

Corridor 37-232

Coyote Springs

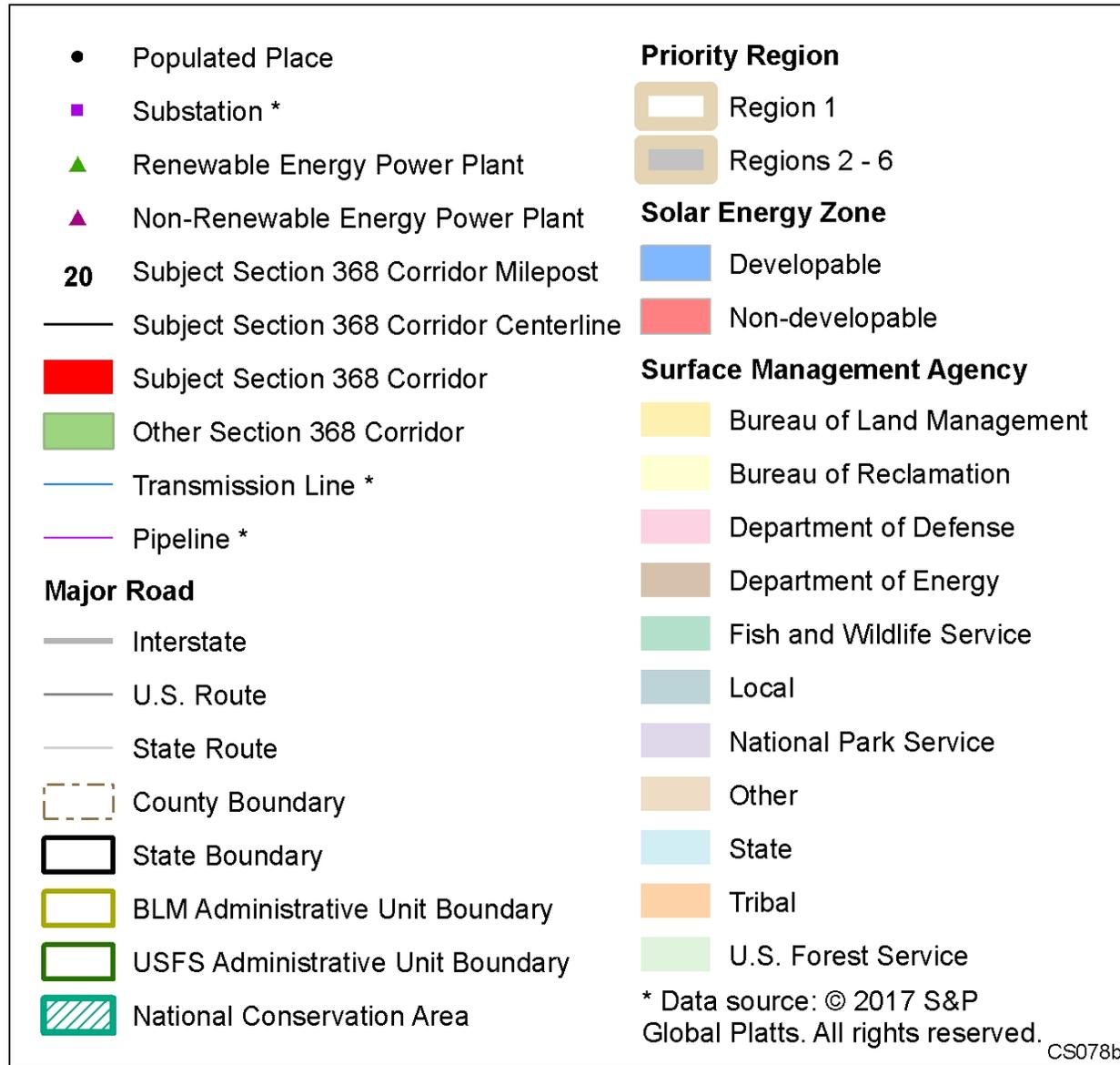
Introduction

Corridor 37-232 (Figures 1 and 2) extends north along U.S. Highway 93 to the east of the DNWR. The corridor begins at the junction of Corridors 37-223 (N) and 37-39, near the southeast corner of the DNWR and Nellis AFB, and ends at the junction of Corridors 232-233(E) and 232-233(W). Federally designated portions of this corridor are entirely on BLM-administered land, with a 3,500-ft width from MP 0 to MP 12.0, a 2,640-ft width from MP 12.0 to MP 35.5, and variable width from MP 35.5 to MP 49.7. The corridor segment north of MP 12 was designated in an RMP prior to designation of the Section 368 energy corridor.

Corridor 37-232 is designated as multimodal and can therefore accommodate both electrical transmission and pipeline projects. The corridor spans 49.7 miles, with 49.7 miles designated on BLM-administered lands. The designated area is 17,476 acres or 278.3 square miles. This corridor is in Clark and Lincoln counties in Nevada and is under the jurisdiction of the BLM Las Vegas and Caliente Field Offices. This corridor is primarily in Region 1 (Las Vegas Field Office) but extends into Region 3 between MP 39.8 and MP 49.7 (Caliente Field Office).



Figure 1. Corridor 37-232



Key

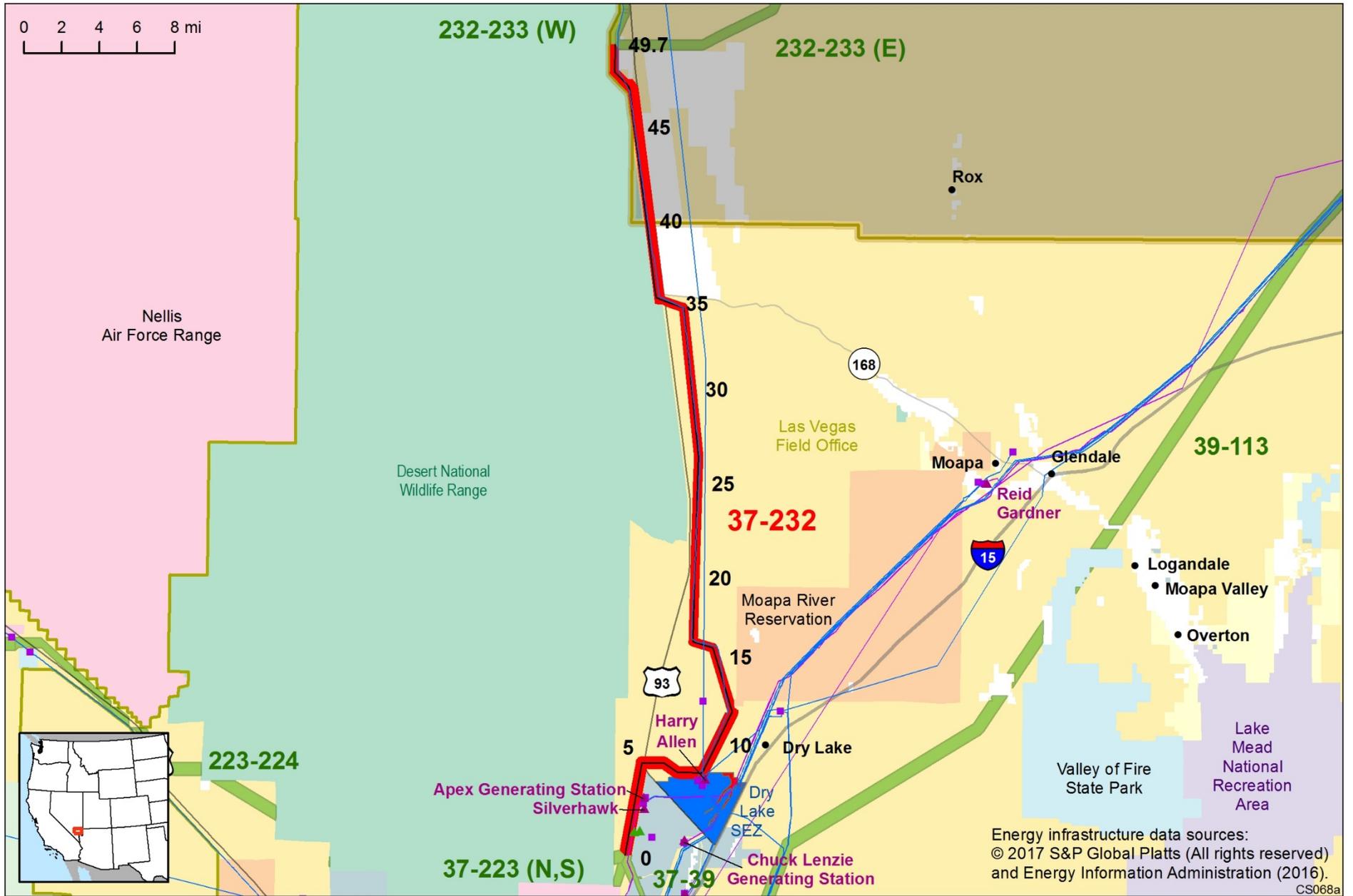


Figure 2. Corridor 37-232, Including Existing Energy Infrastructure

Corridor Rationale

During scoping for the WWEC PEIS, routes generally following this corridor were suggested by the American Wind Energy Association, Maximus USA, National Grid, the Rocky Mountain Area Transmission Study, Western Interconnection Transmission Paths, and the Western Utility Group. The primary purpose for designating this corridor was to provide a Section 368 route for the historic Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) corridor from southern Idaho to Las Vegas.

Existing Infrastructure: A small portion of the corridor is occupied by two Kern River Gas Transmission Company natural gas pipelines from MP 0 to MP 2.8, and much of the corridor follows two Tucson Electric Power Company 500-kV transmission lines extending from Midpoint, ID, to Las Vegas, NV. Also occupying parts of the corridor are two Sierra Pacific Power Company lines and one Nevada Power Company 69-kV transmission line. Seven power plants (five natural gas and two solar) are near the south end of the corridor from MP 0 to MP 8.7.

Potential Future Development: During interviews for the Corridor Study, the Southern Nevada District Office indicated two ROWs are pending for Corridor 37-232. The Platts data show a planned Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 1,000-kV DC line following the majority of the corridor and a conceptual Inland Line 500-kV project generally following the corridor route. Proposed out-of-state transmission projects that could affect this corridor include SWIP, TransWest Express Transmission Project, and Zephyr Power Transmission Project. The Dry Lake SEZ is adjacent to and partially overlaps the corridor that provides opportunity for the corridor to accommodate transmission tied to renewable energy development.

Corridor of Concern Status

This corridor was not identified in the Settlement Agreement as a corridor of concern.

Corridor Abstract Update

New data have been added to the Section 368 Energy Corridor Mapping Tool since release of the draft abstracts in September 2016. A GIS view identifying high-, medium-, and low-conflict areas consistent with the definition of screening criteria described in 43 CFR 2804.35(a)-(c) has also been added to the mapping tool. A complete description of the mapping tool, a description of the high-, medium-, and low-conflict areas, and a list of the GIS data sources are included in the corridor recommendations report for Region 1.

Additions to the corridor analysis table, based on input from stakeholders and additional Agency analysis, include acceptable uses, civilian and military aviation, special status species, and visual resources.

Revisions, deletions, or additions to Section 368 energy corridors would be made only during the land use planning process through a plan amendment for an individual project or a plan revision. However, the Settlement Agreement sets forth a systematic process for the Agencies to review Section 368 energy corridors and provide recommendations for revisions, deletions, or additions to the corridors. Stakeholders made recommendations in the 2014 RFI to reroute this corridor to avoid Tortoise Conservation Areas (TCAs) and Priority 1 and 2 tortoise connectivity habitat. Mapping of potential conflict areas indicates there is no nearby previously disturbed alternate route that would avoid tortoise habitat and still provide a north-south route in the area. There were no suggestions for corridor revisions, deletions, or additions in response to the release of the draft abstracts. Based on Agency analyses, as well as input provided by stakeholders, no corridor revisions, deletions, or additions are recommended for Corridor 37-232.

Corridor Analysis

The corridor analysis table below identifies the concerns affecting Corridor 37-232, the location of the concerns within the corridor, and the results of the analysis of the concerns by the Agencies. Concerns are checked if they are known to apply to the corridor.

Energy Planning Opportunities

- Appropriate and acceptable uses
- WWEC purpose (e.g., renewable energy)
- Transmission and pipeline capacity opportunity

Energy Planning Concerns and Opportunities

- Physical barrier
- Jurisdictional concern
- Corridor alignment and spacing
- Transmission and pipeline capacity concern

Land Management Responsibilities and Environmental Concerns

- Acoustics
- Air quality
- Climate change
- Cultural resources
- Ecological resources
- Environmental justice
- Hydrological resources
- Lands and realty
- Lands with wilderness characteristics

- Livestock grazing
- Paleontology
- Public access and recreation
- Socioeconomics
- Soils/erosion
- Specially designated areas
- Tribal concerns
- Visual resources
- Wild horses and burros
- Interagency Operating Procedures**

REGION 1 - CORRIDOR 37-232 - ANALYSIS TABLE

ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern/ Opportunity	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source: Context	Agency Review and Analysis
ENERGY PLANNING OPPORTUNITIES							
<i>Appropriate and Acceptable Uses</i>							
37-232 .001	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Designated leasing area (i.e., Dry Lake SEZ)	MP 5.8 to MP 9	GIS Analysis: Dry Lake SEZ is adjacent to and partially overlaps the corridor.	The Dry Lake SEZ provides opportunity for the corridor to accommodate transmission tied to renewable energy development.
37-232 .new1	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Maximum use of the corridors and efficient use of the landscape	Entire corridor	Comment on corridor abstract: include transportation, drainage, and all utility uses, both wet and dry, in the appropriate and acceptable uses for the noted corridors. Modifying the acceptable uses of these corridors to encompass public infrastructure uses will further BLM's ability to fully meet all of the guiding	Section 368 energy corridors were designated for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution lines on federal land.

REGION 1 - CORRIDOR 37-232 - ANALYSIS TABLE

ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern/ Opportunity	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source: Context	Agency Review and Analysis
						principles set in the 2012 Settlement Agreement.	
ENERGY PLANNING CONCERNS							
<i>Jurisdictional Concern</i>							
37-232 .004	BLM	Caliente FO, Las Vegas FO	Clark and Lincoln, NV	Existing infrastructure, DNWR, and private land	MP 35.8 to MP 49.7	GIS Analysis: The corridor occupies a narrow strip of BLM-administered land between the DNWR and private land and is occupied by two projects.	Proposed project siting and collocation alternatives to address impacts would be analyzed as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
<i>Corridor Alignment and Spacing</i>							
37-232 .002	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Several transmission lines and one pipeline	MP 2.6 to MP 4.2	GIS Analysis: Several transmission lines and one pipeline occupy or cross the corridor.	Proposed project siting and collocation alternatives to address impacts would be analyzed as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
37-232 .003	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Multiple transmission lines	MP 8 to MP 9.2	GIS Analysis: Multiple transmission lines occupy and cross the corridor.	Proposed project siting and collocation alternatives to address impacts would be analyzed as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
37-232 .005	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Transmission line	MP 11.7 to MP 15.6	GIS Analysis: Transmission line crosses from one side of the corridor to the other.	Proposed project siting and collocation alternatives to address impacts would be analyzed as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
37-232 .006	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Two transmission lines	MP 35.1 to MP 36.2	GIS Analysis: Two transmission lines cross each other, and go from one side of the corridor to the other.	Proposed project siting and collocation alternatives to address impacts would be analyzed as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
LAND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS							
<i>Ecology: Special Status Animal Species</i>							
37-232 .007, .008, and .009	BLM	Caliente FO, Las Vegas FO	Clark and Lincoln, NV	Desert Tortoise critical habitat; TCAs; Priority 1 and 2 connectivity habitat (least-cost corridor	MP 0 to MP 47.7; MP 0 to MP 9.4	RFI: reroute to avoid siting new facilities in TCAs and Priority 1 and 2 connectivity habitat without existing transmission, and minimize additional transmission siting in these areas. Provide missing data to	There is no nearby alternative route that would avoid tortoise habitat and provide a route from southern Idaho to Las Vegas in a corridor with existing infrastructure. Analysis would be completed through the NEPA process (i.e., for RMP revision) case

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern/ Opportunity	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source: Context	Agency Review and Analysis
				for tortoise connectivity) (USFWS 2012)		minimize potential impacts on the Desert Tortoise. GIS Analysis.	by case with a full range of alternatives. Impacts on habitat and habitat connectivity may be avoided, minimized, or mitigated through activities identified and implemented in consultation with the USFWS under ESA Section 7. Additional GIS data to identify Desert Tortoise habitat was collected and added to the mapping tool.
Lands and Realty: Civilian and Military Aviation							
37-232 .new2	BLM	Caliente FO, Las Vegas FO	Clark and Lincoln, NV	Nellis AFB	Entire corridor	Comment on corridor abstract: under Nellis corridor to range	This corridor appears to be in the NTR MOA and may affect training if over 100 ft above ground level. It may affect testing at lower heights. All restricted airspace needs to be avoided. Coordination with DoD and Nellis AFB is recommended.
Lands and Realty: Transportation							
37-232 .010	BLM	Caliente FO, Las Vegas FO	Clark and Lincoln, NV	U.S. Highway 93	MP 5.1, MP 20.3 to MP 24.2, MP 34.4 to MP 47.1	GIS Analysis: U.S. Highway 93 runs adjacent to and intersects the corridor.	Coordination with the Nevada Department of Transportation and adherence to IOPs is required.
Specially Designated Areas							
37-232 .012	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Coyote Springs ACEC	MP 0 to MP 6.5, MP 16 to MP 35.6	GIS Analysis: the corridor intersects and is adjacent to various special management areas.	Corridor 37-232 traverses through one of four ACECs within the BLM SNDO that is specifically designated to protect desert tortoise critical habitat. Corridor 37-232 traverses the ACEC for approximately 8 miles. Except within designated corridors, the ACEC is managed as an avoidance area to linear ROWs, and as an exclusion area to site-type ROWs (except within 0.5 mile of the center line of federal aid highways). Site-type ROWs, such as electrical substations, water treatment plants, and construction staging areas, may or may not be compatible with the use and future use of the corridor. Use of IOPs and BMPs would

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern/ Opportunity	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source: Context	Agency Review and Analysis
							be required to avoid incompatible uses within the corridor.
37-232 .013	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Arrow Canyon Wilderness	MP 19.7 to MP 34.3	GIS Analysis: corridor is adjacent to Arrow Canyon Wilderness.	Corridor is not located within the wilderness area. Proposed project siting to address impacts would be analyzed as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
37-232 .014	USFWS		Clark and Lincoln, NV	Desert National Wildlife Range (DNWR)	MP 35.5 to MP 49.7	GIS Analysis.	Corridor is not designated within the DNWR. Proposed project siting to address impacts would be analyzed as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
Tribal Concerns							
37-232 .015	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Moapa River Indian Reservation	MP 12.2 to MP 15.5	GIS Analysis: Corridor is adjacent to the Moapa River Indian Reservation.	Moapa River Indian Reservation is located northeast of Las Vegas near Moapa. It is the land base for the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, a local band of Southern Paiute Indians. The Moapa Band will be consulted to minimize potential effects. Adherence to IOPs is required.
Visual Resources							
37-232 .016	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	VRM Class III	MP 0 to MP 6.4, MP 16.2 to MP 39.9	GIS Analysis.	VRM class objectives are binding land use plan decisions. Transmission facilities must demonstrate that they will conform to the VRM decisions in the land use plan through a hard-look visual impacts analysis outlined in BLM VRM Contrast Rating Handbook H 8431-1 (VRM Manual Section (MS) 8400, BLM 1986). Minimizing visual contrast remains a requirement of applicable VRM class objectives even when the proposed action is in conformance with these VRM class objectives (VRM MS-8400).

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern/ Opportunity	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source: Context	Agency Review and Analysis
							Between MP 35 and MP 40, VRM Class IV may be appropriate given the space constraints and likely potential conflict with visual resources.
37-232 .017	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	VRM Class IV	MP 6.2 to MP 16.3	GIS Analysis.	While VRM Class IV objectives allow for major modification to occur and management activities may dominate the view, minimizing visual contrast remains a requirement of these VRM class objectives. Ratings are required in areas of high sensitivity or high impact (VRM MS-8400).
Other Issues							
37-232 .new3						One stakeholder urged the Agencies to consider transportation, drainage, and all utility uses to be included in the appropriate and acceptable uses for the corridor. Input was also provided clarifying existing capacity and potential for new capacity.	The West-wide Energy Corridor RODs designated Section 368 energy corridors for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities to provide long-distance pathways for future pipelines as well as long-distance electrical transmission lines. Therefore, transportation, drainage, and all utility uses are not generally considered appropriate and acceptable uses for the designated Section 368 energy corridors. The input provided by stakeholders regarding existing capacity and potential for future capacity has been added to the corridor abstracts and has been considered in the Agencies' analysis.

Abbreviations: ACEC = Area of Critical Environmental Concern; AFB = Air Force Base; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; BMP = Best Management Practice; CFR = Code of Federal Regulations; DNWR = Desert National Wildlife Refuge; DoD = Department of Defense; ESA = Endangered Species Act; FO = Field Office; GIS = geographic information system; IOP = Interagency Operating Procedure; MOA = Memorandum of Agreement; MP = milepost; NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act; NTTR = Nevada Test and Training Range; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; RFI = Request for Information; SEZ = Solar Energy Zone; SNDO = Southern Nevada District Office; SWIP = Southwest Intertie Project; TCA = Tortoise Conservation Area; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; VRM = Visual Resource Management; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor.