Chapter 5
Land-use Plan Amendments

CHAPTER 5 – LAND-USE PLAN AMENDMENTS

As proposed, the Project would cross three states—Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah—including federal lands administered by 10 BLM field offices (Rawlins, Little Snake, White River, Grand Junction, Vernal, Moab, Price, Salt Lake, Richfield, and Fillmore Field Offices) and three national forests (Ashley, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache, and Manti-La Sal National Forests). Both the BLM and USFS planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.5 and 36 CFR 219.10) require that site-specific decisions, including authorized uses of land, be consistent with the applicable plan. If a proposed site-specific decision is not consistent with the applicable plan, the responsible official may modify the proposed decision to make it consistent with the plan, reject the proposal, or amend the plan to authorize the action. As a result, the amendment of multiple BLM RMPs and USFS LRMPs (land use plan amendments [LUPAs]) may be necessary before the project can be authorized.

For some specific portions of the Project along alternative routes, where avoidance was not possible or where application of all feasible mitigation measures was determined through project-specific analysis to be insufficient to bring the Project into conformance with the administering federal agency's land-use plan, a LUPA would be required to amend decisions in the land-use plans to accommodate the Project. Each nonconformance potentially caused by the Project's alternative routes was identified through a comparison of the Project's alternative route(s) to the respective land use plan. A LUPA that would allow plan consistency with authorization of the alternative route(s) is presented as the potential LUPA for that situation. LUPAs would be implemented only for the Project-specific selected route.

The discussion in this chapter describes the process for amending BLM- and USFS-land use plans and identifies proposed LUPAs to authorize the selected route, as well as other proposed LUPAs required should another route ultimately be selected for construction, followed by an analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with each LUPA. The locations associated with the proposed LUPAs are presented on Maps 5-1a and 5-1b.

5.1 Planning Process

The BLM prepares RMPs for public lands in accordance with the requirements of FLPMA Sections 201 and 202 (43 U.S.C. 1711-1712) and the regulations in 43 CFR 1600. The BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (BLM Manual H-1601-1) provides specific guidance for preparing, amending, revising, and maintaining BLM land use plans (BLM 2005a). The BLM's land use planning regulations at 43 CFR 1610.5-5 state, "an amendment shall be initiated by the need to consider a Proposed Action that may result in a change in the scope of resources uses or a change in the terms, conditions, and decisions of the approved plan." Plans needing amendment may be grouped geographically or by type of decision in the same amendment process. One amendment process may amend the same or related decisions in more than one land use plan. An overview of the NEPA and land-use plan amendment process is presented in Section 1.5.

The Project-specific amendments to USFS LRMPs to authorize the selected route are proposed under the 1982 planning rule procedures. The USFS land use planning regulations at 36 CFR 219.13 state, "a plan amendment is required to add, modify, or remove one or more plan components, or to change how or where one or more plan components apply to all or part of the plan area (including management areas or geographic areas)." As provided under 36 CFR 219.17(b)(2), the amendment procedures being followed for the proposed LUPAs are those in the provisions of the 1982 planning regulations (36 CFR 200-299, 7-1-2000 Edition). Under those prior planning regulations, "the Forest Supervisor may implement the amendment following appropriate public notification and satisfactory completion of NEPA procedures."

5.1.1 Summary of Changes from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Chapter 5 was updated to reflect adjustments in the alternative route alignments and their effect on the scope and/or environmental consequences of LUPAs to authorize the Proposed Action, and to address comments received during public review of the Draft EIS. For LUPAs to authorize the route of the Agency Preferred Alternative, these are now considered proposed plan amendments in the Final EIS. The LUPAs identified on other alternative routes reflect proposed plan amendments should another alternative route ultimately be selected for construction.

Substantive changes made between the Draft and Final EIS are demarcated on the left margin of the chapter by a vertical black line.

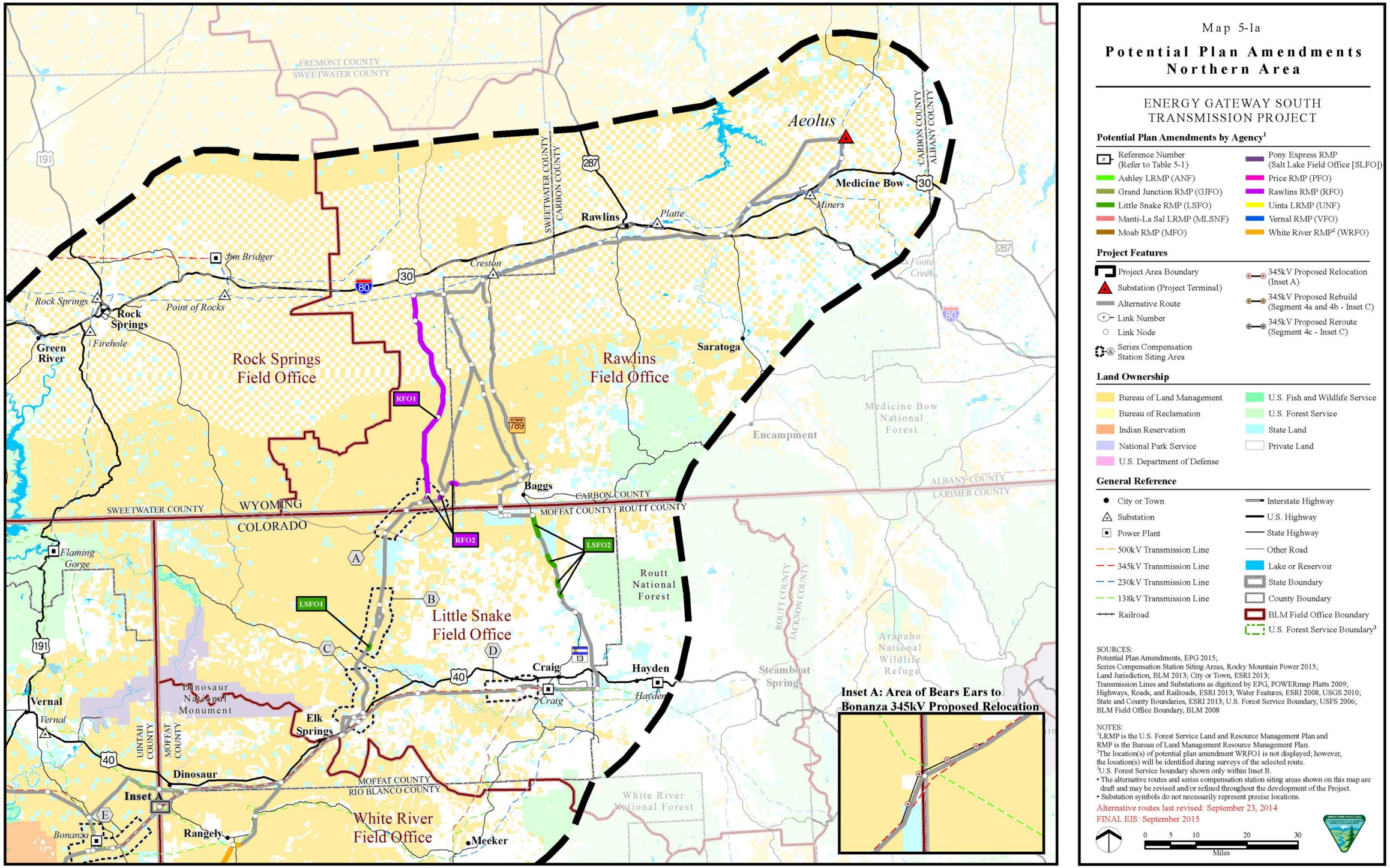
5.1.2 Planning Area Boundaries

Most of the LUPAs needed to bring the Project's alternative routes into conformance would be limited to the specific portions of the 250-foot right-of-way for the transmission line and the boundaries of ancillary facilities that would not be in conformance with the applicable land-use plan. In this case, the boundaries of the planning area (i.e., the area affected by the LUPA) are limited to the proposed 250-foot right-of-way on lands administered by the relevant BLM field office or national forest. For amendments to change the designation of a utility corridor for underground utilities only to allow both underground and overhead utilities or widen an existing utility, the planning area boundary is the extent of the modified utility corridor.

5.1.3 Planning Issues and Criteria

A list of the issues identified from scoping is presented in Table 1-1. The following general planning criteria were developed for the potential LUPAs to help focus analysis of the impact of amending the various land-use plans.

- Actions must comply with laws, executive orders, regulations, and policy.
- The planning effort recognizes valid existing rights.
- The LUPA will apply only to the BLM- and USFS-administered lands in the planning area boundaries. In the planning area, management decisions will not apply to private or tribal lands, mineral estates, or public lands administered by other federal agencies or the federal mineral estate underlying public lands administered by other federal agencies.
- To the extent possible, and within legal and regulatory parameters, management and LUPA decisions will be consistent with officially approved or adopted resource-related plans, and the policies and programs contained therein, of other federal agencies, state and local governments and Indian tribes, so long as the guidance and resource management plans also are consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of federal laws and regulations applicable to federal lands, including federal and state pollution control laws as implemented by applicable federal and state air, water, noise, and other pollution standards or implementation plans. The responsible official will not conform management to meet non-Forest Service objectives or policies.
- Planning and management direction will be focused on the relative values of resources and not the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or economic output.
- Existing endangered species recovery plans, including plans for reintroduction of endangered species and other species, will be considered. Consultation, coordination, and cooperation with the FWS will be in accordance with interagency MOUs regarding Section 7 Consultation.


Map 5-1a
Potential Plan Amendments Northern Area
ENERGY GATEWAY SOUTH TRANSMISSION PROJECT
Potential Plan Amendments by Agency[1]
Reference Number (Refer to Table 5-1)
Ashley LRMP (ANF)
Grand Junction RMP (GJFO)
Little Snake RMP (LSFO)
Manti-La Sal LRMP (MLSNF)
Moab RMP (MFO)
Pony Express RMP (Salt Lake Field Office [SLFO])
Price RMP (PFO)
Rawlins RMP (RFO)
Uinta LRMP (UNF)
Vernal RMP (VFO)
White River RMP[2] (WRFO)
Project Features
Project Area Boundary
Substation (Project Terminal)
Alternative Route
Link Number
Link Node
Series Compensation Station Siting Area
345kV Proposed Relocation (Inset A)
345kV Proposed Rebuild (Segment 4a and 4b - Inset C)
345kV Proposed Reroute (Segment 4c - Inset C)
Land Ownership
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Indian Reservation
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Defense
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
State Land
Private Land
General Reference
City or Town
Substation
Power Plant
500kV Transmission Line
345kV Transmission Line
230kV Transmission Line
138kV Transmission Line
Railroad
Interstate Highway
U.S. Highway
State Highway
Other Road
Lake or Reservoir
State Boundary
County Boundary
BLM Field Office Boundary
U.S. Forest Service Boundary[3]
SOURCES:
Potential Plan Amendments, EPG 2015;
Series Compensation Station Siting Areas, Rocky Mountain Power 2015;
Land Jurisdiction, BLM 2013; City or Town, ESRI 2013;
Transmission Lines and Substations as digitized by EPG, POWERmap Platts 2009;
Highways, Roads, and Railroads, ESRI 2013; Water Features, ESRI 2008, USGS 2010;
State and County Boundaries, ESRI 2013; U.S. Forest Service Boundary, USFS 2006;
BLM Field Office Boundary, BLM 2008
NOTES:
[1]LRMP is the U.S. Forest Service Land and Resource Management Plan and RMP is the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan.
[2]The location(s) of potential plan amendment WRFO1 is not displayed; however, the location(s) will be identified during surveys of the selected route.
[3]U.S. Forest Service boundary shown only within Inset B.
• The alternative routes and series compensation station siting areas shown on this map are draft and may be revised and/or refined throughout the development of the Project.
• Substation symbols do not necessarily represent precise locations.
Alternative routes last revised: September 23, 2014
FINAL EIS: September 2015
0 5 10 20 30
Miles
Inset A: Area of Bears Ears to Bonanza 345kV Proposed Relocation
Aeolus
Medicine Bow
Miners
Rawlins
Platte
Creston
Jim Bridger
Rock Springs
Point of Rocks
Green River
Firehole
Rock Springs Field Office
Rawlins Field Office
Saratoga
Encampment
Medicine Bow National Forest
Baggs
Flaming Gorge
Little Snake Field Office
Routt National Forest
Craig
Hayden
Steamboat Springs
Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge
Vernal
Dinosaur National Monument
Elk Springs
Dinosaur
Inset A
Bonanza
Rangely
Meeker
White River Field Office
White River National Forest
SWEETWATER COUNTY
FREMONT COUNTY
CARBON COUNTY
ALBANY COUNTY
LARIMER COUNTY
MOFFAT COUNTY
ROUTT COUNTY
JACKSON COUNTY
UINTAH COUNTY
RIO BLANCO COUNTY
WYOMING
COLORADO
RFO1
RFO2
LSFO1
LSFO2

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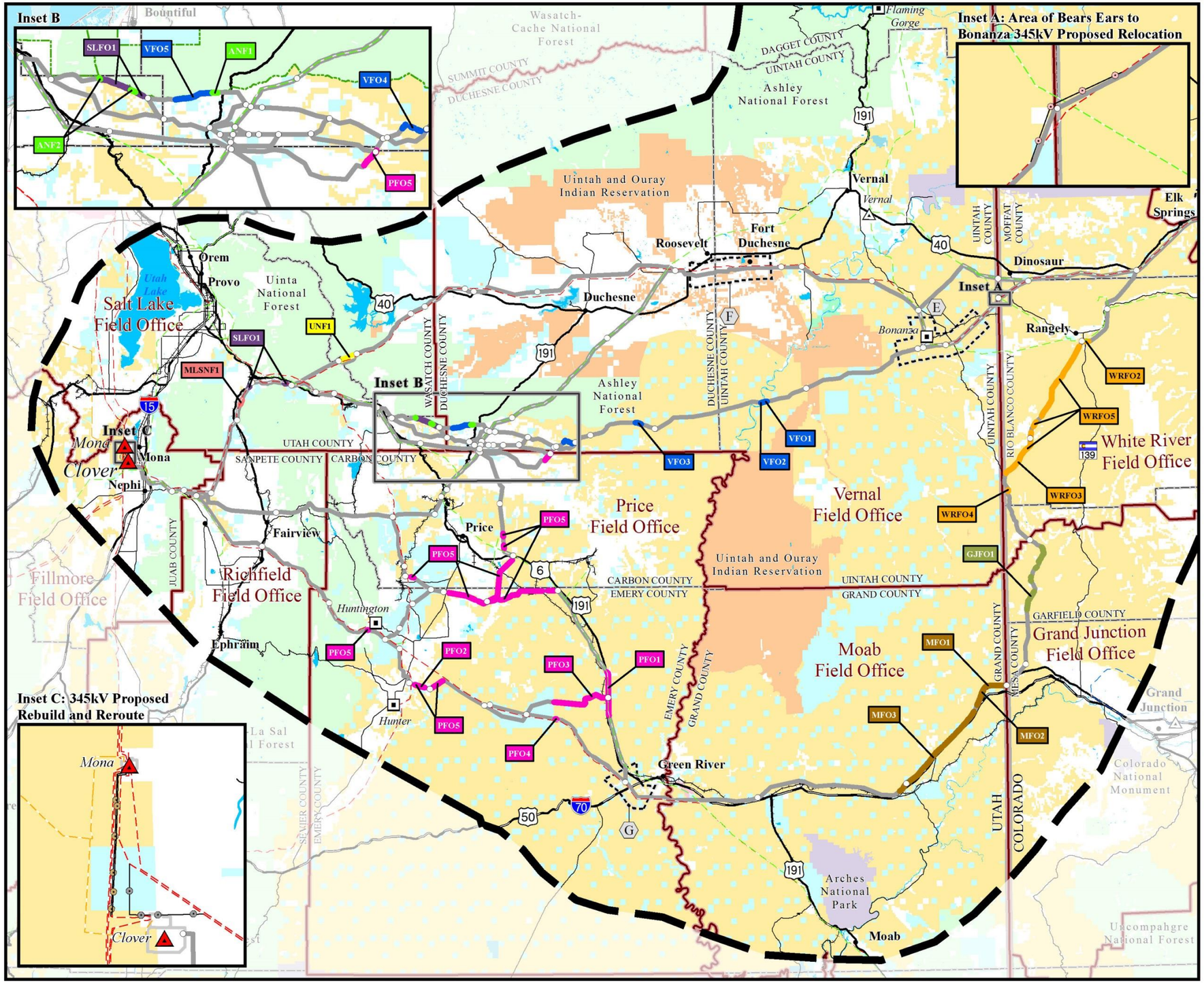

Map 5-1b

Potential Plan Amendments Southern Area

ENERGY GATEWAY SOUTH TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Potential Plan Amendments by Agency[1]

- Reference Number (Refer to Table 5-1)
- Ashley LRMP (ANF)
- Grand Junction RMP (GJFO)
- Little Snake RMP (LSFO)
- Manti-La Sal LRMP (MLSNF)
- Moab RMP (MFO)
- Pony Express RMP (Salt Lake Field Office [SLFO])
- Price RMP (PFO)
- Rawlins RMP (RFO)
- Uinta LRMP (UNF)
- Vernal RMP (VFO)
- White River RMP[2] (WRFO)

Project Features

- Project Area Boundary
- Substation (Project Terminal)
- Alternative Route
- Link Number
- Link Node
- Series Compensation Station Siting Area
- 345kV Proposed Relocation (Inset A)
- 345kV Proposed Rebuild (Segment 4a and 4b - Inset C)
- 345kV Proposed Reroute (Segment 4c - Inset C)

Land Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Indian Reservation
- National Park Service
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- State Land
- Private Land

General Reference

- City or Town
- Substation
- Power Plant
- 500kV Transmission Line
- 345kV Transmission Line
- 230 Transmission Line
- 138 Transmission Line
- Railroad
- Interstate Highway
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Other Road
- Lake or Reservoir
- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- BLM Field Office Boundary
- U.S. Forest Service Boundary[3]

SOURCES:
Potential Plan Amendments, EPG 2015;
Series Compensation Station Siting Areas, Rocky Mountain Power 2015;
Land Jurisdiction, BLM 2013; City or Town, ESRI 2013;
Transmission Lines and Substations as digitized by EPG, POWERmap Platts 2009;
Highways, Roads, and Railroads, ESRI 2013; Water Features, ESRI 2008, USGS 2010;
State and County Boundaries, ESRI 2013; U.S. Forest Service Boundary, USFS 2006;
BLM Field Office Boundary, BLM 2008

NOTES:
[1]LRMP is the U.S. Forest Service Land and Resource Management Plan and RMP is the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan.
[2]The location(s) of potential plan amendment WRFO1 is not displayed; however, the location(s) will be identified during surveys of the selected route.
[3]U.S. Forest Service boundary shown only within Inset B.
• The alternative routes and series compensation station siting areas shown on this map are draft and may be revised and/or refined throughout the development of the Project.
• Substation symbols do not necessarily represent precise locations.

Alternative routes last revised: September 23, 2014
FINAL EIS: September 2015

0 5 10 20 30
Miles

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5.1.4 Potential Land-use Plan Amendments

Table 5-1 lists the resource management plans by state that could require an amendment, the identified nonconformance issue, and the applicable alternative routes relative to the potential LUPAs. Complete descriptions of the potential LUPAs and associated effects are discussed in Tables 5-2 through 5-33.

The types of potential LUPAs needed to address nonconformance include:

- Converting underground utility corridors to allow aboveground utilities
- Modifying VRM classifications (BLM)
- Modifying VQO classifications (USFS)
- Granting a one-time exception to allow a transmission line right-of-way to cross an ACEC if the ACEC can be spanned
- Widening portions of a utility corridor designated in a land-use plan to include the Project right-of-way.

5.1.4.1 Direct and Indirect Effects

Because most of the planning boundaries are limited to the 250-foot right-of-way for the transmission line and the boundaries of ancillary facilities, the direct and indirect effects on the resources and resource uses from amending decisions in the land-use plans to accommodate the Project would be similar to the direct and indirect effects of constructing, operating, and maintaining the Project described in Chapter 3 (and Appendix F). Refer to the following sections for discussion of direct and indirect effects for each resource:

- Climate and Air Quality (Section 3.2.1)
- Earth Resources (Section 3.2.2)
- Paleontological Resources (Section 3.2.3)
- Water Resources (Section 3.2.4)
- Vegetation (Section 3.2.5)
- Special Status Plants (Section 3.2.6)
- Wildlife (Section 3.2.7)
- Special Status Wildlife (Section 3.2.8)
- Migratory Birds (Section 3.2.9)
- Fish and Aquatic Resources (Section 3.2.10)
- Land Use (Section 3.2.11)
- Parks, Preservation, and Recreation (Section 3.2.12)
- Transportation and Access (Section 3.2.13)
- Congressional Designations (Section 3.2.14)
- Special Designations and Other Management Areas (Section 3.2.15)
- Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (Section 3.2.16)
- Inventoried Roadless Areas and Unroaded/Undeveloped Areas (Section 3.2.17)
- Visual Resources (Section 3.2.18)
- National Trails System (Section 3.2.19)
- Cultural Resources (Section 3.2.20)
- Fire Ecology and Management (Section 3.2.21)
- Social and Economic Conditions (Section 3.2.22)
- Public Health and Safety (Section 3.2.23)

The direct and indirect effects of the LUPAs are presented in Tables 5-2 through 5-33.

5.1.4.2 Cumulative Effects

Amended land-use plan direction resulting from amendment of land-use plan decisions to accommodate the Project (i.e., converting underground utility corridors to allow aboveground utilities; modifying visual resource classifications; granting a one-time exception to allow a transmission line right-of-way to cross an ACEC, if the ACEC can be spanned; or widening portions of a utility corridor designated in a land-use plan to include the Project right-of-way) could, cumulatively, affect future decisions regarding management of the adjacent areas along with the effects of other RFFAs (i.e., future linear utilities, especially other overhead transmission lines). The cumulative effects of the proposed LUPAs are presented in Tables 5-2 through 5-33.

TABLE 5-1
POTENTIAL LAND-USE PLAN AMENDMENTS

Resource Management Plan	Could Decision Require Amendment?	Identification Number on Maps 5-1a and 5-1b	Refer to Table Number	Nonconformance Issue (s)	Alternative Routes Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment
Wyoming					
Bureau of Land Management Rawlins Field Office					
Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008b)	Yes	RFO1	Table 5-2	The alternative route is in the Colorado Interstate Gas/Entegra/Wyoming Interstate Company pipeline corridor, which is designated for underground utilities only.	WYCO-C
	Yes	RFO2	Table 5-3	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of crossing the Cherokee Historic Trail in these areas would not be compliant with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III objectives established in the resource management plan (RMP) for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Sheet Worksheet, Key Observation Point (KOP) #276.	WYCO-B (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative), WYCO-C, and WYCO-F
Colorado					
Bureau of Land Management Little Snake Field Office					
Little Snake Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (BLM 2011b)	Yes	LSFO1	Table 5-4	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of crossing the Godiva Rim Proposed Backcountry Byway would not be compliant with VRM Class III objectives established in the RMP for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, KOP #289.	WYCO-B (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative), WYCO-C, and WYCO-F
	Yes	LSFO2	Table 5-5	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling Colorado State Highway 13 would not be compliant with VRM Class III objectives established in the RMP for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, KOP #66, and associated visual simulation.	WYCO-D

TABLE 5-1 POTENTIAL LAND-USE PLAN AMENDMENTS					
Resource Management Plan	**Could Decision Require Amendment?**	**Identification Number on Maps 5-1a and 5-1b**	**Refer to Table Number**	**Nonconformance Issue (s)**	**Alternative Routes Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment**
Bureau of Land Management White River Field Office					
White River Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, 2015, as amended (BLM 2015b)	Yes	WRFO1	Table 5-6	All suitable habitat for listed and candidate plant species are exclusion areas for new rights-of-way authorizations.	Unknown
	Yes	WRFO2	Table 5-7	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of crossing the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway in Canyon Pintado would not be compliant with VRM Class III objectives established in the RMP for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, KOP #241, and associated visual simulation.	All COUT BAX
	Yes	WRFO3	Table 5-8	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling Baxter Pass Road would not be compliant with VRM Class III objectives established in the RMP for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, KOP #244, and associated visual simulation.	All COUT BAX
	Yes	WRFO4	Table 5-9	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, visual effects resulting from the proximity of the Project to a residence in Whiskey Creek would not be compliant with VRM Class III objectives established in the RMP for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, KOP #242.	All COUT BAX
	Yes	WRFO5	Table 5-10	The alternative routes follow the Dragon Trail-Atchee Ridge utility corridor, which is designated for underground utilities only.	All COUT BAX
Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office					
Grand Junction Resource Area Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, 2015 (BLM 2015a)	Yes	GJFO1	Table 5-11	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling Garfield County Road 201 would not be compliant with VRM Class III objectives established in the RMP for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, KOP #244, and associated visual simulation.	All COUT BAX

TABLE 5-1 POTENTIAL LAND-USE PLAN AMENDMENTS					
Resource Management Plan	**Could Decision Require Amendment?**	**Identification Number on Maps 5-1a and 5-1b**	**Refer to Table Number**	**Nonconformance Issue (s)**	**Alternative Routes Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment**
Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area					
Colorado Canyons (McInnis Canyons) National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan (BLM 2004c)	No	Not applicable	Table 5-12	None	Not applicable
National Park Service					
National Park Service Dinosaur National Monument: Dinosaur National Monument General Management Plan (NPS 1986)	No	Not applicable	Table 5-13	None	Not applicable
Utah					
Bureau of Land Management Salt Lake City Field Office					
Salt Lake District, Record of Decision for the Pony Express Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary for Utah County (BLM 1990)	Yes	SLFO1	Table 5-14	The alternative routes traverse small parcels of lands administered by the Salt Lake Field Office not located in a designated utility corridor. According to the Pony Express RMP Record of Decision (page 56) "future proposals for major rights-of-way such as pipelines, large power lines, and permanent improved roads must use identified corridors. Otherwise, a planning amendment and appropriate environmental analysis will be required. Proposals that are not considered major may be sited outside corridors after demonstrating that locating in a corridor is not viable. In all cases, the utilization of ROW [right-of-way] in common shall be considered whenever possible."	COUT-A, COUT-B, COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative), Timberlane/Argyle Canyon Variations 2 and 5[1]
Bureau of Land Management Fillmore Field Office					
Richfield District House Range Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision Rangeland Program Summary (BLM 1987)	No	Not applicable	Table 5-15	None	Not applicable

TABLE 5-1 POTENTIAL LAND-USE PLAN AMENDMENTS					
Resource Management Plan	**Could Decision Require Amendment?**	**Identification Number on Maps 5-1a and 5-1b**	**Refer to Table Number**	**Nonconformance Issue (s)**	**Alternative Routes Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment**
Bureau of Land Management Price Field Office					
Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (BLM 2008d)	Yes	PFO1	Table 5-16	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway (U.S. Highway 6) would not be compliant with VRM Class III objectives established in the RMP for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, KOP #41, and associated visual simulation.	COUT BAX-C, COUT BAX-E
Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (BLM 2008d)	Yes	PFO2	Table 5-17	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling the Wedge Overlook/Buckhorn Draw Scenic Backway would not be compliant with VRM Class III objectives established in the RMP for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, KOP #218.	COUT BAX-B, COUT BAX-C
	Yes	PFO3	Table 5-18	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling the San Rafael Swell Destination Route (Green River Cutoff Road) would not be compliant with VRM Class III objectives established in the RMP for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, KOP #326.	COUT BAX-C
	Yes	PFO4	Table 5-19	Crosses Big Hole Rock Art Area of Critical Environmental Concern, an exclusion area for new utility corridors.	COUT BAX-B
Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (BLM 2008d)	Yes	PFO5	Table 5-20	New utility corridors in these areas will require a potential land-use plan amendment.	All COUT BAX, COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative), COUT-H, COUT-I, Camp Timberlane/ Argyle Canyon Variations 1 and 2[1]

TABLE 5-1 POTENTIAL LAND-USE PLAN AMENDMENTS					
Resource Management Plan	**Could Decision Require Amendment?**	**Identification Number on Maps 5-1a and 5-1b**	**Refer to Table Number**	**Nonconformance Issue (s)**	**Alternative Routes Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment**
Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office					
Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (BLM 2008f)	Yes	VFO1	Table 5-21	New utilities must cross the Green River at Fourmile Bottom. The alternative routes cross in the designated area, which also is designated as VRM Class II. Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of crossing the Green River at Fourmile Bottom would not be compliant with VRM Class II objectives established in the RMP for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, KOP #203, and associated visual simulation.	COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative), COUT-H, COUT-I
	Yes	VFO2	Table 5-22	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects resulting from the proximity of the Project to the Enron Recreation Area would not be compliant with VRM Class III objectives established in the RMP for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Worksheet, KOP #87, and associated visual simulation.	COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative), COUT-H, COUT-I
	Yes	VFO3	Table 5-23	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of crossing the Nine Mile Canyon Scenic Backway would not be compliant with VRM Class III objectives established in the RMP for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, KOP #273.	COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative), COUT-H, COUT-I
Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (BLM 2008f)	Yes	VFO4	Table 5-24	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling Argyle Canyon Road would not be compliant with VRM Class III objectives established in the RMP for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheets, KOP #200, and associated visual simulation.	COUT-H, COUT-I, Argyle Ridge Variation 1[1]

TABLE 5-1 POTENTIAL LAND-USE PLAN AMENDMENTS					
Resource Management Plan	**Could Decision Require Amendment?**	**Identification Number on Maps 5-1a and 5-1b**	**Refer to Table Number**	**Nonconformance Issue (s)**	**Alternative Routes Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment**
	Yes	VFO5	Table 5-25	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling the Reservation Ridge Scenic Backway would not be compliant with VRM Class III objectives established in the RMP for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, KOP #329.	Camp Timberlane/ Argyle Canyon Variation 5[1]
Bureau of Land Management Richfield Field Office					
Richfield Field Office, Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (BLM 2008e)	No	Not applicable	Table 5-26	Not applicable	Not applicable
Bureau of Land Management Moab Field Office					
Moab Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (BLM 2008c)	Yes	MFO1	Table 5-27	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling Old U.S. Highway 6 would not be compliant with VRM Class III objectives established in the RMP for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, KOP #245.	All COUT BAX
	Yes	MFO2	Table 5-28	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects resulting from the proximity of the Project to the Harley Dome Rest Area (along Interstate 70 [I-70]) would not be compliant with VRM Class III objectives established in the RMP for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, KOP #152, and associated visual simulation.	All COUT BAX
Moab Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (BLM 2008c)	Yes	MFO3	Table 5-29	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling I-70 would not be compliant with VRM Class III objectives established in the RMP for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, KOP #246.	All COUT BAX

TABLE 5-1
POTENTIAL LAND-USE PLAN AMENDMENTS

Resource Management Plan	Could Decision Require Amendment?	Identification Number on Maps 5-1a and 5-1b	Refer to Table Number	Nonconformance Issue (s)	Alternative Routes Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment
Manti-La Sal national Forest					
Manti-La Sal National Forest, Land and Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, 1986, as amended (U.S. Forest Service [USFS] 1986b)	Yes	MLSNF1	Table 5-30	Per a standard for the General Big-game Winter Range Management Unit (management emphasis is on general big-game winter range) in the 1986 Manti-La Sal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) states that activities must meet the Visual Quality Objective (VQO) except where habitat improvement activities occur. Due to the proximity of the Project to U.S. Highway 89 and residences in the Birdseye, Utah, area, the Project would not be subordinate to the characteristic landscape in these areas, which would be inconsistent with the definition of a partial retention VQO.[2]	COUT-A, COUT-B, COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative)
Ashley National Forest					
Ashley National Forest, Land and Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, 1986, as amended (USFS 1986a)	Yes	ANF1	Table 5-31	A forest-wide standard in the 1986 Ashley National Forest LRMP states that the forest will manage visual resource according to the adopted VQO. Due to proximity to the Avintaquin Campground and paralleling the Reservation Ridge Scenic Backway, the Project would not be consistent with a retention VQO.[2]	Camp Timberlane/ Argyle Canyon Variation 5
Ashley National Forest, Land and Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, 1986, as amended (USFS 1986a)	Yes	ANF2	Table 5-32	A forest-wide standard in the 1986 Ashley National Forest LRMP states that the forest will manage visual resource according to the adopted VQO. Due to paralleling the Reservation Ridge Scenic Backway, the Project would not be consistent with a partial retention VQO.[2]	Camp Timberlane/ Argyle Canyon Variations 2 and 5[1]
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forests					
Uinta National Forest, Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, 2003, as amended (USFS 2003)	Yes	UNF1	Table 5-33	Due to being outside of the Uinta National Forest utility corridor where it crosses the inventoried roadless area, the Project would not be consistent with the Uinta National Forest LRMP.[2]	Chipman Creek Variation 1[1]

NOTES:
[1]The Camp Timberlane/Argyle Canyon and Argyle Ridge route variations are local routing options considered for Alternative COUT-C, the Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative. Chipman Creek Variation 1 is a local routing option of Alternative COUT-A on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Detailed mapping of these route variations is presented in Appendix F.
[2]Additional information on the specific management areas crossed, and their management emphasis, is included in Appendix D.

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TABLE 5-2 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT RFO1		
Identification Number on Map 5-1a	RFO1	
Resource Management Plan	Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management 2008b)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	The alternative route is in the Colorado Interstate Gas/Entegra/Wyoming Interstate Company pipeline corridor, which is designated for underground utilities only.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	Right-of-way decisions listed under Section 2.3.5 (Lands and Realty) in the approved resource management plan (page 2-18) would be amended as follows ***(new text in bold italics)***: Utility/Transportation Systems 1. Areas with important resource values will be avoided where possible in planning for new facility placement (600,290 acres). If it becomes necessary for facilities (i.e., linear rights-of-way) to be placed within avoidance areas, effects will be intensively managed. Avoidance and exclusion areas are identified on Map 2-33b and Table 2-5. ***2. CIG [Colorado Interstate Gas]/Entrega/WIC [Wyoming Interstate Company] utility corridor: Conversion of the existing north-south underground corridor to include aboveground utilities is designated west of the Sweetwater/Carbon County line. Exceptions to resource stipulations in the designated corridor may be granted if measures of avoidance or minimization are not feasible. All possible measures will be taken to avoid conflicts with other existing and proposed uses (utility and otherwise) in the designated corridor.***	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	WYCO-C	Links W128 5.1 miles W27 20.5 miles W409 16.5 miles
Potential Environmental Effects		
Direct and Indirect Effects The direct and indirect effects on the resources attributed to amending the designation of the underground pipeline corridor to allow overhead utilities, such as the Project, would be the same as the direct and indirect effects of constructing, operating, and maintaining the Project described for Alternative WYCO-C in Chapter 3 since this amendment would allow the Project to be permitted along this route. **Cumulative Effects** By amending the land-use plan to convert the existing north-south underground corridor to allow aboveground utilities, overhead and additional underground utilities would be accommodated in the corridor. If overhead utilities are developed, such as the Project, the TransWest Express Project, or other future extra-high-voltage transmission lines, they would likely result in cumulative effects on resources similar to cumulative effects from this Project discussed in Chapter 4.		

TABLE 5-2 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT RFO1	
Identification Number on Map 5-1a	RFO1
Resource Management Plan	Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management 2008b)

Conversion of the existing north-south underground corridor to allow aboveground utilities could require existing and future pipelines to install cathodic protection if it is currently not in place.

Currently, the pipelines located in the underground corridor have modified existing vegetation forms through the development of a geometrically cleared right-of-way. By amending the right-of-way decision to allow overhead utilities, transmission structures could be constructed with associated geometric right-of-way vegetation clearing and construction access roads for future transmission projects, which would further modify the landscape character and views in this area.

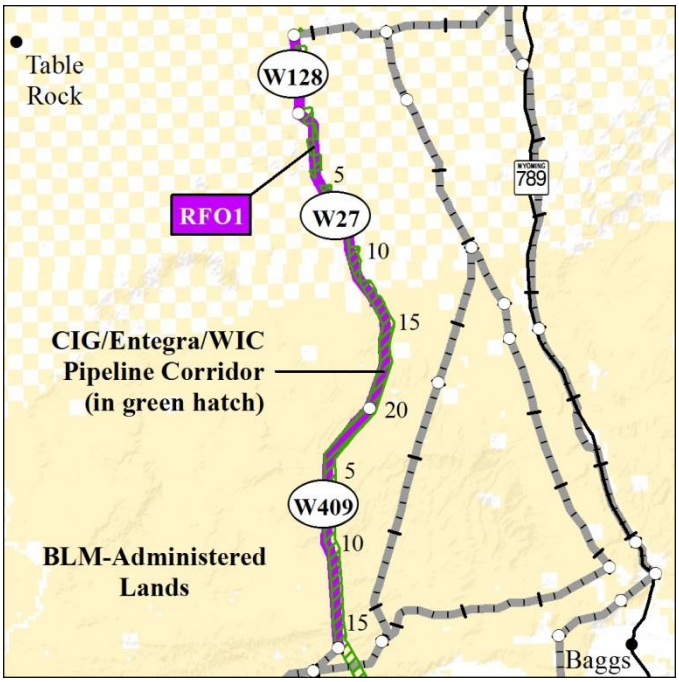


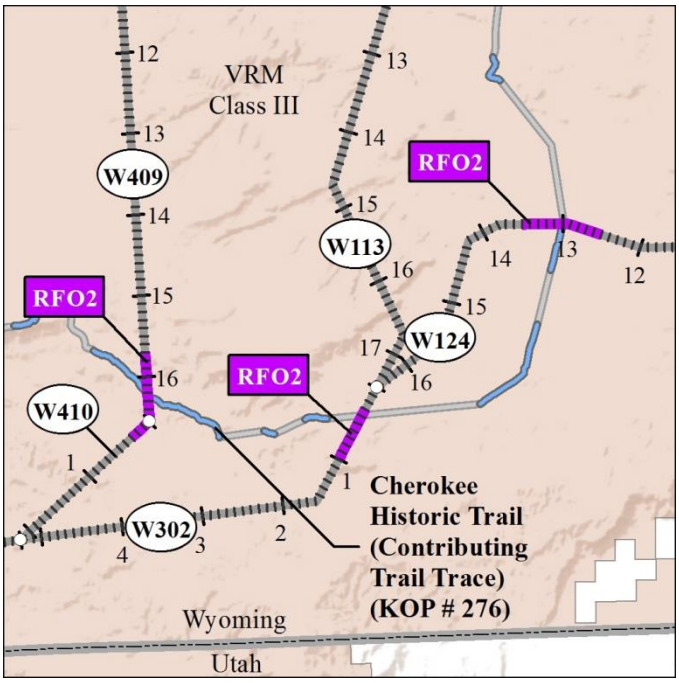
TABLE 5-3 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT RFO2	
Identification Number on Map 5-1a	RFO2
Resource Management Plan	Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008b)
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes
Nonconformance Issue	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of crossing the Cherokee Historic Trail in these areas would not be compliant with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III objectives established in the resource management plan (RMP) for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Sheet Worksheet, Key Observation Point #276.
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The Rawlins RMP currently states the relevant goal, management objectives, and management actions for visual resource management (page 2-48). Goal – Manage public lands according to VRM classes that are determined based on land use allocation decisions made in this RMP. Management Objectives: • Establish VRM Classes for the RMPPA. • Maintain the overall integrity of visual resource classes while allowing for development of existing and future uses Management Actions • Manage visual resources to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands. • VRM classes are designated as shown on Map 2-50 (Table 2-9 and Appendix 25). The following text will be added to amend the second management action (***new text in bold italics***; note: each amendment is associated with a specific transmission line alternative route): WYCO-B (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative) ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link W302 from Milepost 0.3 to 1.0 (approximately 0.7 mile) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 21 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** WYCO-C ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link W409 from Milepost 15.7 to 16.6 and Link W410 from Milepost 0.0 to 0.3 of the Project (approximately 1.2 miles) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 36 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.***

TABLE 5-3
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT RFO2

Identification Number on Map 5-1a	RFO2	
Resource Management Plan	Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008b)	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	WYCO-F ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link W124 from Milepost 12.5 to 13.5 and Link W302 from Milepost 0.3 to 1.0 of the Project (approximately 1.7 miles) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 51 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** Amendment of this decision in the Rawlins RMP would facilitate accommodation of the Project with revised plan VRM objectives.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	WYCO-B (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative)	Links W302 0.7 mile
	WYCO-C	Links W409 0.9 mile W410 0.3 mile
	WYCO-F	Links W124 1.0 mile W302 0.7 mile

Potential Environmental Effects

The following components of the Rawlins Field Office Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) are located in the planning area boundary:



WYCO-B (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative)
Scenic Quality Rating Units: 21 acres of Class B lands
Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 21 acres of high sensitivity lands
Distance Zones: 21 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone
VRI Class: 21 acres of VRI Class II lands

WYCO-C
Scenic Quality Rating Units: 36 acres of Class B lands
Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 36 acres of high sensitivity lands
Distance Zones: 36 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone
VRI Class: 36 acres of VRI Class II lands

WYCO-F
Scenic Quality Rating Units: 21 acres of Class B and 30 acres of Class C lands
Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 21 acres of high sensitivity and 30 acres of moderate sensitivity lands
Distance Zones: 51 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone
VRI Class: 21 acres of VRI Class II and 30 acres of VRI Class IV lands

TABLE 5-3 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT RFO2	
Identification Number on Map 5-1a	RFO2
Resource Management Plan	Record of Decision and Approved Rawlins Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008b)

Amendment of the land-use plan would result in the following changes to the overall Rawlins Field Office VRM objectives:

WYCO-B(Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative): 21 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 2,336,836 acres) and 21 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 828,014 acres)
WYCO-C: 36 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 2,336,836 acres) and 36 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 828,014 acres)
WYCO-F: 51 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 2,336,836 acres) and 51 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 828,014 acres)

Direct and Indirect Effects

This area is currently managed as VRM Class III, which BLM Manual 8410-1 describes as partially retaining the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 21, 36, or 51 acres (depending on the selected alternative route) adjacent to the Cherokee Historic Trail were amended from VRM Class III to VRM Class IV, then the VRM objective would be amended in accordance with the description provided in BLM Manual 8410-1: "The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements."

Amending a portion of the VRM Class designation from the existing VRM Class III to VRM Class IV would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to partially retain landscape character to instead accept major modification of the landscape character. Management activities that under the existing VRM Class could attract attention but not dominate the view would be allowed to dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

Cumulative Effects

As currently managed as VRM Class III, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could highly contrast with the existing landscape character would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing VRM Class III objectives through application of mitigation measures.

By amending the land-use plan to change the VRM designation of this area to VRM Class IV, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the Rawlins RMP could be amended to change the VRM designation of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.

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TABLE 5-4 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LITTLE SNAKE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT LSFO1		
Identification Number on Map 5-1a	LSFO1	
Resource Management Plan	Little Snake Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2011b)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of crossing the Godiva Rim Proposed Backcountry Byway would not be compliant with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III objectives established in the resource management plan (RMP) for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, Key Observation Point #289.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The BLM Little Snake RMP currently states the relevant goal and objectives for visual resource management (RMP-34). Goal - Recognize and manage visual resources for overall multiple use and quality of life for local communities and visitors to public lands. Objectives for achieving these goals include: • Maintain visual characteristics/values as designated by management classes. • Ensure land management projects and uses meet VRM objectives within the boundaries of the designated VRM management class. Additionally, management actions list the areas by VRM Class to be managed according to those objectives. The following text will be added to amend the list of Class IV locations (***new text in bold italics***): ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link C91 from Milepost 3.4 to 4.0 of the Project (approximately 0.6 mile) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 18 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** Amendment of this decision in the Little Snake RMP would facilitate accommodation of the Project with revised plan VRM objectives.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	WYCO-B (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative), WYCO-C, WYCO-F	Link C91 0.6 mile

TABLE 5-4
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LITTLE SNAKE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT LSFO1

Identification Number on Map 5-1a	LSFO1
Resource Management Plan	Little Snake Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2011b)

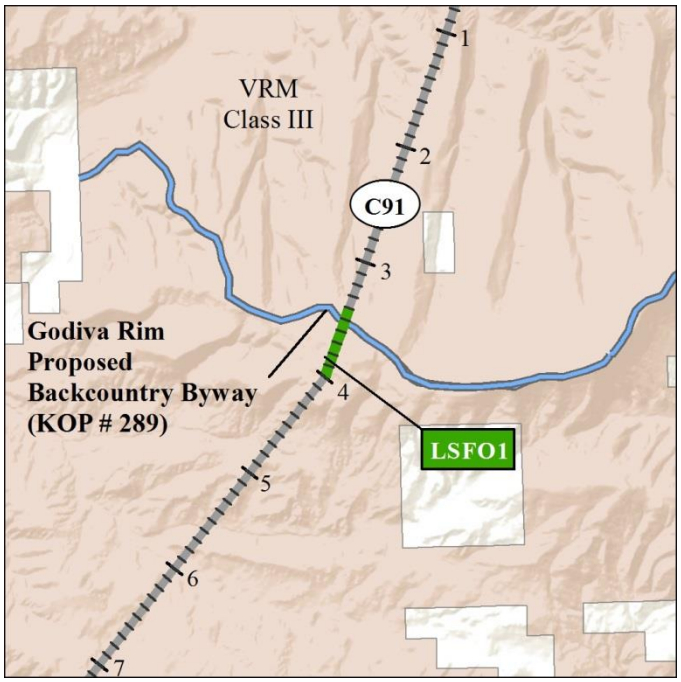
Potential Environmental Effects

The following components of the Little Snake Field Office Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) are located in the planning area boundary:

Scenic Quality Rating Units: 18 acres of Class B lands
Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 18 acres of high sensitivity lands
Distance Zones: 18 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone
VRI Class: 18 acres of VRI Class II lands

Amendment of the land-use plan would result in the following changes to the overall Little Snake Field Office VRM objectives:

WYCO-B (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative): 8 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 929,270 acres) and 18 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 178,590 acres)
WYCO-C: 18 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 929,270 acres) and 18 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 178,590 acres)
WYCO-F: 18 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 929,270 acres) and 18 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 178,590 acres)



Direct and Indirect Effects

This area is currently managed as VRM Class III, which BLM Manual 8410-1 describes as partially retaining the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 18 acres adjacent to the Godiva Rim Proposed Backcountry Byway were amended from VRM Class III to VRM Class IV, then the VRM objective would be amended in accordance with the description provided in BLM Manual 8410-1: "The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements."

Amending a portion of the VRM Class designation from the existing VRM Class III to VRM Class IV would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to partially retain landscape character to instead accept major modification of the landscape character. Management activities that under the existing VRM Class could attract attention but not dominate the view would be allowed to dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

TABLE 5-4 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LITTLE SNAKE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT LSFO1	
Identification Number on Map 5-1a	LSFO1
Resource Management Plan	Little Snake Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2011b)
Cumulative Effects As currently managed as VRM Class III, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could highly contrast with the existing landscape character would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing VRM Class III objectives through application of mitigation measures. By amending the land-use plan to change the VRM designation of this area to VRM Class IV, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the Little Snake RMP could be amended to change the VRM designation of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.	

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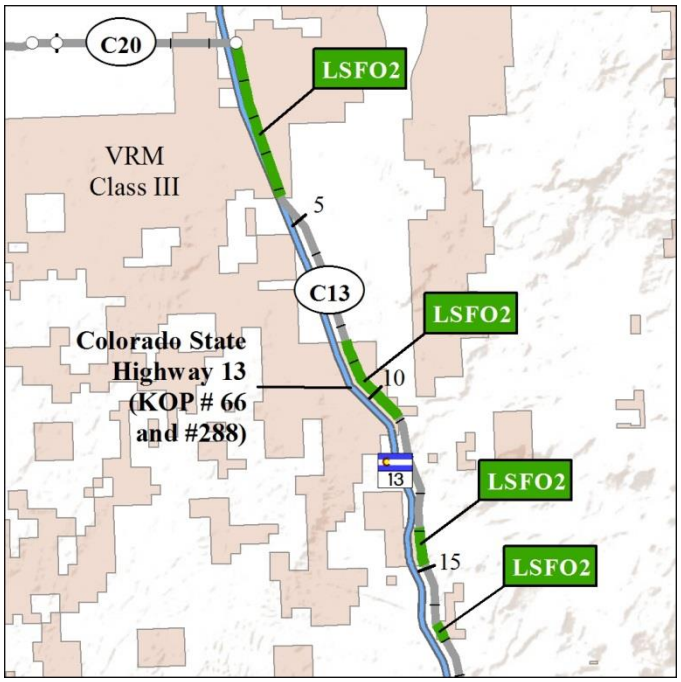
TABLE 5-5 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LITTLE SNAKE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT LSFO2		
Identification Number on Map 5-1a	LSFO2	
Resource Management Plan	Little Snake Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2011b)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling Colorado State Highway 13 would not be compliant with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III objectives established in the resource management plan (RMP) for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, Key Observation Point #66 and #288, and associated visual simulation.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The BLM Little Snake RMP currently states the relevant goal and objectives for visual resource management (RMP-34) . Goal - Recognize and manage visual resources for overall multiple use and quality of life for local communities and visitors to public lands. Objectives for achieving these goals include: • Maintain visual characteristics/values as designated by management classes. • Ensure land management projects and uses meet VRM objectives within the boundaries of the designated VRM management class. Additionally, management actions list areas by VRM Class to be managed according to those objectives. The following text will be added to amend the list of Class IV locations (***new text in bold italics***): ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link C13 from Mileposts 0.0 to 4.2, 8.4 to 10.9, 13.9 to 14.9, and 16.5 to 17.0 of the Project (approximately 8.2 miles) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 246 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** Amendment of this decision in the Little Snake RMP would facilitate accommodation of the Project with revised plan VRM objectives.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	WYCO-D	Link C13 8.2 miles

TABLE 5-5
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LITTLE SNAKE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT LSFO2

Identification Number on Map 5-1a	LSFO2
Resource Management Plan	Little Snake Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2011b)

Potential Environmental Effects



The following components of the Little Snake Field Office Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) are located in the planning area boundary:

Scenic Quality Rating Units: 44 acres of Class B and 202 acres of Class C lands
Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 59 acres of moderate and 187 acres of low sensitivity lands
Distance Zones: 246 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone
VRI Class: 44 acres of VRI Class III and 202 acres of VRI Class IV lands.

Amendment of the land-use plan would result in the following changes to the overall Little Snake Field Office VRM objectives:

WYCO-D: 246 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 929,270 acres) and 246 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 178,590 acres)

Direct and Indirect Effects
This area is currently managed as VRM Class III, which BLM Manual 8410-1 describes as partially retaining the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 246 acres adjacent to Colorado State Highway 13 were amended from VRM Class III to VRM Class IV, then the VRM objective would be amended in accordance with the description provided in BLM Manual 8410-1: "The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements."

Amending a portion of the VRM Class designation from the existing VRM Class III to VRM Class IV would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to partially retain landscape character to instead accept major modification of the landscape character. Management activities that under the existing VRM Class could attract attention but not dominate the view would be allowed to dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

TABLE 5-5 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LITTLE SNAKE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT LSFO2	
Identification Number on Map 5-1a	LSFO2
Resource Management Plan	Little Snake Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2011b)
Cumulative Effects As currently managed as VRM Class III, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could highly contrast with the existing landscape character would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing VRM Class III objectives through application of mitigation measures. By amending the land-use plan to change the VRM designation of this area to VRM Class IV, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the Little Snake RMP could be amended to change the VRM designation of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.	

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TABLE 5-6 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT WRFO1		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	WRFO1	
Resource Management Plan	White River Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, 2015, as amended (Bureau of Land Management 2015b)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	All suitable habitat for listed and candidate plant species are exclusion areas for new rights-of-way authorizations. Potential habitat for Ute ladies'-tresses (threatened) occurs throughout the White River Field Office. Field surveys would be required to determine the precise locations of suitable habitat for this species.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	Decisions regarding right-of-way exclusion areas for listed plant species in Chapter 2 (Resource Decisions) of the Approved Resource Management Plan (page 2-17) would be amended as follows (***new text in bold italics***): All known and potential [suitable] for listed and candidate plant species, including Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, are exclusion areas for new rights-of-way authorizations." ***Portions of the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project may overlap with habitat for listed plant species. If, after application of all feasible mitigation measures to reduce impacts on special status plant habitat (including spanning habitats and approving narrower rights-of-way), the Project would still occur in identified habitat, an exception could be granted by the Field Manager in those areas if it was determined, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, that the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project would not preclude the survival and recovery of the species. The Raven Ridge Area of Critical Environmental Concern would remain an exclusion area and the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project would not be permitted in this area.***	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	All alternatives in White River Field Office	Unknown

TABLE 5-6 **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT WRFO1**	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	WRFO1
Resource Management Plan	White River Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, 2015, as amended (Bureau of Land Management 2015b)
Potential Environmental Effects	
Surveys for all special status species would be conducted along the selected alternative route prior to construction activities. Potential [suitable] habitat for listed and candidate plant species or populations identified in the White River Field Office would be avoided to the extent possible and any additional mitigation measures would be incorporated into the Plan of Development. The effects of the plan amendment would be the same as the effects of constructing the transmission line.	Map insert cannot be provided as locations where suitable habitat for listed and candidate plants could occur would be determined during surveys along the selected alternative route.

TABLE 5-7 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT WRFO2		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	WRFO2	
Resource Management Plan	White River Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, 2015, as amended (Bureau of Land Management 2015b)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of crossing the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway in Canyon Pintado would not be compliant with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III objectives established in the resource management plan (RMP) for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, Key Observation Point #241, and associated visual simulation.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	Chapter 2 (Resource Decisions) of the BLM White River approved RMP (page 2-39) currently states the decisions regarding consistency with VRM classification objectives. Proposed management action and projects will be evaluated for consistency with VRM classification objectives. Management actions and projects that would noticeably change the characteristic of the more sensitive landscapes would be modified to blend in with the landscape, denied, or moved to another more suitable location. The following text will be added to amend the RMP (***new text in bold italics)***: ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link C185 from Milepost 7.2 to 8.3 of the Project (approximately 1.1 miles) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 34 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** Amendment of this decision in the BLM White River RMP would facilitate accommodation of the Project with revised plan VRM objectives.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	All COUT BAX alternative routes	Link C185 1.1 mile

TABLE 5-7
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT WRFO2

Identification Number on Map 5-1b	WRFO2
Resource Management Plan	White River Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, 2015, as amended (Bureau of Land Management 2015b)

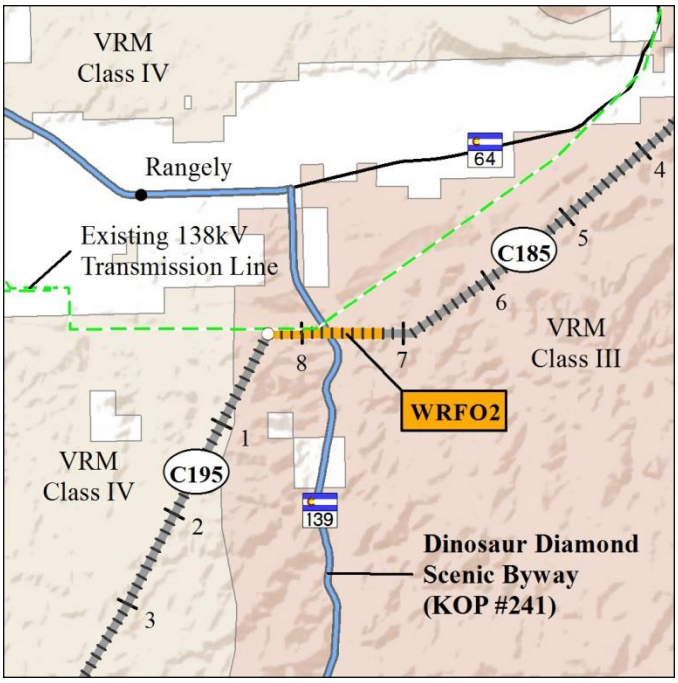
Potential Environmental Effects

The following components of the White River Field Office Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) are located in the planning area boundary :

Scenic Quality Rating Units: 34 acres of Class B lands
Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 34 acres of high sensitivity lands
Distance Zones: 34 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone
VRI Class: 34 acres of VRI Class II lands

Amendment of the land-use plan would result in the following changes to the overall White River Field Office VRM objectives:

COUT BAX-B: 34 less acres of VRM Class III (currently 861,680 acres) and 34 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 146,100 acres)
COUT BAX-C: 34 less acres of VRM Class III (currently 861,680 acres) and 34 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 146,100 acres)
COUT BAX-E: 34 less acres of VRM Class III (currently 861,680 acres) and 34 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 146,100 acres)



Direct and Indirect Effects

This area is currently managed as VRM Class III, which BLM Manual 8410-1 describes as partially retaining the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 34 acres adjacent to the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway (Colorado State Highway 139) were amended from VRM Class III to VRM Class IV, then the VRM objective would be amended in accordance with the description provided in BLM Manual 8410-1: "The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements."

Amending a portion of the VRM Class designation from the existing VRM Class III to VRM Class IV would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to partially retain landscape character to instead accept major modification of the landscape character. Management activities that under the existing VRM Class could attract attention but not dominate the view would be allowed to dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

TABLE 5-7 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT WRFO2	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	WRFO2
Resource Management Plan	White River Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, 2015, as amended (Bureau of Land Management 2015b)

Cumulative Effects

As currently managed as VRM Class III, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could highly contrast with the existing landscape character would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing VRM Class III objectives through application of mitigation measures.

By amending the land-use plan to change the VRM designation of this area to VRM Class IV, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the White River RMP could be amended to change the VRM designation of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.

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TABLE 5-8 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT WRFO3		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	WRFO3	
Resource Management Plan	White River Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, 2015, as amended (Bureau of Land Management 2015b)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling Baxter Pass Road would not be compliant with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III objectives established in the resource management plan (RMP) for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, Key Observation Point #244, and associated visual simulation.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	Chapter 2 (Resource Decisions) of the White River Approved RMP (page 2-39) currently states the decisions regarding consistency with VRM classification objectives. Proposed management action and projects will be evaluated for consistency with VRM classification objectives. Management actions and projects that would noticeably change the characteristic of the more sensitive landscapes would be modified to blend in with the landscape, denied, or moved to another more suitable location. The following text will be added to amend the RMP (***new text in bold italics***): ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link C196 from Mileposts 1.2 to 1.4 and 2.0 to 6.4 of the Project (approximately 4.6 miles) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 142 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** Amendment of this decision in the White River RMP would facilitate accommodation of the Project with revised plan VRM objectives.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	All COUT BAX alternative routes	Link C196 4.6 miles

TABLE 5-8
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT WRFO3

Identification Number on Map 5-1b	WRFO3
Resource Management Plan	White River Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, 2015, as amended (Bureau of Land Management 2015b)

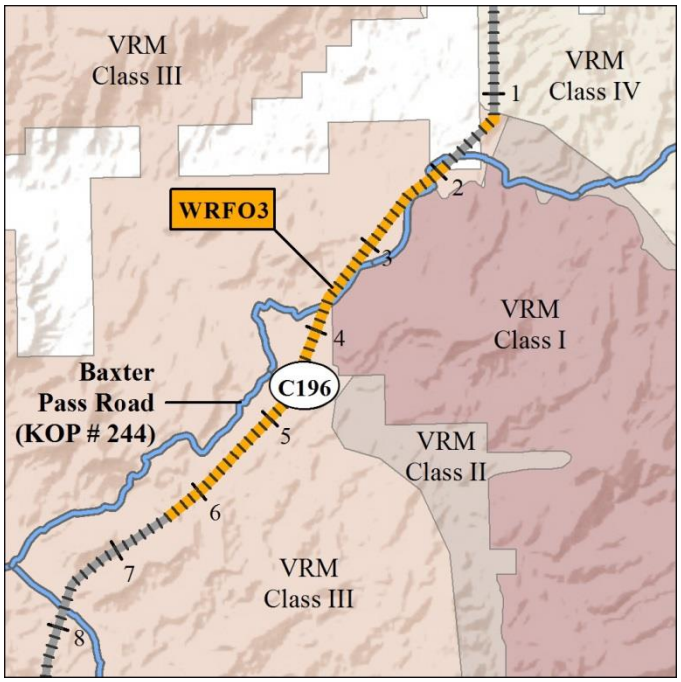
Potential Environmental Effects

The following components of the White River Field Office Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) are located in the planning area boundary:

Scenic Quality Rating Units: 142 acres of Class B lands
Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 142 acres of high sensitivity lands
Distance Zones: 129 acres in the background and 13 acres in the seldom seen distance zones
VRI Class: 142 acres of VRI Class III lands

Amendment of the land-use plan would result in the following changes to the overall White River Field Office VRM objectives:

COUT BAX-B: 142 less acres of VRM Class III (currently 861,680 acres) and 142 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 146,100 acres)
COUT BAX-C: 142 less acres of VRM Class III (currently 861,680 acres) and 142 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 146,100 acres)
COUT BAX-E: 142 less acres of VRM Class III (currently 861,680 acres) and 142 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 146,100 acres)



Direct and Indirect Effects
This area is currently managed as VRM Class III, which BLM Manual 8410-1 describes as partially retaining the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 142 acres adjacent to Baxter Pass Road were amended from VRM Class III to VRM Class IV, then the VRM objective would be amended in accordance with the description provided in BLM Manual 8410-1: "The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements."

Amending a portion of the VRM Class designation from the existing VRM Class III to VRM Class IV would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to partially retain landscape character to instead accept major modification of the landscape character. Management activities that under the existing VRM Class could attract attention but not dominate the view would be allowed to dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

TABLE 5-8 **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT WRFO3**	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	WRFO3
Resource Management Plan	White River Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, 2015, as amended (Bureau of Land Management 2015b)
Cumulative Effects As currently managed as VRM Class III, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could highly contrast with the existing landscape character would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing VRM Class III objectives through application of mitigation measures. By amending the land-use plan to change the VRM designation of this area to VRM Class IV, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the White River RMP could be amended to change the VRM designation of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.	

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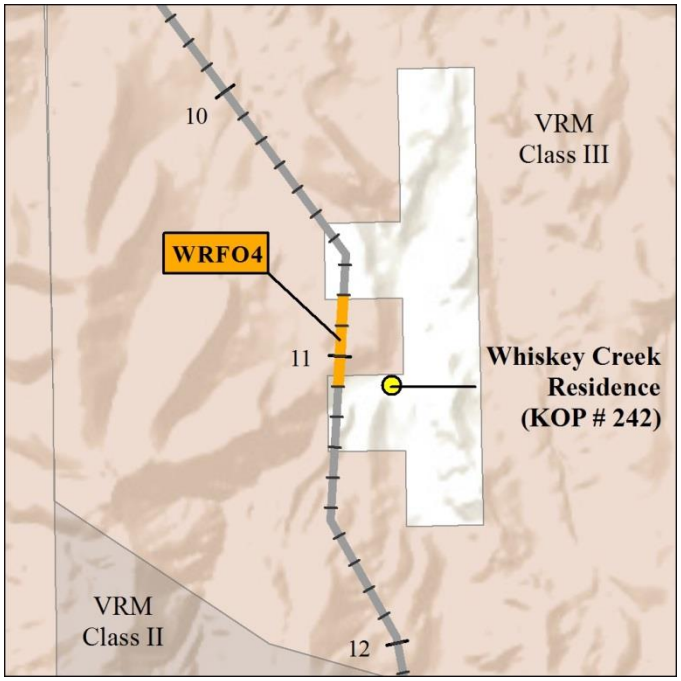
TABLE 5-9 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT WRFO4		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	WRFO4	
Resource Management Plan	White River Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, 2015, as amended (Bureau of Land Management 2015b)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, visual effects resulting from the proximity of the Project to a residence in Whiskey Creek would not be compliant with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III objectives established in the resource management plan (RMP) for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, Key Observation Point #242.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	Chapter 2 (Resource Decisions) of the White River Approved RMP (page 2-39) currently states the decisions regarding consistency with VRM classification objectives. Proposed management action and projects will be evaluated for consistency with VRM classification objectives. Management actions and projects that would noticeably change the characteristic of the more sensitive landscapes would be modified to blend in with the landscape, denied, or moved to another more suitable location. The following text will be added to amend the RMP (***new text in bold italics)***: ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link C196 from Milepost 10.8 to 11.1 of the Project (approximately 0.3 mile) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 8 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** Amendment of this decision in the White River RMP would facilitate accommodation of the Project with revised plan VRM objectives.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	All COUT BAX alternative routes	Link C196 0.3 mile
Potential Environmental Effects		
The following components of the White River Field Office Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) are located in the planning area boundary: Scenic Quality Rating Units: 8 acres of Class B lands Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 8 acres of moderate sensitivity lands Distance Zones: 8 acres in the seldom seen distance zone VRI Class: 8 acres of VRI Class IV lands Amendment of the land-use plan would result in the following changes to the overall White River Field Office VRM objectives: COUT BAX-B: 8 less acres of VRM Class III (currently 861,680 acres) and 8 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 146,100 acres) COUT BAX-C: 8 less acres of VRM Class III (currently 861,680 acres) and 8 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 146,100 acres)		

TABLE 5-9 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT WRFO4	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	WRFO4
Resource Management Plan	White River Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, 2015, as amended (Bureau of Land Management 2015b)

COUT BAX-E: 8 less acres of VRM Class III (currently 861,680 acres) and 8 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 146,100 acres)

Direct and Indirect Effects

This area is currently managed as VRM Class III, which BLM Manual 8410-1 describes as partially retaining the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.



If 8 acres adjacent to a residence in Whiskey Creek were amended from VRM Class III to VRM Class IV, then the VRM objective would be amended in accordance with the description provided in BLM Manual 8410-1: "The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements."

Amending a portion of the VRM Class designation from the existing VRM Class III to VRM Class IV would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to partially retain landscape character to instead accept major modification of the landscape character. Management activities that under the existing VRM Class could attract attention but not dominate the view would be allowed to dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

Cumulative Effects

As currently managed as VRM Class III, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could highly contrast with the existing landscape character would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing VRM Class III objectives through application of mitigation measures.

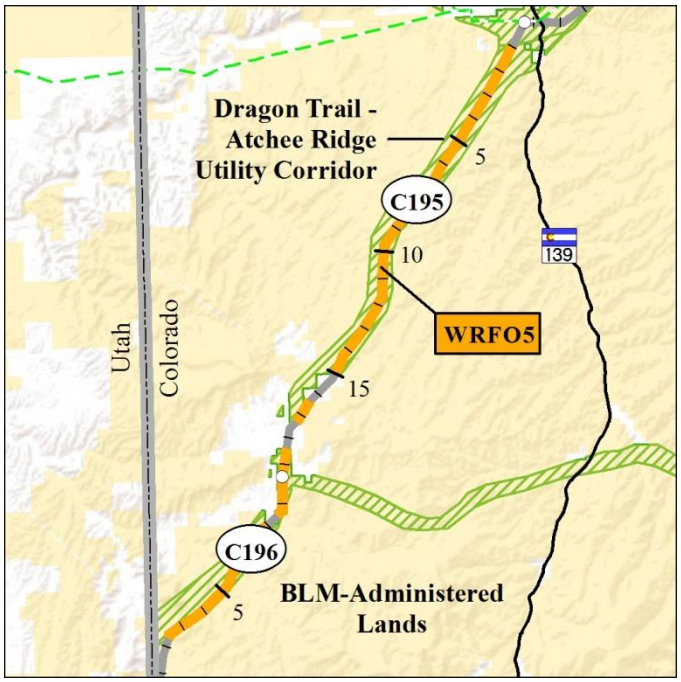
By amending the land-use plan to change the VRM designation of this area to VRM Class IV, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the White River RMP could be amended to change the VRM designation of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.

TABLE 5-10
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT WRFO5

Identification Number on Map 5-1b	WRFO5		
Resource Management Plan	White River Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, 2015, as amended (Bureau of Land Management 2015a)		
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes		
Nonconformance Issue	The alternative routes follow the Dragon Trail-Atchee Ridge utility corridor, which is designated for underground utilities only.		
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	Right-of-way decisions listed in decisions in the BLM White River Resource Management Plan (page 2-51) would be amended as follows ***(new text in bold italics)***: DRAGON TRAIL-ATCHEE RIDGE: This corridor follows the route once proposed as the Rangely Loop segment of the Northwest Pipeline Expansion Project. It runs south from Rangely, to the vicinity of Baxter Pass, is approximately 1-mile wide, and will accommodate all buried ***and overhead*** linear facilities**.**		
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	All COUT BAX alternative routes	Links C195 C196	 16.0 miles 7.7 miles
Potential Environmental Effects			

Direct and Indirect Effects
The direct and indirect effects on the resources attributed to amending the designation of the pipeline corridor to allow overhead utilities, such as the Project, would be the same as the direct and indirect effects of constructing, operating, and maintaining the Project described for Alternatives COUT BAX-B, COUT BAX-C, and COUT BAX-E in Chapter 3 since this amendment would allow the Project to be permitted on this route.

Cumulative Effects
By amending the land-use plan to convert the existing underground corridor to allow aboveground utilities, overhead and additional underground utilities could be accommodated in the corridor. If overhead utilities are developed, such as the Project, the TransWest Express Project, or other future extra-high-voltage transmission lines, they would likely result in cumulative effects on resources similar to cumulative effects from this Project discussed in Chapter 4.

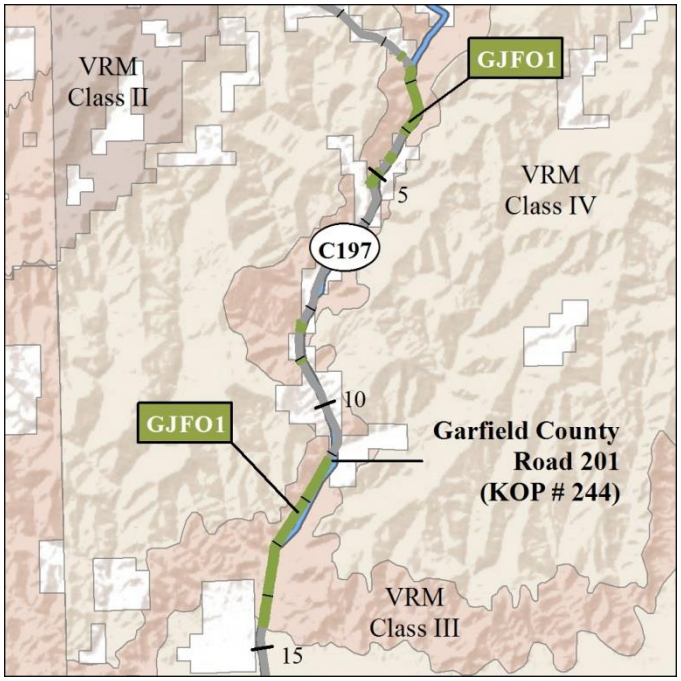


Conversion of the existing north-south underground corridor to allow aboveground utilities could require existing and future pipelines to install cathodic protection if it is currently not in place.

TABLE 5-10 **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT WRFO5**	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	WRFO5
Resource Management Plan	White River Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, 2015, as amended (Bureau of Land Management 2015a)
Currently, the pipelines located in the underground corridor have modified existing vegetation forms through the development of a geometrically, cleared right-of-way. By amending the right-of-way decision to allow overhead utilities, transmission structures could be constructed, with associated geometric right-of-way vegetation clearing and construction access roads for future transmission projects, which would further modify the landscape character and views in this area.	

TABLE 5-11 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT GJFO1		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	GJFO1	
Resource Management Plan	Grand Junction Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Resource Management Plan, 2015 (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2015a)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling Garfield County Road 201 would not be compliant with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III objectives established in the resource management plan for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, Key Observation Point #244, and associated visual simulation.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The Grand Junction RMP currently states the relevant objectives and planned management actions for visual resource management (page 2-21): Objective – To protect the quality of the scenic values on public land where visual resource management is an issue or where high value visual resources exist, and to protect areas having high scenic quality, visual sensitivity, and public visibility. Planned management actions: • Adopt the visual resource management classes as listed in Table 15 and shown on Map 15. Modify, relocate, mitigate, or deny proposed projects that conflict with the objectives of these classes. The following text will be added to the VRM Rationale as well as amend the VRM classes listed in Table 15 (***new text in bold italics***): ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link C197 from Mileposts 2.4 to 2.5, 2.7 to 4.1, 4.5 to 4.7, 4.9 to 5.3, 6.3 to 6.6, 8.3 to 8.5, 9.0 to 9.1, and 11.1 to 14.6 of the Project (approximately 6.2 miles) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 184 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** Amendment of this decision in the Grand Junction RMP would facilitate accommodation of the Project with revised plan VRM objectives.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	All COUT BAX alternative routes	Link C197 6.2 miles

TABLE 5-11 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT GJFO1	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	GJFO1
Resource Management Plan	Grand Junction Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Resource Management Plan, 2015 (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2015a)
Potential Environmental Effects	



The following components of the Grand Junction Field Office Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) are located in the planning area boundary

Scenic Quality Rating Units: 141 acres of Class B and 43 acres of Class C lands
Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 100 acres of high, 41 acres of moderate, and 43 acres of low sensitivity lands
Distance Zones: 186 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone
VRI Class: 100 acres of VRI Class II, 41 acres of VRI Class III, and 43 acres of VRI Class IV lands

Amendment of the land-use plan would result in the following changes to the overall Grand Junction Field Office VRM objectives:

COUT BAX-B: 184 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 180,481 acres) and 184 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 838,499 acres)
COUT BAX-C: 184 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 180,481 acres) and 184 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 838,499 acres)
COUT BAX-E: 184 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 180,481 acres) and 184 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 838,499 acres)

Direct and Indirect Effects

This area is currently managed as VRM Class III, which BLM Manual 8410-1 describes as partially retaining the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 184 acres adjacent to Garfield County Road 201 were amended from VRM Class III to VRM Class IV, then the VRM objective would be amended in accordance with the description provided in BLM Manual 8410-1: "The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements."

Amending a portion of the VRM Class designation from the existing VRM Class III to VRM Class IV would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to partially retain landscape character to instead accept major modification of the landscape character. Management activities that under the existing VRM Class could attract attention but not dominate the view would be allowed to dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

TABLE 5-11 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT GJFO1	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	GJFO1
Resource Management Plan	Grand Junction Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Resource Management Plan, 2015 (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2015a)
Cumulative Effects As currently managed as VRM Class III, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could highly contrast with the existing landscape character would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing VRM Class III objectives through application of mitigation measures. By amending the land-use plan to change the VRM designation of this area to VRM Class IV, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the Grand Junction RMP could be amended to change the VRM designation of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.	

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TABLE 5-12 COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA PLAN AMENDMENT		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	Not applicable	
Resource Management Plan	Colorado Canyons (McInnis Canyons) National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management 2004c)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	No	
Nonconformance Issue	None	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	None	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	Not applicable	Not applicable
Potential Environmental Effects		
Not applicable		

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TABLE 5-13 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PLAN AMENDMENT		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	Not applicable	
Resource Management Plan	National Park Service Dinosaur National Monument: Dinosaur National Monument General Management Plan (NPS 1986)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	To be decided	
Nonconformance Issue	None	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	None	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	Not applicable	Not applicable
Potential Environmental Effects		
Not applicable		

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TABLE 5-14 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SALT LAKE CITY FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT SLFO1		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	SLFO1	
Resource Management Plan	Salt Lake District, Record of Decision for the Pony Express Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary for Utah County (Bureau of Land Management 1990)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	The alternative routes traverse small parcels of lands administered by the Salt Lake Field Office not located in a designated utility corridor. According to the Pony Express Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (page 56) future proposals for major rights-of-way such as pipelines, large power lines, and permanent improved roads must use identified corridors. Otherwise, a planning amendment and appropriate environmental analysis will be required. Proposals that are not considered major may be sited outside corridors after demonstrating that locating in a corridor is not viable. In all cases, the utilization of ROW [right-of-way] in common shall be considered whenever possible.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	For Alternatives COUT-B and COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative), the utility corridor decisions in the Pony Express Resource Management Plan Record of Decision page 56, Figure 10) would be amended to include the Project right-of-way as a utility corridor.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	COUT-A, COUT-B, and COUT-C COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative)	Links U460 0.3 mile U621 0.1 mile
	Camp Timberlane/Argyle Canyon Variations 2 and 5	Link U515 3.4 miles
Potential Environmental Effects		
Direct and Indirect Effects The direct and indirect effects on the resources attributed to amending the utility corridor width would be the same as the direct and indirect effects of constructing, operating, and maintaining the Project described for Alternatives COUT-A, COUT-B, and COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative) in Chapter 3 (and Appendix F) since this amendment would allow the Project to be permitted on this route. **Cumulative Effects** Including the Project right-of-way as a utility corridor could allow additional utilities to be located in the corridor. If additional utilities are developed, such as the TransWest Express Project or other future extra-high-voltage transmission lines, they would likely result in cumulative effects on resources similar to cumulative effects from this Project discussed in Chapter 4. Including the Project right-of-way as a utility corridor could allow increased access into an area previously closed to vehicular traffic.		

TABLE 5-14 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SALT LAKE CITY FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT SLFO1	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	SLFO1
Resource Management Plan	Salt Lake District, Record of Decision for the Pony Express Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary for Utah County (Bureau of Land Management 1990)

Including the Project right-of-way as a utility corridor could create a siting opportunity for future projects as this area would become more dominated by transmission lines, such as the TransWest Express Project or other future extra-high-voltage transmission lines if additional exceptions were granted. The addition of these potential projects has the potential to further impact visual values from viewing locations through additional structures, vegetation management activities, and access roads in this area.

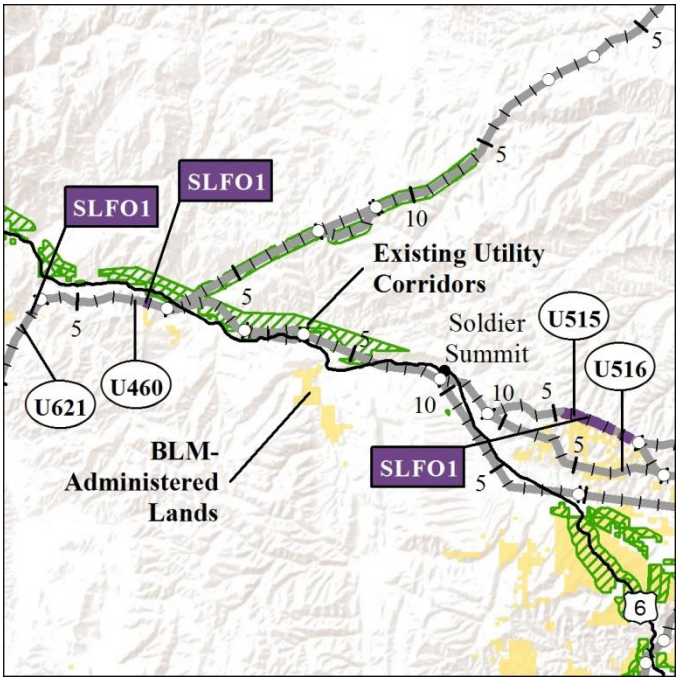

TABLE 5-15 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FILLMORE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	Not applicable
Resource Management Plan	Richfield District House Range Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision Rangeland Program Summary (Bureau of Land Management 1987)
Could Decision Require Amendment?	No
Nonconformance Issue	Not applicable
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	None
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	Not applicable
Potential Environmental Effects	
Not applicable	

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TABLE 5-16 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PRICE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT PFO1	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	PFO1
Resource Management Plan	Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008d)
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes
Nonconformance Issue	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway (U.S. Highway 6) would not be compliant with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III objectives established in the resource management plan (RMP) for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, Key Observation Point #41, and associated visual simulation.
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The Price RMP currently states the relevant goals and objectives for visual resource management (page 77). Goals: • Identify scenic resources, integral landscapes, and vistas that contribute to the sense of place and quality of life of visitors and residents. Assign VRM classes to all landscapes. • Manage scenic resources, integral vistas, and landscapes for the benefit of local residents and visitors. • Identify acceptable levels of manmade contrast on area landscapes. Objectives: • Over the life of the plan management actions will be conducted in a manner that protects scenic values and landscapes through the use of the Visual Management System. • Use proper design techniques and mitigation measures, future projects and use authorizations under this plan to minimize contrast with the characteristic landscape and not exceed the VRM Management Class Standards. Additionally, specific management decisions are listed stating the VRM Class associated with different planning decisions. The following text will be added to amend the list of management decisions (***new text in bold italics, please note each amendment is associated with a particular Project alternative route***): COUT BAX-C ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link U488 from Milepost 12.0 to 15.1 of the Project (approximately 3.1 miles) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 95 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** COUT BAX-E ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link U488 from Milepost 12.0 to 15.1 and Link U489 from Mileposts 0.0 to 4.2 and 4.3 to 4.5 of the Project (approximately 7.5 miles) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 229 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of***

TABLE 5-16
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PRICE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT PFO1

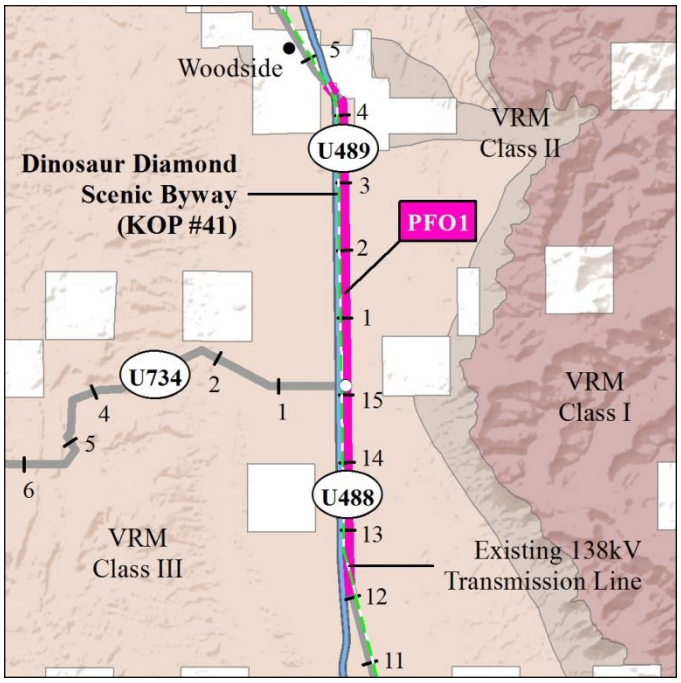
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	PFO1	
Resource Management Plan	Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008d)	
	change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted. Amendment of this decision in the Price RMP would facilitate accommodation of the Project with revised plan VRM objectives.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	COUT BAX-C	Link U488 3.1 miles
	COUT BAX-E	Links U488 3.1 miles U489 4.4 miles

Potential Environmental Effects

The following components of the Price Field Office Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) are located in the planning area boundary :

COUT BAX-C:
Scenic Quality Rating Units: 95 acres of Class C lands
Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 95 acres of moderate sensitivity lands
Distance Zones: 95 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone
VRI Class: 95 acres of VRI Class IV lands

COUT BAX-E:
Scenic Quality Rating Units: 229 acres of Class C lands
Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 229 acres of moderate sensitivity lands
Distance Zones: 229 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone
VRI Class: 229 acres of VRI Class IV lands



Amendment of the land-use plan would result in the following changes to the overall Price Field Office VRM objectives:

COUT BAX-C: 95 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 1,248,000 acres) and 95 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 291,000 acres)
COUT BAX-E: 229 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 1,248,000 acres) and 229 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 291,000 acres)

Direct and Indirect Effects

This area is currently managed as VRM Class III, which BLM Manual 8410-1 describes as partially retaining the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 95 or 229 acres (depending on the selected alternative route) adjacent to U.S. Highway 6 were amended from VRM Class III to VRM Class IV, then the VRM objective would be amended in accordance with the description provided in BLM Manual 8410-1: "The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic

TABLE 5-16 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PRICE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT PFO1	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	PFO1
Resource Management Plan	Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008d)

landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements."

Amending a portion of the VRM Class designation from the existing VRM Class III to VRM Class IV would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to partially retain landscape character to instead accept major modification of the landscape character. Management activities that under the existing VRM Class could attract attention but not dominate the view would be allowed to dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

Cumulative Effects

As currently managed as VRM Class III, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could highly contrast with the existing landscape character would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing VRM Class III objectives through application of mitigation measures.

By amending the land-use plan to change the VRM designation of this area to VRM Class IV, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the Price RMP could be amended to change the VRM designation of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.

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TABLE 5-17 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PRICE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT PFO2		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	PFO2	
Resource Management Plan	Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008d)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling the Wedge Overlook/Buckhorn Draw Scenic Backway would not be compliant with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III objectives established in the resource management plan (RMP) for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, Key Observation Point #218.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The Price RMP currently states the relevant goals and objectives for visual resource management (page 77). Goals: • Identify scenic resources, integral landscapes, and vistas that contribute to the sense of place and quality of life of visitors and residents. Assign VRM classes to all landscapes. • Manage scenic resources, integral vistas, and landscapes for the benefit of local residents and visitors. • Identify acceptable levels of manmade contrast on area landscapes. Objectives: • Over the life of the plan management actions will be conducted in a manner that protects scenic values and landscapes through the use of the Visual Management System. • Use proper design techniques and mitigation measures, future projects and use authorizations under this plan to minimize contrast with the characteristic landscape and not exceed the VRM Management Class Standards. Additionally, specific management decisions are listed stating the VRM Class associated with different planning decisions. The following text will be added to amend the list of management decisions (***new text in bold italics***): ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link U731 from Milepost 1.0 to 2.7 of the Project (approximately 1.7 miles) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 51 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** Amendment of this decision in the Price RMP would facilitate accommodation of the Project with revised plan VRM objectives.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	COUT BAX-B and COUT BAX-C	Link U731 1.7 miles

TABLE 5-17
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PRICE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT PFO2

Identification Number on Map 5-1b	PFO2
Resource Management Plan	Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008d)

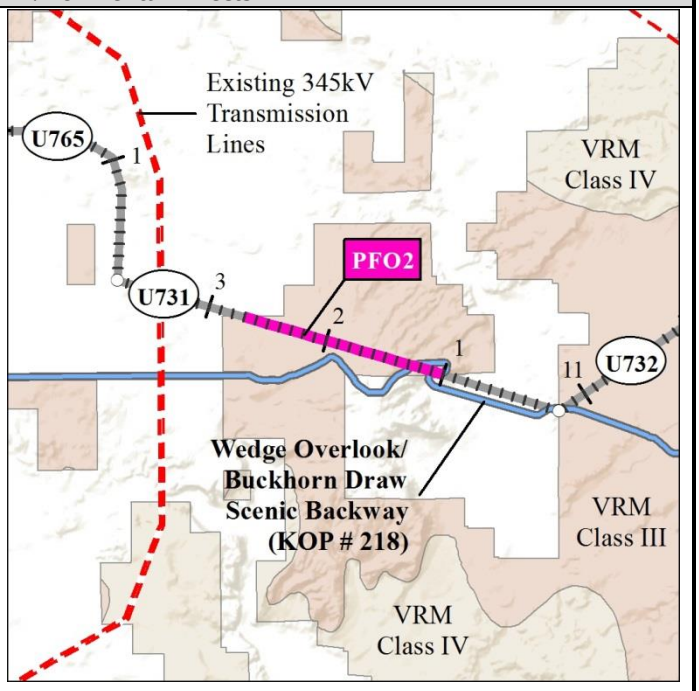
Potential Environmental Effects

The following components of the Price Field Office Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) are located in the planning area boundary:

Scenic Quality Rating Units: 51 acres of Class C lands
Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 45 acres of high and 6 acres of moderate sensitivity lands
Distance Zones: 51 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone
VRI Class: 45 acres of VRI Class III and 6 acres of VRI Class IV lands

Amendment of the land-use plan would result in the following changes to the overall Price Field Office VRM objectives:

COUT BAX-B: 51 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 1,248,000 acres) and 51 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 291,000 acres)
COUT BAX-C: 51 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 1,248,000 acres) and 51 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 291,000 acres)



Direct and Indirect Effects

This area is currently managed as VRM Class III, which BLM Manual 8410-1 describes as partially retaining the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 51 acres adjacent to this scenic backway were amended from VRM Class III to VRM Class IV, then the VRM objective would be amended in accordance with the description provided in BLM Manual 8410-1: "The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements."

Amending a portion of the VRM Class designation from the existing VRM Class III to VRM Class IV would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to partially retain landscape character to instead accept major modification of the landscape character. Management activities that under the existing VRM Class could attract attention but not dominate the view would be allowed to dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

TABLE 5-17 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PRICE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT PFO2	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	PFO2
Resource Management Plan	Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008d)
Cumulative Effects As currently managed as VRM Class III, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could highly contrast with the existing landscape character would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing VRM Class III objectives through application of mitigation measures. By amending the land-use plan to change the VRM designation of this area to VRM Class IV, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the Price RMP could be amended to change the VRM designation of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.	

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TABLE 5-18 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PRICE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT PFO3		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	PFO3	
Resource Management Plan	Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008d)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling the San Rafael Swell Destination Route (Green River Cutoff Road) would not be compliant with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III objectives established in the resource management plan (RMP) for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, Key Observation Point #326.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The Price RMP currently states the relevant goals and objectives for visual resource management (page 77). Goals: • Identify scenic resources, integral landscapes, and vistas that contribute to the sense of place and quality of life of visitors and residents. Assign VRM classes to all landscapes. • Manage scenic resources, integral vistas, and landscapes for the benefit of local residents and visitors. • Identify acceptable levels of manmade contrast on area landscapes. Objectives: • Over the life of the plan management actions will be conducted in a manner that protects scenic values and landscapes through the use of the Visual Management System. • Use proper design techniques and mitigation measures, future projects and use authorizations under this plan to minimize contrast with the characteristic landscape and not exceed the VRM Management Class Standards. Additionally, specific management decisions are listed stating the VRM Class associated with different planning decisions. The following text will be added to amend the list of management decisions (***new text in bold italics***): ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link U734 from Milepost 0.0 to 10.7 of the Project (approximately 10.7 miles) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 324 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** Amendment of this decision in the Price RMP would facilitate accommodation of the Project with revised plan VRM objectives.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	COUT BAX-C	Link U734 10.7 miles

TABLE 5-18
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PRICE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT PFO3

Identification Number on Map 5-1b	PFO3
Resource Management Plan	Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008d)

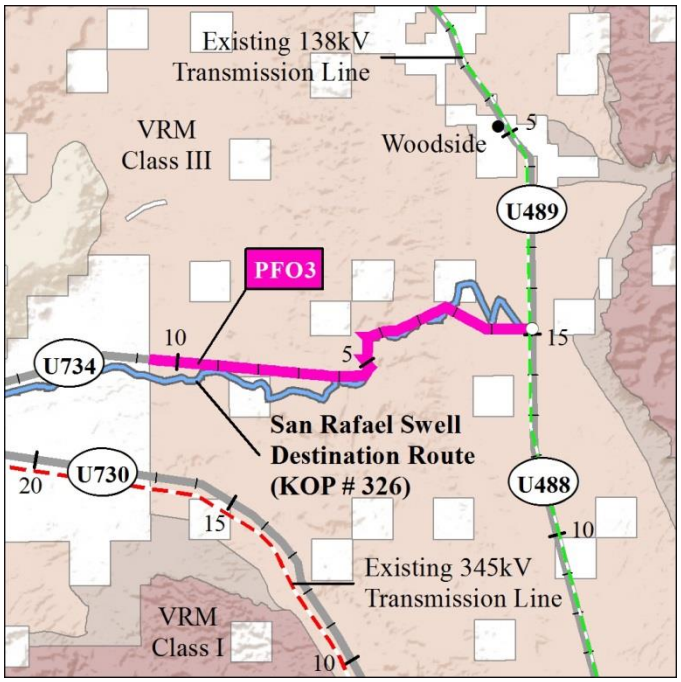
Potential Environmental Effects

The following components of the Price Field Office Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) are located in the planning area boundary:

Scenic Quality Rating Units: 271 acres of Class B, and 53 acres of Class C lands
Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 324 acres of moderate sensitivity lands
Distance Zones: 324 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone
VRI Class: 271 acres of VRI Class III and 53 acres of VRI Class IV lands

Amendment of the land-use plan would result in the following changes to the overall Price Field Office VRM objectives:

COUT BAX-C: 324 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 1,248,000 acres) and 324 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 291,000 acres)



Direct and Indirect Effects

This area is currently managed as VRM Class III, which the BLM Manual 8410-1 describes as partially retaining the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 324 acres adjacent to Green River Cutoff Road were amended from VRM Class III to VRM Class IV, then the VRM objective would be amended in accordance with the description provided in BLM Manual 8410-1: "The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements."

Amending a portion of the VRM Class designation from the existing VRM Class III to VRM Class IV would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to partially retain landscape character to instead accept major modification of the landscape character. Management activities that under the existing VRM Class could attract attention but not dominate the view would be allowed to dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

TABLE 5-18 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PRICE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT PFO3	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	PFO3
Resource Management Plan	Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008d)
Cumulative Effects As currently managed as VRM Class III, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could highly contrast with the existing landscape character would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing VRM Class III objectives through application of mitigation measures. By amending the land-use plan to change the VRM designation of this area to VRM Class IV, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the Price RMP could be amended to change the VRM designation of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.	

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TABLE 5-19 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PRICE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT PFO4		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	PFO4	
Resource Management Plan	Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management 2008d)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	Crosses Big Hole Rock Art Area of Critical Environmental Concern, an exclusion area for new utility corridors.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	Special management prescriptions in Special Designations section of the Approved Resource Management Plan, under the subheading *Rock Art Area of Critical Environmental Concern* (page 136) would be amended as follows (***new text in bold italics):*** Manage with the following special management prescriptions: • Oil and gas will be open to leasing subject to major constraints (NSO) • Closed to disposal of mineral materials • Recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry • Excluded for [right-of-way] grants. ***This stipulation could be granted an exception by the Field Manager if conditions warrant and the decision is documented through environmental analysis. An exception would suspend the stipulation on a one-time basis.***	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	COUT BAX-B	Link U730 0.2 mile
Potential Environmental Effects		

Direct and Indirect Effects
The direct and indirect effects on the resources attributed to amending the stipulation to grant a one-time exception would be same as the direct and indirect effects of constructing, operating, and maintaining the Project described for Alternative COUT BAX-B in Chapter 3 since this amendment would allow the Project to be permitted on this route.

Cumulative Effects
Cumulative effects from allowing a one-time exception would likely result in similar cumulative effects on resources from this Project in Chapter 4.

Allowing a one-time exception could create a siting opportunity for future projects as this area would become more dominated by transmission lines, such as the TransWest Express Project or other future extra-high-voltage transmission lines if additional exceptions were granted. The addition of these potential projects has the potential to further impact visual values from viewing locations through additional structures, vegetation management activities, and access roads in this area.

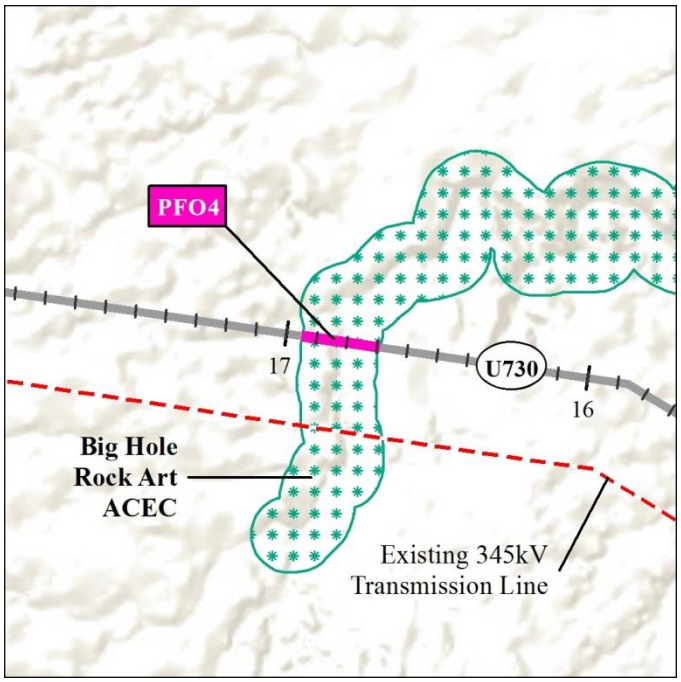

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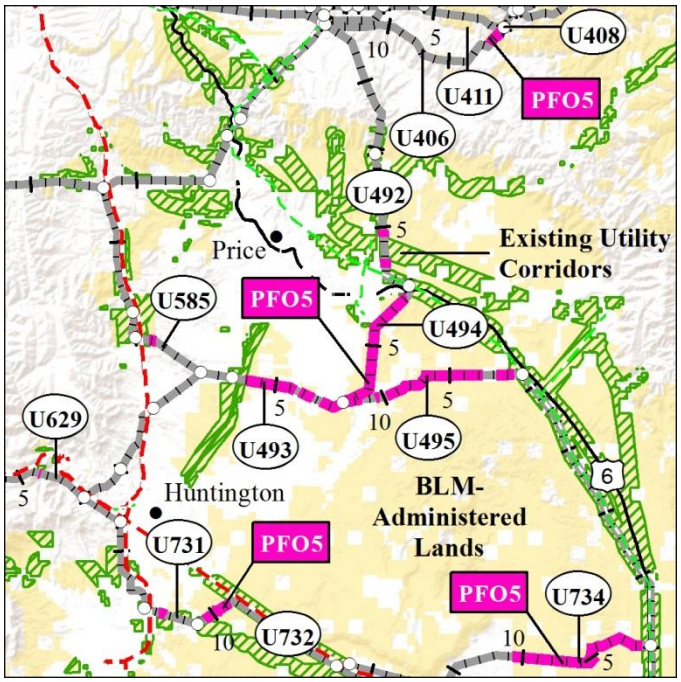
TABLE 5-20 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PRICE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT PFO5		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	PFO5	
Resource Management Plan	Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008d)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	New utility corridors in these areas will require a potential land-use plan amendment.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The right-of-way decision presented in in the Lands and Realty section of the BLM Price approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) under LAR-23 (page 122) would be amended as follows (***new text in bold italics):*** LAR-23 All utility corridors within the PFO [Price Field Office] are designated for any size utility and transportation uses needed. The corridors are 1 mile in width crossing any BLM-administered public lands***, with the exception of the utility corridor established along Interstate 70 (I-70), which is 1.5 miles in width.*** These approved corridors will be the preferred location for future major linear [rights-of-way] that meet the following criteria: • Pipelines with a diameter greater than 16 inches • Transmission (not distribution) lines with a voltage capacity of 69 kV or greater • Significant conduits requiring a permanent width greater than 50 feet. Map R-21 in the approved RMP also would be revised to show the amended corridor width along I-70.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	COUT BAX-B	Links U629 0.1 mile U730 0.2 mile U731 0.5 mile U732 2.1 miles
	COUT BAX-C	Links U629 0.1 mile U731 0.5 mile U732 2.1 miles U734 10.1 miles
	COUT BAX-E	Links U493 6.1 miles U495 9.9 miles U485 0.4 mile U585 0.5 mile
	COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative), Camp Timberlane/Argyle Canyon Variations 1 and 2	Links U406 1.2 miles U408 0.1 mile

TABLE 5-20
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PRICE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT PFO5

Identification Number on Map 5-1b	PFO5	
Resource Management Plan	Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008d)	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	COUT-H	Links U406 1.2 miles U408 0.1 mile
	COUT-I	Links U406 1.2 miles U408 0.1 mile U492 1.1 miles U493 6.1 miles U494 9.2 miles U629 0.1 mile

Potential Environmental Effects

Direct and Indirect Effects
The direct and indirect effects on the resources attributed to amending the width of the existing utility corridor to allow additional utilities, such as the Project, would be the same as the direct and indirect effects of constructing, operating, and maintaining the Project described for Alternatives COUT BAX-B, COUT BAX-C, COUT BAX-E, COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative), COUT-H, COUT-I, and Camp Timberlane/Argyle Canyon Variations 1 and 2 in Chapter 3 (and Appendix F) since this amendment would allow the Project to be permitted on this route.



Cumulative Effects
Cumulative effects from amending the corridor width would likely result in similar cumulative effects on resources from this Project in Chapter 4.

By amending the land-use plan to modify the utility corridor width, the Project or other future extra-high-voltage transmission lines could be sited in these lands and these areas would become more dominated by transmission lines. The addition of these potential projects has the potential to further impact visual values from viewing locations through additional structures, vegetation management activities, and access roads in this area.

TABLE 5-21 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT VERNAL FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT VFO1	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	VFO1
Resource Management Plan	Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008f)
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes
Nonconformance Issue	New utilities must cross the Green River at Fourmile Bottom. The alternative route crosses in the designated area, which also is designated as Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II. Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of crossing the Green River at Fourmile Bottom would not be compliant with VRM Class II objectives established in the resource management plan (RMP) for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, Key Observation Point #203, and associated visual simulation.
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The Vernal RMP currently states the relevant goals and objectives for visual resource management (page 136). Goals and Objectives: • Manage the public lands (see Figure 16a) in such a way to preserve those scenic vistas, which are deemed to be most important. • In their impact on the quality of life for residents and communities in the areas. • In their contribution to the quality of recreational visitor experiences. • In supporting the regional tourism industry and segments of the local economy dependent on public land resources. • Seek to complement the rural, agricultural, historic, and urban landscapes on adjoining private, state, and tribal lands by maintaining the integrity of background vistas on the public lands. Additionally, specific management decisions are listed by VRM Class including VRM-4, which states "Approximately 786,612 acres will be managed as VRM Class III." The following text will be added to amend management decision VRM-4 (***new text in bold italics***): ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class II lands (associated with the Lower Green River Corridor Area of Critical Environmental Concern) along Link U400 from Mileposts 7.2 to 7.5 and 7.7 to 9.3 of the Project (approximately 1.9 miles) would be amended to VRM Class III (a total of 58 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class II after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** Amendment of this decision in the Vernal RMP would facilitate accommodation of the Project with revised plan VRM objectives.

TABLE 5-21
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT VERNAL FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT VFO1

Identification Number on Map 5-1b	VFO1	
Resource Management Plan	Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008f)	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative), COUT-H, COUT-I	Link U400 1.9 miles

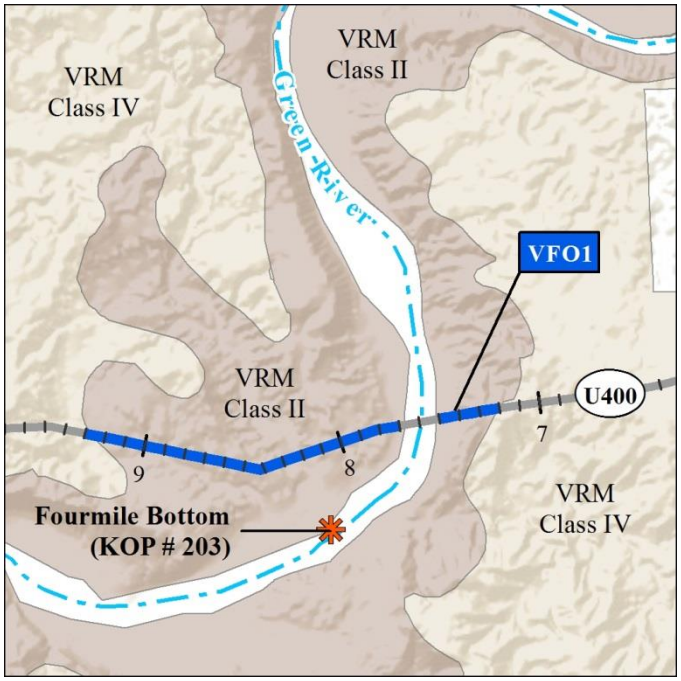
Potential Environmental Effects

The following components of the Vernal Field Office Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) are located in the planning area boundary:

Scenic Quality Rating Units: 8 acres of Class A and 50 acres of Class C lands
Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 58 acres of high sensitivity lands
Distance Zones: 58 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone
VRI Class: 8 acres of VRI Class II and 50 acres of VRI Class III lands

Amendment of the land-use plan would result in the following changes to the overall Vernal Field Office VRM objectives:

COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative): 58 fewer acres of VRM Class II (currently 231,911 acres) and 58 more acres of VRM Class III (currently 786,612 acres)
COUT-H: 58 fewer acres of VRM Class II (currently 231,911 acres) and 58 more acres of VRM Class III (currently 786,612 acres)
COUT-I: 58 fewer acres of VRM Class II (currently 231,911 acres) and 58 more acres of VRM Class III (currently 786,612 acres)



Direct and Indirect Effects

This area is currently managed as VRM Class II, which BLM Manual 8410-1 describes as retaining the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract attention from the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 58 acres adjacent to the Green River were amended from VRM Class II to VRM Class III, then the VRM objective would be amended in accordance with the description provided in BLM Manual 8410-1: "The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape."

Amending a portion of the VRM Class designation from the existing VRM Class II to VRM Class III would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to retain landscape character to instead accept activities to only partially retain landscape character. Management activities that under the existing VRM Class should not attract attention would be allowed to attract attention as long as views would not be dominated. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

TABLE 5-21 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT VERNAL FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT VFO1	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	VFO1
Resource Management Plan	Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008f)
Cumulative Effects As currently managed as VRM Class II, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could moderately contrast with the existing landscape character would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing VRM Class II objectives through application of mitigation measures. By amending the land-use plan to change the VRM designation of this area to VRM Class III, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the Vernal RMP could be amended to change the VRM designation of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.	

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TABLE 5-22 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT VERNAL FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT VFO2		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	VFO2	
Resource Management Plan	Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008f)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects resulting from the proximity of the Project to the Enron Recreation Area would not be compliant with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III objectives established in the resource management plan (RMP) for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Worksheet, Key Observation Point #87, and associated visual simulations.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The Vernal RMP currently states the relevant goals and objectives for visual resource management (page 136). Goals and Objectives: • Manage the public lands (see Figure 16a) in such a way to preserve those scenic vistas, which are deemed to be most important. • In their impact on the quality of life for residents and communities in the areas. • In their contribution to the quality of recreational visitor experiences. • In supporting the regional tourism industry and segments of the local economy dependent on public land resources. • Seek to complement the rural, agricultural, historic, and urban landscapes on adjoining private, state, and tribal lands by maintaining the integrity of background vistas on the public lands. Additionally, specific management decisions are listed by VRM Class including VRM-5 which states "Approximately 643,641 acres will be managed as VRM Class IV." The following text will be added to amend management decision VRM-5 (***new text in bold italics***): ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link U300 from Milepost 8.1 to 8.5 of the Project (approximately 0.4 mile) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 12 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** Amendment of this decision in the Vernal RMP would facilitate accommodation of the Project with revised plan VRM objectives.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative), COUT-H, COUT-I	Link U300 0.4 mile

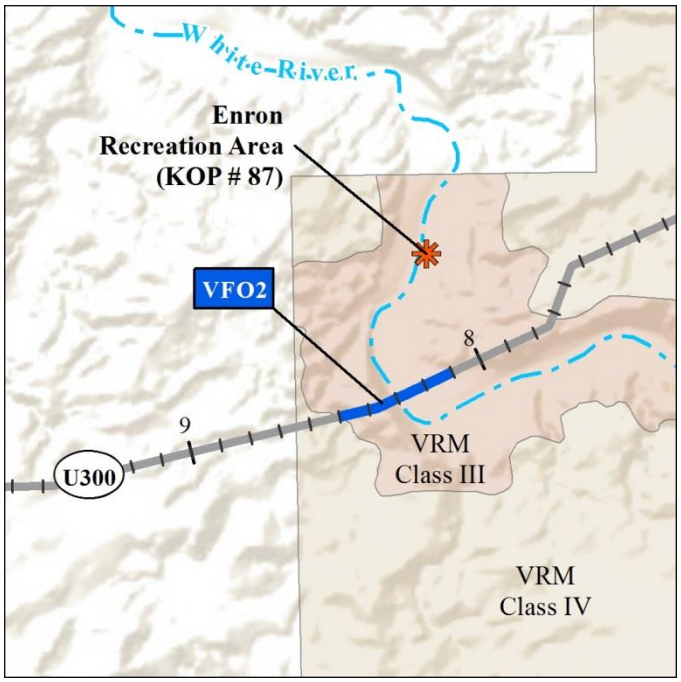
TABLE 5-22 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT VERNAL FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT VFO2	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	VFO2
Resource Management Plan	Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008f)
Potential Environmental Effects	

The following components of the Vernal Field Office Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) are located in the planning area boundary:

Scenic Quality Rating Units: 11 acres of Class A and 1 acre of Class C lands
Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 12 acres of moderate sensitivity lands
Distance Zones: 12 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone
VRI Class: 11 acres of VRI Class II and 1 acre of VRI Class IV lands

Amendment of the land-use plan would result in the following changes to the overall Vernal Field Office VRM objectives:

COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative): 12 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 786,612 acres) and 12 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 643,641 acres)
COUT-H: 12 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 786,612 acres) and 12 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 643,641 acres)
COUT-I: 12 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 786,612 acres) and 12 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 643,641 acres)



Direct and Indirect Effects

This area is currently managed as VRM Class III, which the BLM Manual 8410-1 describes as partially retaining the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 12 acres adjacent to the White River were amended from VRM Class III to VRM Class IV, then the VRM objective would be amended in accordance with the description provided in BLM Manual 8410-1: "The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements."

Amending a portion of the VRM Class designation from the existing VRM Class III to VRM Class IV would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to partially retain landscape character to instead accept major modification of the landscape character. Management activities that under the existing VRM Class could attract attention but not dominate the view would be allowed to dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

TABLE 5-22 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT VERNAL FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT VFO2	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	VFO2
Resource Management Plan	Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008f)
Cumulative Effects As currently managed as VRM Class III, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could highly contrast with the existing landscape character would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing VRM Class III objectives through application of mitigation measures. By amending the land-use plan to change the VRM designation of this area to VRM Class IV, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the Vernal RMP could be amended to change the VRM designation of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.	

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TABLE 5-23 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT VERNAL FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT VFO3		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	VFO3	
Resource Management Plan	Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008f)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of crossing the Nine Mile Canyon Scenic Backway would not be compliant with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III objectives established in the resource management plan (RMP) for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, Key Observation Point #273.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The Vernal RMP currently states the relevant goals and objectives for visual resource management (page 136). Goals and Objectives: • Manage the public lands (see Figure 16a) in such a way to preserve those scenic vistas, which are deemed to be most important. • In their impact on the quality of life for residents and communities in the areas. • In their contribution to the quality of recreational visitor experiences. • In supporting the regional tourism industry and segments of the local economy dependent on public land resources. • Seek to complement the rural, agricultural, historic, and urban landscapes on adjoining private, state, and tribal lands by maintaining the integrity of background vistas on the public lands. Additionally, specific management decisions are listed by VRM Class including VRM-5, which states "Approximately 643,641 acres will be managed as VRM Class IV." The following text will be added to amend management decision VRM-5 (***new text in bold italics***): ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link U401 from Milepost 2.5 to 3.6 of the Project (approximately 1.1 miles) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 33 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** Amendment of this decision in the Vernal RMP would facilitate accommodation of the Project with revised plan VRM objectives.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative), COUT-H, COUT-I	Link U401 1.1 miles

TABLE 5-23
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT VERNAL FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT VFO3

Identification Number on Map 5-1b	VFO3
Resource Management Plan	Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008f)

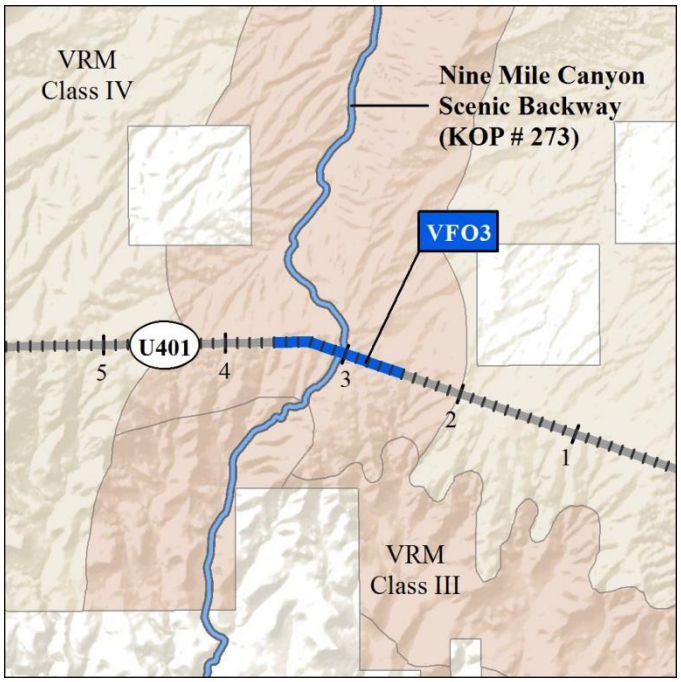
Potential Environmental Effects

The following components of the Vernal Field Office Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) are located in the planning area boundary :

Scenic Quality Rating Units: 33 acres of Class B lands
Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 33 acres of high sensitivity lands
Distance Zones: 33 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone
VRI Class: 33 acres of VRI Class II lands

Amendment of the land-use plan would result in the following changes to the overall Vernal Field Office VRM objectives:

COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative): 33 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 786,612 acres) and 33 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 643,641 acres)
COUT-H: 33 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 786,612 acres) and 33 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 643,641 acres)
COUT-I: 33 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 786,612 acres) and 33 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 643,641 acres)



Direct and Indirect Effects

This area is currently managed as VRM Class III, which BLM Manual 8410-1 describes as partially retaining the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 33 acres adjacent to this scenic backway were amended from VRM Class III to VRM Class IV, then the VRM objective would be amended in accordance with the description provided in BLM Manual 8410-1: "The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements."

Amending a portion of the VRM Class designation from the existing VRM Class III to VRM Class IV would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to partially retain landscape character to instead accept major modification of the landscape character. Management activities that under the existing VRM Class could attract attention but not dominate the view would be allowed to dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

TABLE 5-23 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT VERNAL FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT VFO3	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	VFO3
Resource Management Plan	Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008f)
Cumulative Effects As currently managed as VRM Class III, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could highly contrast with the existing landscape character would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing VRM Class III objectives through application of mitigation measures. By amending the land-use plan to change the VRM designation of this area to VRM Class IV, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the Vernal RMP could be amended to change the VRM designation of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.	

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TABLE 5-24 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT VERNAL FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT VFO4		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	VFO4	
Resource Management Plan	Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008f)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling Argyle Canyon Road would not be compliant with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III objectives established in the resource management plan (RMP) for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheets, Key Observation Point #200, and associated visual simulation.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The Vernal RMP currently states the relevant goals and objectives for visual resource management (page 136. Goals and Objectives: • Manage the public lands (see Figure 16a) in such a way to preserve those scenic vistas, which are deemed to be most important. • In their impact on the quality of life for residents and communities in the areas. • In their contribution to the quality of recreational visitor experiences. • In supporting the regional tourism industry and segments of the local economy dependent on public land resources. • Seek to complement the rural, agricultural, historic, and urban landscapes on adjoining private, state, and tribal lands by maintaining the integrity of background vistas on the public lands. Additionally, specific management decisions are listed by VRM Class including VRM-5, which states "Approximately 643,641 acres will be managed as VRM Class IV." The following text will be added to amend the management decision VRM-5 (***new text in bold italics***): ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link U407 from Mileposts 0.0 to 0.1, 0.6 to 0.9, 1.2 to 1.5, and 2.0 to 2.4 of the Project (approximately 1.1 miles) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 33 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** Amendment of this decision in the Vernal RMP would facilitate accommodation of the Project with revised plan VRM objectives.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	COUT-H, COUT-I, and Argyle Ridge Variation 1	Links U407 1.1 miles

TABLE 5-24
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT VERNAL FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT VFO4

Identification Number on Map 5-1b	VFO4
Resource Management Plan	Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008f)

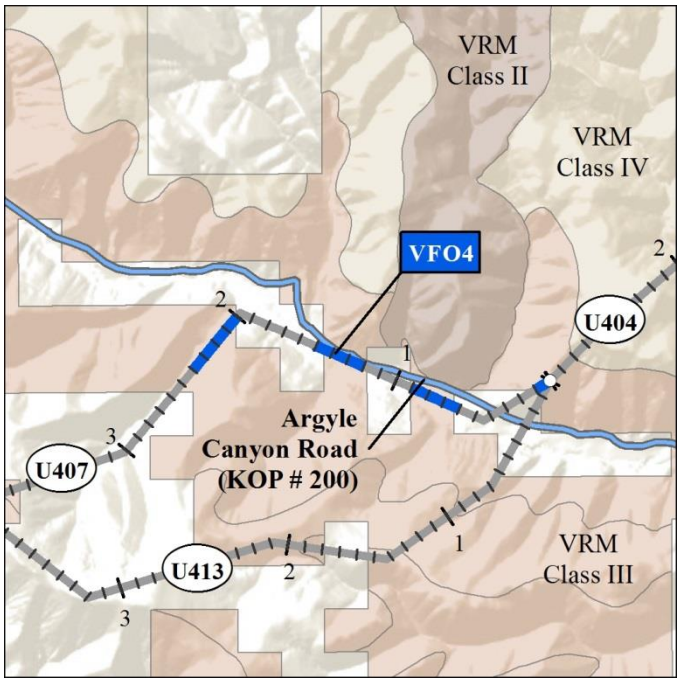
Potential Environmental Effects

The following components of the Vernal Field Office Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) are located in the planning area boundary:

Scenic Quality Rating Units: 33 acres of Class A lands
Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 33 acres of high sensitivity lands
Distance Zones: 33 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone
VRI Class: 33 acres of VRI Class II lands

Amendment of the land-use plan would result in the following changes to the overall Vernal Field Office VRM objectives::

COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative): 33 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 786,612 acres) and 33 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 643,641 acres)
COUT-H: 33 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 786,612 acres) and 33 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 643,641 acres)
COUT-I: 33 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 786,612 acres) and 33 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 643,641 acres)



Direct and Indirect Effects

This area is currently managed as VRM Class III, which BLM Manual 8410-1 describes as partially retaining the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 33 acres adjacent to Argyle Canyon Road were amended from VRM Class III to VRM Class IV, then the VRM objective would be amended in accordance with the description provided in BLM Manual 8410-1: "The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements."

Amending a portion of the VRM Class designation from the existing VRM Class III to VRM Class IV would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to partially retain landscape character to instead accept major modification of the landscape character. Management activities that under the existing VRM Class could attract attention but not dominate the view would be allowed to dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

TABLE 5-24 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT VERNAL FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT VFO4	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	VFO4
Resource Management Plan	Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008f)
Cumulative Effects As currently managed as VRM Class III, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could highly contrast with the existing landscape character would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing VRM Class III objectives through application of mitigation measures. By amending the land-use plan to change the VRM designation of this area to VRM Class IV, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the Vernal RMP could be amended to change the VRM designation of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.	

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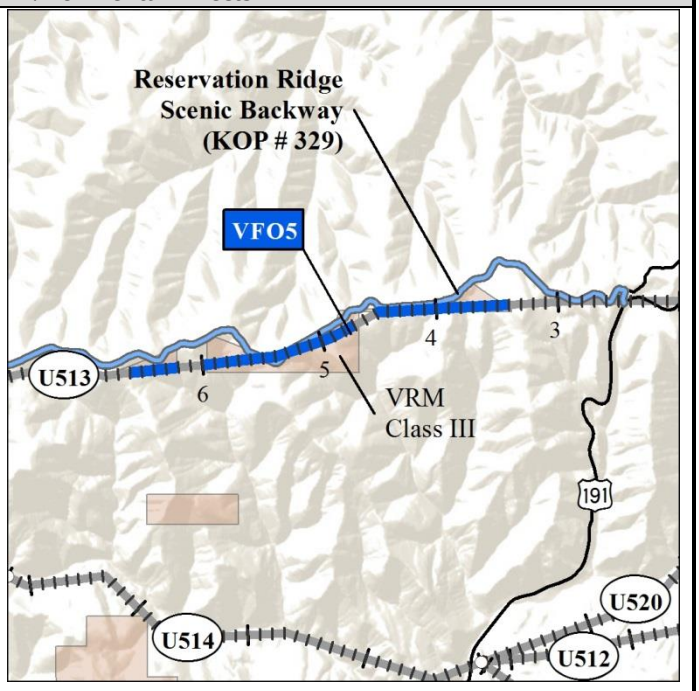
TABLE 5-25 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT VERNAL FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT VFO5		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	VFO5	
Resource Management Plan	Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008f)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling the Reservation Ridge Scenic Backway would not be compliant with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III objectives established in the resource management plan (RMP) for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, Key Observation Point #329.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The Vernal RMP currently states the relevant goals and objectives for visual resource management (page 136). Goals and Objectives: • Manage the public lands (see Figure 16a) in such a way to preserve those scenic vistas, which are deemed to be most important. • In their impact on the quality of life for residents and communities in the areas. • In their contribution to the quality of recreational visitor experiences. • In supporting the regional tourism industry and segments of the local economy dependent on public land resources. • Seek to complement the rural, agricultural, historic, and urban landscapes on adjoining private, state, and tribal lands by maintaining the integrity of background vistas on the public lands. Additionally, specific management decisions are listed by VRM Class including VRM-5 which states "Approximately 643,641 acres will be managed as VRM Class IV." The following text will be added to amend management decision VRM-5 (***new text in bold italics***): ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link U513 from Mileposts 3.4 to 4.5, 4.7 to 6.0, and 6.2 to 6.6 of the Project (approximately 2.8 miles) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 84 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** Amendment of this decision in the Vernal RMP would facilitate accommodation of the Project with revised plan VRM objectives.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	Camp Timberlane/Argyle Canyon Variation 5	Link U513 2.8 miles

TABLE 5-25
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT VERNAL FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT VFO5

Identification Number on Map 5-1b	VFO5
Resource Management Plan	Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008f)

Potential Environmental Effects



The following components of the Vernal Field Office Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) are located in the planning area boundary:

Scenic Quality Rating Units: 84 acres of Class A lands
Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 84 acres of high sensitivity lands
Distance Zones: 84 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone
VRI Class: 84 acres of VRI Class II lands

Amendment of the land-use plan would result in the following changes to the overall Vernal Field Office VRM objectives:

Camp Timberlane/Argyle Canyon Variation 5: 84 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 786,612 acres) and 84 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 643,641 acres)

Direct and Indirect Effects

This area is currently managed as VRM Class III, which the BLM Manual 8410-1 describes as partially retaining the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 84 acres adjacent to this scenic backway were amended from VRM Class III to VRM Class IV, then the VRM objective would be amended in accordance with the description provided in BLM Manual 8410-1: "The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements."

Amending a portion of the VRM Class designation from the existing VRM Class III to VRM Class IV would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to partially retain landscape character to instead accept major modification of the landscape character. Management activities that under the existing VRM Class could attract attention but not dominate the view would be allowed to dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

TABLE 5-25 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT VERNAL FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT VFO5	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	VFO5
Resource Management Plan	Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008f)
Cumulative Effects As currently managed as VRM Class III, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could highly contrast with the existing landscape character would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing VRM Class III objectives through application of mitigation measures. By amending the land-use plan to change the VRM designation of this area to VRM Class IV, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the Vernal RMP could be amended to change the VRM designation of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.	

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TABLE 5-26 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RICHFIELD FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	Not applicable	
Resource Management Plan	Richfield Field Office, Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management 2008e)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	No	
Nonconformance Issue	Not applicable	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	None	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	Not applicable	Not applicable
Potential Environmental Effects		
Not applicable		

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TABLE 5-27 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MOAB FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT MFO1		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	MFO1	
Resource Management Plan	Moab Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008c)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling Old U.S. Highway 6 would not be compliant with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III objectives established in the resource management plan (RMP) for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, Key Observation Point #245.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The Moab RMP currently states the relevant goals and objectives for visual resource management (page 135). Goals and Objectives: • Manage public lands in a manner that protects the quality of scenic values. • Recognize and manage visual resource for overall multiple use, filming, and recreational opportunities for visitors to public lands. • Manage BLM actions to preserve those scenic vistas that are most important, Additionally, specific management decisions are listed. The following text will be add to amend the management decisions to include a new management decision, VRM-15 (***new text in bold italics***): ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link U490 from Milepost 0.0 to 6.3 of the Project (approximately 6.3 mile) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 189 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** Amendment of this decision in the Moab RMP would facilitate accommodation of the Project with revised plan VRM objectives.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	All COUT BAX alternative routes	Link U490 6.3 miles

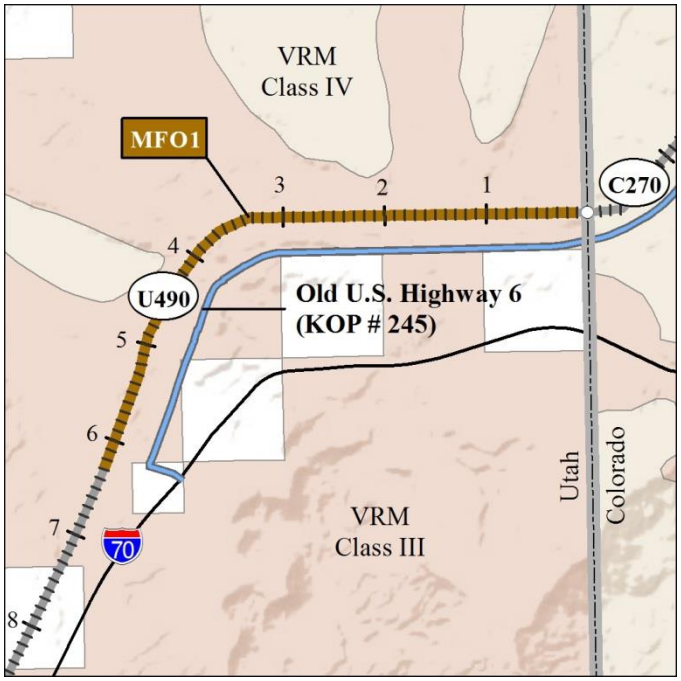
TABLE 5-27 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MOAB FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT MFO1	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	MFO1
Resource Management Plan	Moab Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008c)
Potential Environmental Effects	

The following components of the Moab Field Office Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) are located in the planning area boundary:

Scenic Quality Rating Units: 189 acres of Class C lands
Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 74 acres of moderate and 115 acres of low sensitivity lands
Distance Zones: 189 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone
VRI Class: 189 acres of VRI Class IV lands

Amendment of the land-use plan would result in the following changes to the overall Moab Field Office VRM objectives:

COUT BAX-B: 189 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 829,158 acres) and 189 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 268,133 acres)
COUT BAX-C: 189 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 829,158 acres) and 189 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 268,133 acres)
COUT BAX-E: 189 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 829,158 acres) and 189 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 268,133 acres)



Direct and Indirect Effects
This area is currently managed as VRM Class III, which BLM Manual 8410-1 describes as partially retaining the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 189 acres adjacent to Old U.S. Highway 6 were amended from VRM Class III to VRM Class IV, then the VRM objective would be amended in accordance with the description provided in BLM Manual 8410-1: "The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements."

Amending a portion of the VRM Class designation from the existing VRM Class III to VRM Class IV would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to partially retain landscape character to instead accept major modification of the landscape character. Management activities that under the existing VRM Class could attract attention but not dominate the view would be allowed to dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

TABLE 5-27 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MOAB FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT MFO1	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	MFO1
Resource Management Plan	Moab Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008c)
Cumulative Effects As currently managed as VRM Class III, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could highly contrast with the existing landscape character would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing VRM Class III objectives through application of mitigation measures. By amending the land-use plan to change the VRM designation of this area to VRM Class IV, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the Moab RMP could be amended to change the VRM designation of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.	

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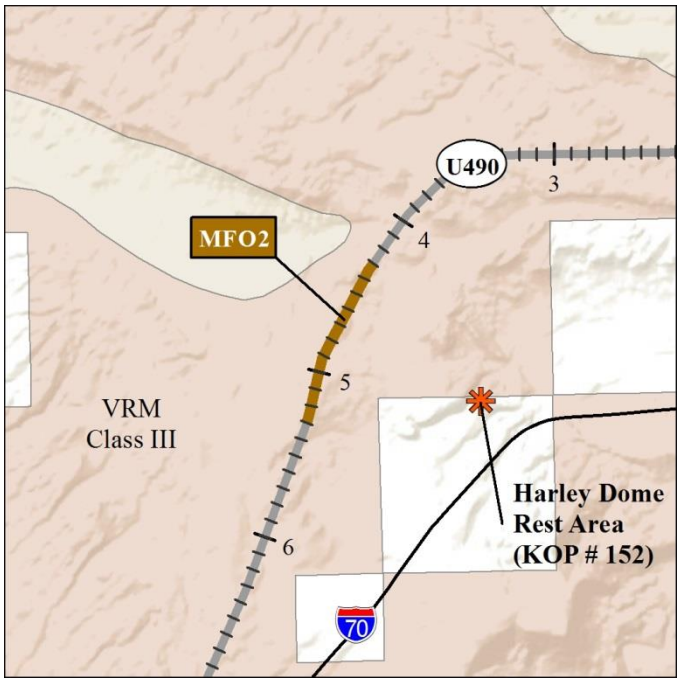
TABLE 5-28 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MOAB FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT MFO2		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	MFO2	
Resource Management Plan	Moab Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008c)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects resulting from the proximity of the Project to the Harley Dome Rest Area (along I-70) would not be compliant with Visual Resource Management Class (VRM) Class III objectives established in the resource management plan (RMP) for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, Key Observation Point #152, and associated visual simulation.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The Moab RMP currently states the relevant goals and objectives for visual resource management (page 135). Goals and Objectives: • Manage public lands in a manner that protects the quality of scenic values. • Recognize and manage visual resource for overall multiple use, filming, and recreational opportunities for visitors to public lands. • Manage BLM actions to preserve those scenic vistas that are most important, Additionally, specific management decisions are listed. The following text will be add to amend the management decisions to include a new management decision, VRM-15 (***new text in bold italics***): ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link U490 from Milepost 4.3 to 5.3 of the Project (approximately 1.0 mile) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 31 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** Amendment of this decision in the Moab RMP would facilitate accommodation of the Project with revised plan VRM objectives.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	All COUT BAX alternative routes	Link U490 1.0 mile
Potential Environmental Effects		
The following components of the Moab Field Office Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) are located in the planning area boundary : Scenic Quality Rating Units: 31 acres of Class C lands Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 16 acres of moderate and 15 acres of low sensitivity lands Distance Zones: 31 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone VRI Class: 31 acres of VRI Class IV lands		

TABLE 5-28
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MOAB FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT MFO2

Identification Number on Map 5-1b	MFO2
Resource Management Plan	Moab Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008c)

Amendment of the land-use plan would result in the following changes to the overall Moab Field Office VRM objectives:

COUT BAX-B: 31 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 829,158 acres) and 31 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 268,133 acres)
COUT BAX-C: 31 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 829,158 acres) and 31 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 268,133 acres)
COUT BAX-E: 31 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 829,158 acres) and 31 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 268,133 acres)



Direct and Indirect Effects
This area is currently managed as VRM Class III, which BLM Manual 8410-1 describes as partially retaining the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 31 acres adjacent to the Harley Dome Rest Area were amended from VRM Class III to VRM Class IV, then the VRM objective would be amended in accordance with the description provided in BLM Manual 8410-1: "The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements."

Amending a portion of the VRM Class designation from the existing VRM Class III to VRM Class IV would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to partially retain landscape character to instead accept major modification of the landscape character. Management activities that under the existing VRM Class could attract attention but not dominate the view would be allowed to dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

Cumulative Effects
As currently managed as VRM Class III, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could highly contrast with the existing landscape character would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing VRM Class III objectives through application of mitigation measures.

By amending the land-use plan to change the VRM designation of this area to VRM Class IV, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the Moab RMP could be amended to change the VRM designation of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.

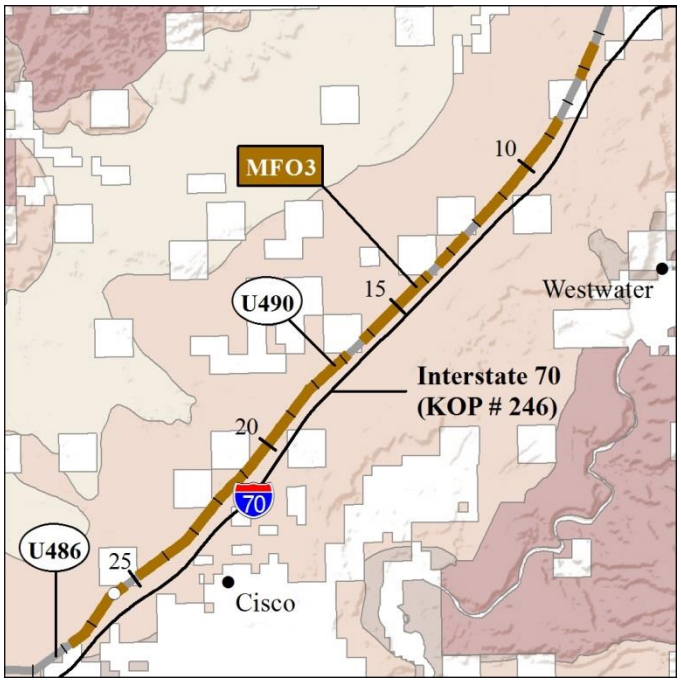
TABLE 5-29 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MOAB FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT MFO3			
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	MFO3		
Resource Management Plan	Moab Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008c)		
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes		
Nonconformance Issue	Because of the level of visual contrast produced by the Project, after the application of appropriate selective mitigation measures, the visual effects of paralleling Interstate 70 would not be compliant with Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III objectives established in the resource management plan (RMP) for the area. Refer to Appendix M – Contrast Rating Worksheet, Key Observation Point #246.		
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The Moab RMP currently states the relevant goals and objectives for visual resource management (page 135). Goals and Objectives: • Manage public lands in a manner that protects the quality of scenic values. • Recognize and manage visual resource for overall multiple use, filming, and recreational opportunities for visitors to public lands. • Manage BLM actions to preserve those scenic vistas that are most important, Additionally, specific management decisions are listed. The following text will be add to amend the management decisions to include a new management decision, VRM-15 (***new text in bold italics***): ***The portion of the 250-foot-wide right-of-way for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project in VRM Class III lands along Link U490 from Mileposts 6.3 to 7.3, 8.5 to 12.0, 12.4 to 13.5, 13.8 to 16.3, 16.8 to 24.9, and 25.3 to 25.7 and Link U486 Milepost 0.0 to 1.8 of the Project (approximately 18.4 miles) would be amended to VRM Class IV (a total of 558 acres) for only those portions of the Project that would still exceed acceptable levels of change that could occur in VRM Class III after application of all feasible measures to reduce impacts on visual resources is exhausted.*** Amendment of this decision in the Moab RMP would facilitate accommodation of the Project with revised plan VRM objectives.		
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	All COUT BAX alternative routes	Links U490 U486	 16.6 miles 1.8 miles
Potential Environmental Effects			
The following components of the Moab Field Office Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) are located in the planning area boundary: Scenic Quality Rating Units: 558 acres of Class C lands Sensitivity Level Rating Units: 558 acres of moderate sensitivity lands Distance Zones: 558 acres in the foreground-middleground distance zone VRI Class: 558 acres of VRI Class IV lands			

TABLE 5-29
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MOAB FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT MFO3

Identification Number on Map 5-1b	MFO3
Resource Management Plan	Moab Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2008c)

Amendment of the land-use plan would result in the following changes to the overall Moab Field Office VRM objectives:

COUT BAX-B: 558 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 829,158 acres) and 558 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 268,133 acres)
COUT BAX-C: 558 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 829,158 acres) and 558 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 268,133 acres)
COUT BAX-E: 558 fewer acres of VRM Class III (currently 829,158 acres) and 558 more acres of VRM Class IV (currently 268,133 acres)



Direct and Indirect Effects
This area is currently managed as VRM Class III, which BLM Manual 8410-1 describes as partially retaining the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 558 acres adjacent to Interstate 70 were amended from VRM Class III to VRM Class IV, then the VRM objective would be amended in accordance with the description provided in BLM Manual 8410-1: "The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements."

Amending a portion of the VRM Class designation from the existing VRM Class III to VRM Class IV would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to partially retain landscape character to instead accept major modification of the landscape character. Management activities that under the existing VRM Class could attract attention but not dominate the view would be allowed to dominate the view and be a major focus of viewer attention. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

Cumulative Effects
As currently managed as VRM Class III, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could highly contrast with the existing landscape character would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing VRM Class III objectives through application of mitigation measures.

By amending the land-use plan to change the VRM designation of this area to VRM Class IV, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the Moab RMP could be amended to change the VRM designation of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.

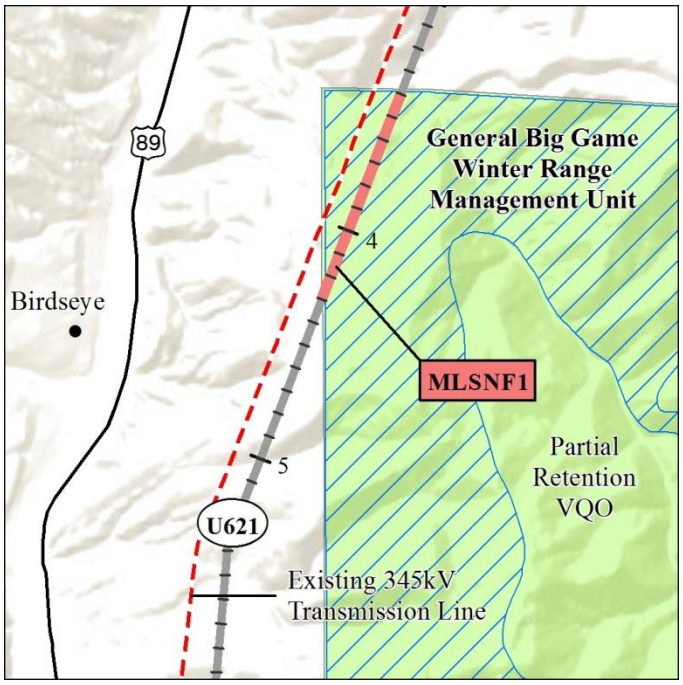
TABLE 5-30
MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT MLSNF1

Identification Number on Map 5-1b	MLSNF1	
Resource Management Plan	Manti-La Sal National Forest, Land and Resource Management Plan, 1986, as amended (U.S. Forest Service [USFS] 1986b)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	Per a standard for the General Big-game Winter Range Management Unit (management emphasis is on general big-game winter range) in the 1986 Manti-La Sal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) activities must meet the Visual Quality Objective (VQO) except where habitat improvement activities occur (Management Activity AO4, page III-62 of LRMP). Due to the proximity of the Project to U.S. Highway 89 and residences in the area of Birdseye, Utah, the Project would not be subordinate to the characteristic landscape in these areas, which would be inconsistent with the definition of a partial retention VQO.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The area in the Project right-of-way that is inconsistent with a partial retention VQO and could not be mitigated through application of selective mitigation measures (Link U621 Milepost 3.4 to 4.3) would be amended from a partial retention VQO to a modification VQO.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	COUT-A, COUT-B, COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative)	Link U621 0.9 mile
Management Areas Crossed[1]	Areas 1 and 2	

Potential Environmental Effects

The following changes to the overall Manti-La Sal National Forest Visual Management System VQOs would occur through the amendment of this area:

COUT-A: 27 fewer acres of a partial retention VQO (currently 186,012 acres) and 27 more acres of a modification VQO (currently 66,070 acres)
COUT-B: 27 fewer acres of a partial retention VQO (currently 186,012 acres) and 27 more acres of a modification VQO (currently 66,070 acres)
COUT-C (Agency and Applicant Preferred Alternative): 27 fewer acres of a partial retention VQO (currently 186,012 acres) and 27 more acres of a modification VQO (currently 66,070 acres)



Direct and Indirect Effects
This area is currently managed as a partial retention VQO, which USFS Handbook 462 describes as an area where management activities remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Activities may repeat form, line, color, and texture common to the characteristic landscape; but changes in their qualities of sizes, amount, intensity, direction, pattern, etc., remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Activities also may introduce form, line, color, or texture found infrequently or not at all in the characteristic landscape, but they should remain subordinate to the visual strength

TABLE 5-30 MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT MLSNF1	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	MLSNF1
Resource Management Plan	Manti-La Sal National Forest, Land and Resource Management Plan, 1986, as amended (U.S. Forest Service [USFS] 1986b)

of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 27 acres near U.S. Highway 89 and the community of Birdseye were amended from a partial retention VQO to a modification VQO, then the VQO would be amended in accordance with the description provided in USFS Handbook 462: "Management activities may visually dominate the original characteristic landscape. However, activities of vegetative and land form alteration must borrow from naturally established form, line, color, or texture so completely and at such a scale that its visual characteristics are those of natural occurrences in the surrounding area or character type. Additional parts of these activities such as structures, roads, slash, root wads, etc., must remain visually subordinate to the proposed composition. Activities which are predominately introduction of facilities such as buildings, signs, roads, etc., should borrow naturally established form, line, color, and texture so completely and at such scale that its visual characteristics are compatible with the natural surroundings."

Amending a portion of the VQO designation from the existing partial retention VQO to a modification VQO would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to remain visually subordinate to instead management activities that may visually dominate the characteristic landscape. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project.

Cumulative Effects

As currently managed as a partial retention VQO, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could visually dominate the characteristic landscape would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing objectives through application of mitigation measures.

By amending the land-use plan to change the VQO of this area to a modification VQO, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the Manti-La Sal LRMP could be amended to change the VQO of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.

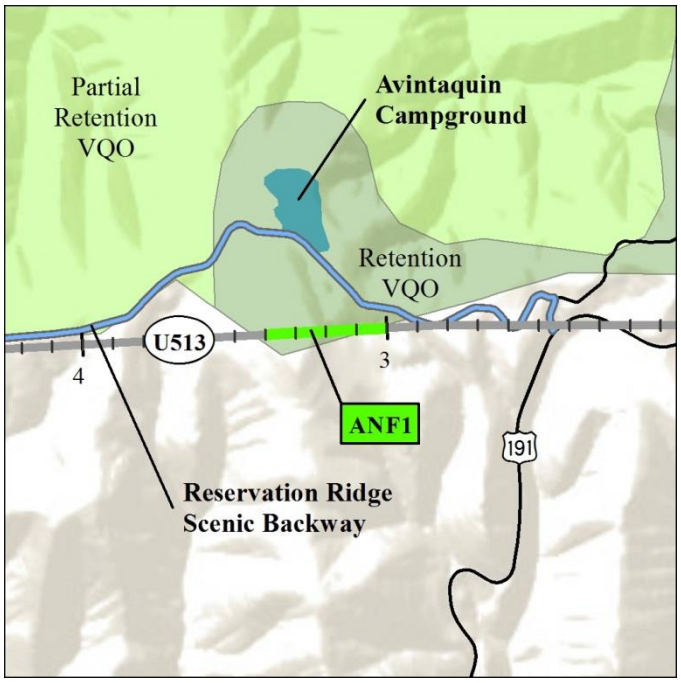
NOTE: [1]Additional information on the specific management areas crossed, and their management emphasis, is included in Appendix D.

TABLE 5-31 ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT ANF1		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	ANF1	
Resource Management Plan	Ashley National Forest, Land and Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, 1986, as amended (U.S. Forest Service [USFS] 1986a)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	A forest-wide standard in the 1986 Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) states that the forest will manage visual resource according to the adopted Visual Quality Objective 9 (VQO) (page IV-19 of LRMP). Due to proximity to the Avintaquin Campground and paralleling the Reservation Ridge Scenic Backway, the Project would not be consistent with retention VQO.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The area in the Project right-of-way that is inconsistent with a retention VQO that could not be mitigated through application of selective mitigation measures (Link U513 Milepost 3.0 to 3.4) would be amended from a retention VQO to a modification VQO.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	Camp Timberlane/Argyle Canyon Variation 5	Link U513 0.4 mile
Management Areas Crossed[1]	Areas 1 and 2	

Potential Environmental Effects

The following changes to the overall Ashley National Forest Visual Management System VQOs would occur through the amendment of these areas:

Camp Timberlane/Argyle Canyon Variation 5: 12 fewer acres of a retention VQO (currently 473,545 acres) and 12 more acres of a modification VQO (currently 316,949 acres)



Direct and Indirect Effects

This area is currently managed as a retention VQO, which USFS Handbook 462 describes as an area where management activities are not to be visually evident. Activities may only repeat form, line, color, and texture frequently found in the characteristic landscape. Changes in their qualities of size, amount, intensity, pattern, etc., should not be evident. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

If 12 acres near the Avintaquin Campground were amended from a retention VQO to a modification VQO, then the VQO would be amended in accordance with the description provided in USFS Handbook 462: "Management activities may visually dominate the original characteristic landscape. However, activities of vegetative and land form alteration must borrow from naturally established form, line, color, or texture so completely and at such a scale that its visual characteristics are those of natural occurrences in the surrounding area or character type. Additional parts of these activities such as structures, roads, slash, root wads, etc., must remain visually subordinate to the proposed composition. Activities which are predominately introduction of facilities such as buildings, signs, roads, etc., should borrow

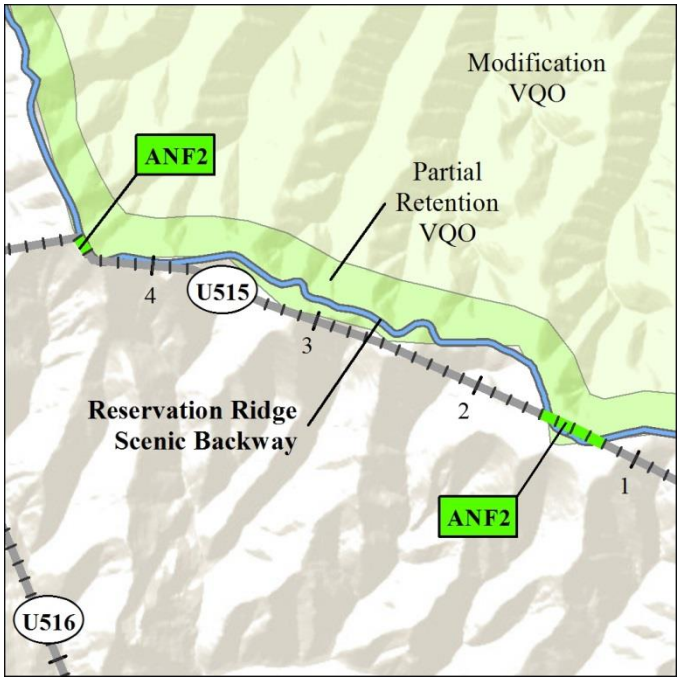
TABLE 5-31 ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT ANF1	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	ANF1
Resource Management Plan	Ashley National Forest, Land and Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, 1986, as amended (U.S. Forest Service [USFS] 1986a)
naturally established form, line, color, and texture so completely and at such scale that its visual characteristics are compatible with the natural surroundings." Amending a portion of the VQO designation from the existing retention VQO to a modification VQO would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from not being visually evident to instead management activities that may visually dominate the characteristic landscape. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project. **Cumulative Effects** As currently managed as a retention VQO, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could be visually evident in the characteristic landscape would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing objectives through application of mitigation measures. By amending the land-use plan to change the VQO of this area to a modification VQO, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the Ashley LRMP could be amended to change the VQO of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.	
NOTE: [1]Additional information on the specific management areas crossed, and their management emphasis, is included in Appendix D.	

TABLE 5-32 ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT ANF2		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	ANF2	
Resource Management Plan	Ashley National Forest, Land and Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, 1986, as amended (U.S. Forest Service [USFS] 1986a)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	A forest-wide standard in the 1986 Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) states that the forest will manage visual resource according to the adopted Visual Quality Objective 9 (VQO) (page IV-19 of LRMP). Due to paralleling the Reservation Ridge Scenic Backway, the Project would not be consistent with a partial retention VQO.	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The area in the Project right-of-way that is inconsistent with a partial retention VQO that could not be mitigated through application of selective mitigation measures (Link U515 Mileposts 1.2 to 1.6 and 4.4 to 4.5) would be amended from a partial retention VQO to a modification VQO.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	Camp Timberlane/Argyle Canyon Variations 2 and 5	Link U515 0.5 mile
Management Areas Crossed[1]	Areas 1 and 2	

Potential Environmental Effects

The following changes to the overall Ashley National Forest Visual Management System VQOs would occur through the amendment of these area:

Camp Timberlane/Argyle Canyon Variation 2:
13 fewer acres of a partial retention VQO (currently 240,485 acres) and 13 more acres of a modification VQO (currently 316,949 acres)
Camp Timberlane/Argyle Canyon Variation 5:
13 fewer acres of a partial retention VQO (currently 240,485 acres) and 13 more acres of a modification VQO (currently 316,949 acres)



Direct and Indirect Effects
This area is currently managed as a partial retention VQO, which USFS Handbook 462 describes as an area where management activities remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Activities may repeat form, line, color, and texture common to the characteristic landscape, but changes in their qualities of sizes, amount, intensity, direction, pattern, etc., remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Activities also may introduce form, line, color, or texture found infrequently or not at all in the characteristic landscape, but they should remain subordinate to the visual strength of the characteristic landscape. The Project, after application of all feasible measures to reduce visual contrast, would not be able to meet the criteria of this objective and would not be permitted in this area.

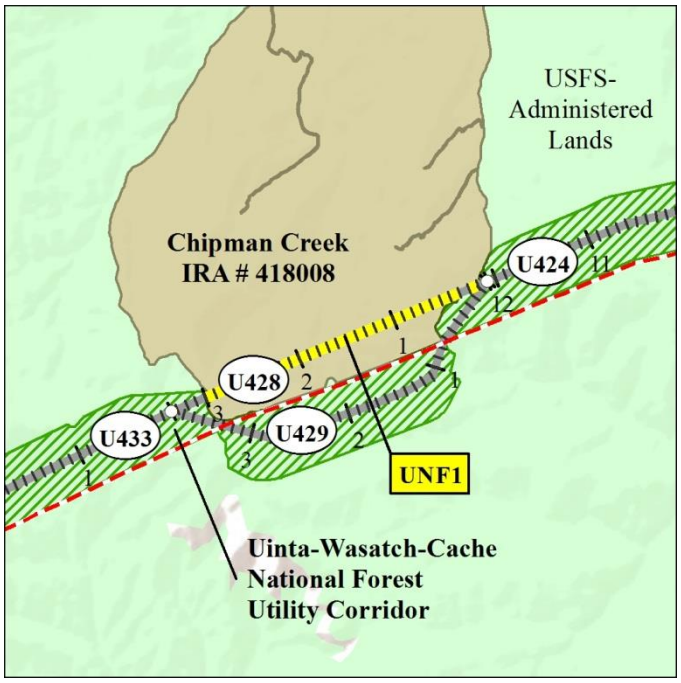
If 13 acres adjacent to the Reservation Ridge Scenic Backway were amended from a partial retention VQO to a modification VQO, then the VQO would be amended in accordance with the description provided in USFS

TABLE 5-32 ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT ANF2	
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	ANF2
Resource Management Plan	Ashley National Forest, Land and Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, 1986, as amended (U.S. Forest Service [USFS] 1986a)
Handbook 462: "Management activities may visually dominate the original characteristic landscape. However, activities of vegetative and land form alteration must borrow from naturally established form, line, color, or texture so completely and at such a scale that its visual characteristics are those of natural occurrences in the surrounding area or character type. Additional parts of these activities such as structures, roads, slash, root wads, etc., must remain visually subordinate to the proposed composition. Activities which are predominately introduction of facilities such as buildings, signs, roads, etc., should borrow naturally established form, line, color, and texture so completely and at such scale that its visual characteristics are compatible with the natural surroundings." Amending a portion of the VQO designation from the existing partial retention VQO to a modification VQO would allow changes to the characteristic landscape to increase from needing to remain visually subordinate to instead management activities that may visually dominate the characteristic landscape. The change of current planning direction would result in, but not be limited to, the allowance of the Project. **Cumulative Effects** As currently managed as a partial retention VQO, the Project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) that could visually dominate the characteristic landscape would not be permitted in this area unless determined to meet existing objectives through application of mitigation measures. By amending the land-use plan to change the VQO of this area to a modification VQO, the Project or other RFFAs could be sited on these lands and further dominate views in this area. Furthermore, in association with other RFFAs, the Ashley LRMP could be amended to change the VQO of additional adjacent areas to accommodate those projects, such as the TransWest Express Transmission Project, which would allow for further dominance of views and impacts on scenic values.	
NOTE: [1]Additional information on the specific management areas crossed, and their management emphasis, is included in Appendix D.	

TABLE 5-33 UINTA NATIONAL FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT UNF1		
Identification Number on Map 5-1b	UNF1	
Resource Management Plan	Uinta National Forest, Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, 2003, as amended (U.S. Forest Service [USFS] 2003)	
Could Decision Require Amendment?	Yes	
Nonconformance Issue	Due to being outside of the Uinta National Forest utility corridor where the Project crosses the inventoried roadless area, the Project would not be consistent with the Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (MP-8.2-4 Standard, page 3-49 of Land and Resource Management Plan).	
Description of Potential Plan Amendment	The area in the Project right-of-way that is inconsistent with the utility corridor limitations would be amended to include the Project right-of-way under the applicable utility corridor.	
Alternative Routes (Link[s]) Relevant to Potential Plan Amendment	Chipman Creek Variation 1	Link U428 2.8 mile
Management Areas Crossed[1]	Areas 1 and 2	

Potential Environmental Effects

Direct and Indirect Effects
The direct and indirect effects on the resources attributed to amending the plan to include the Project right-of-way as a utility corridor would be the same as the direct and indirect effects of constructing, operating, and maintaining the Project described for Chipman Creek Variation 1 in Appendix F since this amendment would allow the Project to be permitted on this route.



Cumulative Effects
Including the Project right-of-way as a utility corridor could allow additional utilities to be located in the corridor. If additional utilities are developed, such as the TransWest Express Project or other future extra-high-voltage transmission lines, they would likely result in cumulative effects on resources similar to cumulative effects from this Project discussed in Chapter 4.

Including the Project right-of-way as a utility corridor could allow increased access into an area previously closed to vehicular traffic.

Including the Project right-of-way as a utility corridor could create a siting opportunity for future projects as this area would become more dominated by transmission lines, such as the TransWest Express Project or other future extra-high-voltage transmission lines if additional exceptions were granted. The addition of these potential projects has the potential to further impact visual values from viewing locations through additional structures, vegetation management activities, and access roads in this area.

NOTE: [1]Additional information on the specific management areas crossed, and their management emphasis, is included in Appendix D.