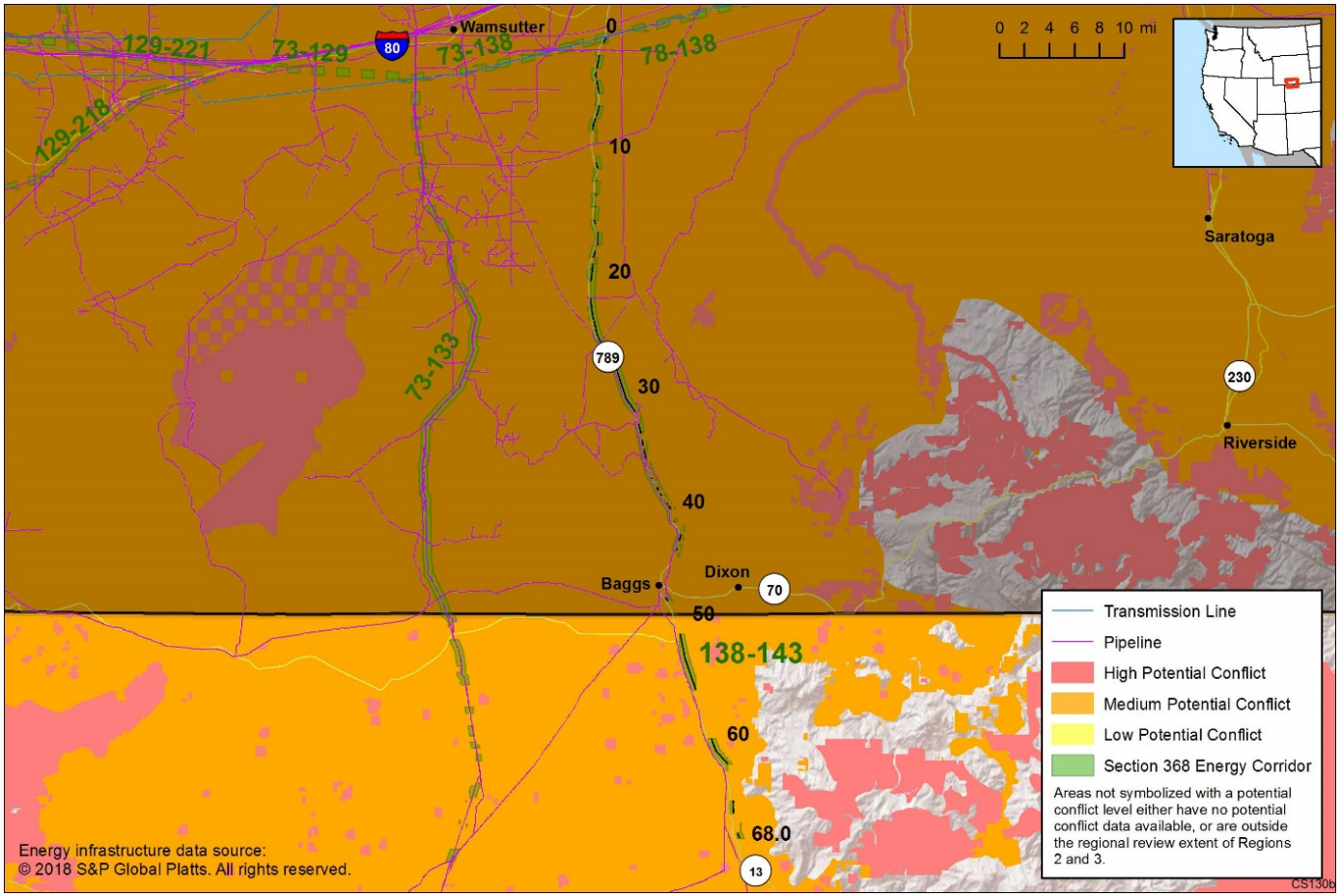


Figure 3. Map of Conflict Areas in Vicinity of Corridor 138-143

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/)

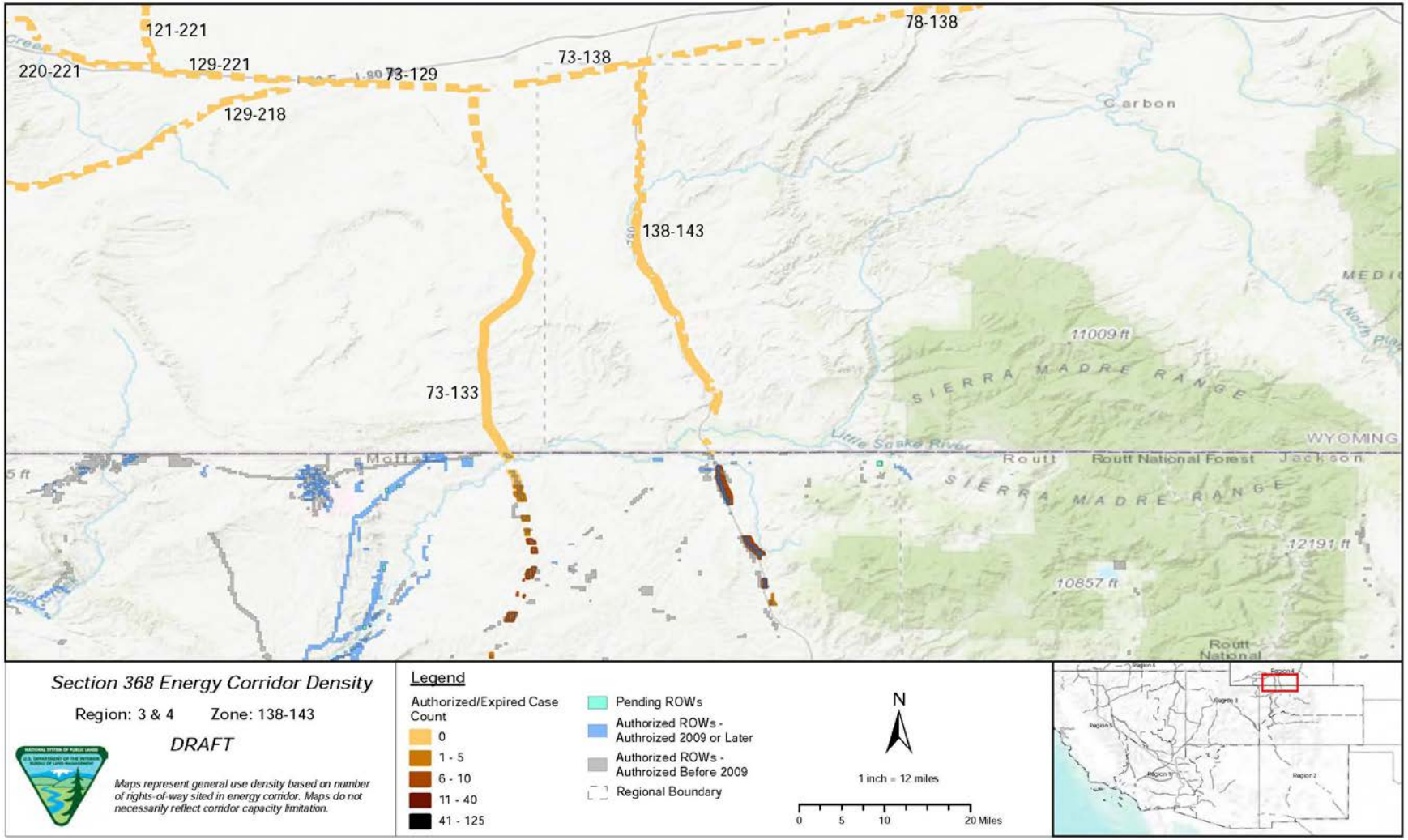


Figure 4. Corridor 138-143, Corridor Density Map

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 138-143 REVIEW TABLE							
ID	**Agency**	**Agency Jurisdiction**	**County**	**Primary Issue**	**Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])**	**Source**	**Agency Review and Analysis[1, 2]**
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE ISSUES							
Ecology							
138-143 .001	BLM	Little Snake FO	Moffat, CO	GRSG (BLM sensitive species)	Not specified.	RFI: re-route or exclude new infrastructure ROWs and avoid all new energy infrastructure development within GRSG PACs (31% 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 of avoidance, minimization, and compensation 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. This corridor location within the current designation of GRSG PHMA and
				GRSG PHMA	MP 50 to MP 63 and MP 66.4 to MP 68	GIS Analysis: GRSG PHMA intersects corridor.	
				GRSG GHMA	MP 49 to MP 50 and MP 62 to MP 67	GIS Analysis: GRSG GHMA intersects corridor. Comment on abstract: supports PHMAs and GHMAs ROW	

CORRIDOR 138-143 REVIEW TABLE							
ID	**Agency**	**Agency Jurisdiction**	**County**	**Primary Issue**	**Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])**	**Source**	**Agency Review and Analysis[1, 2]**
						Avoidance Areas. Recommend 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 co-location is not possible, recommend burying the transmission line and instituting compensatory mitigation.	GHMA is not easily resolved or avoided by corridor-level planning because alternate routes would still require siting through the current designated areas. Projects within this corridor should be evaluated for impacts on GRSG and habitats and measures are to be included to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts. All new proposed ROW locations will be open for consideration on a case-by-case basis, with stipulations identified during activity level environmental reviews. (3)
Visual Resources							
138-143 .002	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)
Land Use Concerns							
Other noted land use concerns							
138-143 .003	BLM	Little Snake FO	Moffat, CO	NSO Area	MP 53 and MP 60 to MP 61	GIS Analysis: NSO areas intersect corridor.	NSOs protect certain resources in the Little Snake FO depending on the area. Since an NSO would prohibit surface occupancy, potential consideration for corridor revision for aboveground infrastructure may be needed. (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; FO = Field Office; GHMA = General Habitat Management Area; GIS = geographic information system; GRSG = Greater Sage-grouse; 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 = Priority

Habitat Management Area; RFI = request for information; ROW = right-of-way; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; VRM = Visual Resource Management; WGA = Western Governors' Association; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor.