## 3.13 Recreation Resources

This section provides baseline information regarding outdoor recreation uses on public and private lands that could be affected by the Project in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada. Included within this section is a description of the existing recreational opportunities and activities, recreation use estimates for BLM and USFS lands in the analysis area, a description of the recreation sites that occur in each region of the analysis area, and an overview of the plans and regulations of federal, state, and local land management agencies that provide recreation opportunities in the analysis area. Direct effects to other resources that indirectly affect recreation are discussed in those respective sections, including Section 3.5, Vegetation; Section 3.7, Wildlife; Section 3.12, Visual Resources; and Section 3.16, Transportation and Access.

### 3.13.1 Regulatory Background

A variety of federal, state, and local land management agencies serve as recreation providers in the analysis area, including USFS, BLM, USFWS, Bureau of Reclamation, NPS, various state agencies that regulate recreation uses on state lands, and local and county governments. These entities guide recreation activities on public lands with management plans developed under their guiding authority. The following sections summarize the management plans for federal, state, and county/municipal agencies that manage recreation within the analysis area.

#### 3.13.1.1 Federal Plans, Policies, and Regulations

BLM

All BLM-administered public lands in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada are managed in accordance with the approved RMP or MFP for each BLM FO. Each RMP/MFP provides goals, objectives, and management actions to guide recreational uses of BLM-managed land resources within the FO. BLM RMPs that are pertinent to the Project are listed in **Table 1-3**. In addition, the BLM prepares a variety of planning documents related to its recreation and visitor services program, including interpretive plans and travel management plans.

USFS

The USFS conducts planning activities and administers NFS lands in accordance with provisions of the NFMA of 1976, NEPA, and other applicable legislation and regulations. A LRMP is required for each forest and provides direction for all resource management programs, including recreation uses. The USFS LRMP and EIS documents pertinent to the Project are listed in **Table 1-4**. Other USFS planning documents that identify recreational opportunities and facilities, and provide guidance for recreation uses within the analysis area are listed in **Table 3.13-1**.

USFWS/NPS/Bureau of Reclamation

Although most public lands within the analysis area that are managed by a federal agency are managed by the BLM or USFS, there are areas managed by the USFWS, NPS, and Bureau of Reclamation in Colorado, Nevada, and Utah. Typically, the agency has a management plan that includes goals, objectives, policies, and/or regulations pertaining to recreation within their management area or agreements with local agencies for management. A list of these plans is included in **Table 3.13-1**.

#### 3.13.1.2 State Plans, Policies, and Regulations

State lands within the analysis area include state parks, WMAs, and other special management areas that include recreational uses of the land resources. Planning documents that identify recreational opportunities and facilities, and provide guidance for recreation uses in various state management areas within the analysis area are listed in **Table 3.13-1**.

**Table 3.13-1 Federal and State Recreation Planning Documents for Managing Recreation**

| State | Planning Document | Agency |
|---|---|---|
| Wyoming | 2004 Wyoming Statewide Trails Plan | Wyoming Department of State Parks & Cultural Resources, Division of State Parks & Historic Sites – Trails Program |
| | Wyoming Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2009-2013 | Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, Division of State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails |
| | Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan 2009 | USFS |
| Colorado | Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – 2014-2018 | Colorado Parks and Wildlife |
| | Colorado Division of Wildlife: Chapter 9 – Division Properties; Regulations Applicable To All Division Properties 2012 | |
| | Dinosaur National Monument General Management Plan 1986<br>River Management Plan 1979 | NPS |
| Utah | Utah Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2014 | Utah State Parks |
| | Starvation Reservoir Resource Management Plan 1999 | Bureau of Reclamation |
| Nevada | Nevada Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2010 | Nevada State Parks |
| | Clark County Wetland Park Master Plan | Clark County/Bureau of Reclamation |
| | Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and EIS 2009 | USFWS |
| | Lake Mead National RA General Management Plan 1986<br>Land Protection Plan 1987<br>Lake Management Plan 2003 | NPS |

State-owned lands within the analysis area that are not part of designated management areas, such as state parks or WMAs, include lands held in trust and managed by a designated state agency (State Land Board, Office of State Lands) to produce income to support public schools and other state institutions.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPs) have been prepared by the states of Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada. A SCORP provides statewide policy direction for recreation; identifies statewide outdoor recreation issues; and provides an implementation program that identifies the state's strategies, priorities, and actions for recreation, including the allocation of federal grants to recreation programs and facilities. Each SCORP is a collaborative effort developed with the assistance and support of a diverse array of recreation stakeholders representing local, state, and federal agencies; non-profit groups; outdoor industry groups; and other organizations directly linked to outdoor recreation.

#### 3.13.1.3 County Plans, Policies, and Regulations

General Plans or Comprehensive Plans for a county (including master plans or land use plans) generally consist of a map or maps showing existing and planned land uses, as well as descriptive text identifying objectives, goals, policies, and standards or actions used to implement the plan. Each comprehensive plan includes a plan element for parks or open space, and recreation. This plan element identifies an overall vision or direction for recreation as it relates to community needs, and

provides direction for specific facilities and opportunities. A tabulation of county planning documents is contained in Section 3.14, Land Use.

### 3.13.2 Data Sources

The recreational resources in the analysis area were identified from a variety of public sources and from field reconnaissance conducted during January through March of 2011. Recreation information for public lands administered by the BLM and the USFS were identified from a review of available data in affected BLM FO RMPs and websites, and USFS National Forest LRMPs and websites. BLM recreation specialists or other FO personnel were contacted to acquire available BLM data in a digital or hard-copy format. In addition, designated parks and open spaces on county and municipal lands were identified from the recreation and open space elements of Comprehensive Plans, General Plans, and other land use management plans adopted by counties and incorporated cities within the analysis area. Scenic Byway information was obtained from data provided by the National and State Scenic Byway programs website.

### 3.13.3 Analysis Area

The alternative routes and ancillary facilities are located within 23 counties in 4 states and include federal lands managed by the BLM, USFS, various state agencies, municipal lands, and private lands. The majority of recreation resources within the analysis area occur on federal lands managed by the BLM and USFS.

The analysis area for characterizing recreation resources comprises all public general RAs and special recreation management areas for which any portion of the area is contained within the refined transmission corridor and extends up to 1 mile either side where access roads or construction support areas may be located as well as the siting areas for the terminals and electrode beds analysis area. The refined transmission corridor is large enough to include all access roads, substations, and other permanent or temporary facilities and would largely encompass all potential intrusions experienced by the public from the Project. Context for the impact to recreational areas and uses is obtained by considering the impact to the portion within the analysis area against the total special management area or area available for general recreation. In some cases, visual and noise effects to the recreation setting may require a wider analysis area for the full characterization and impact analysis of those resources. Analysis areas for related resources are defined in the appropriate sections (Section 3.12, Visual Resources; Section 3.18.5, Noise) and are incorporated by reference in this section as applicable.

### 3.13.4 Baseline Description

Outdoor recreation opportunities on public lands in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada are a key factor that has attracted many people to the western U.S. The proximity of USFS, BLM, and other public lands to urbanized areas and rural communities is important to the quality of life for many residents and also is an important lifestyle factor in the increasing populations of many western communities. In addition, recreational use on public lands helps support the economies of western communities and states. The demand for outdoor recreation in the West has risen substantially, by 65 percent in the last 30 years (BLM Undated). Recreation in the analysis area includes a broad range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities on public and private lands.

#### 3.13.4.1 Recreation Use Estimates and Trends

<u>BLM</u>

The BLM provides annual public lands statistics (BLM 2011a) that include an overview of recreational use and opportunities on public lands. BLM offices are responsible for collecting and maintaining various data related to the recreation program. The field-level data are aggregated in the BLM's

Recreation Management Information System database. **Table 3.13-2** summarizes estimated visitor use of BLM lands by state from 2000 to 2010.

**Table 3.13-2 Estimated Recreation Use on BLM Lands by State, 2000 – 2010**

| Administrative State | Developed Recreation Sites | | Dispersed Areas | | Recreation Lease Sites | | Recreation Partnership Sites | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Visits (1,000)[1] | Visitor Days (1,000)[2] | Visits (1,000)[1] | Visitor Days (1,000)[2] | Visits (1,000)[1] | Visitor Days (1,000)[2] | Visits (1,000)[1] | Visitor Days (1,000)[2] | Visits (1,000)[1] | Visitor Days (1,000)[2] |
| **Colorado** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2000 | 2,356 | 1,122 | 2,400 | 2,084 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 4,576 | 3,206 |
| 2010 | 2,497 | 1,402 | 3,265 | 4,610 | 0 | 0 | 686 | 127 | 6,448 | 6,139 |
| % change | 6.0% | 25.0% | 36.0% | 121.2% | -- | -- | -- | -- | 40.9% | 91.5% |
| **Nevada** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2000 | 1,822 | 695 | 3,223 | 3,415 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 5,045 | 4,110 |
| 2010 | 2,311 | 1,606 | 3,639 | 2,960 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 5 | 5,971 | 4,571 |
| % change | 26.8% | 131.1% | 12.9% | -13.3% | -- | -- | -- | -- | 18.4% | 11.2% |
| **Utah** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2000 | 3,602 | 3,062 | 2,567 | 4,750 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 6,169 | 7,812 |
| 2010 | 2,888 | 1,987 | 2,998 | 3,190 | 21 | 8 | 183 | 178 | 6,090 | 5,363 |
| % change | -19.8% | -35.1% | 16.8% | -32.8% | -- | -- | -- | -- | -1.3% | -31.3% |
| **Wyoming** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2000 | 1,676 | 423 | 1,979 | 1,862 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 3,655 | 2,285 |
| 2010 | 1,148 | 729 | 1,261 | 765 | 0 | 0 | 43 | 16 | 2,452 | 1,510 |
| % change | -31.5% | 72.3% | -36.3% | -58.9% | -- | -- | -- | -- | -32.9% | -33.9% |

[1] A visit is the entry of any person for recreational purposes onto lands and related waters administered by the BLM, regardless of duration.

[2] One visitor day represents an aggregate of 12 visitor hours at a site or area.

Sources: BLM 2011a, 2001b.

Visits to both developed recreation sites and dispersed RAs on BLM-managed lands and waters have increased in Colorado and Nevada, while visits to BLM-developed recreation sites and dispersed RAs in Wyoming have decreased. Utah has experienced an increase in the use of BLM dispersed RAs, but an apparent decline in use of developed recreation sites. Recreation lease sites and recreation partnership sites accounted for nearly a total of 1 million additional visits to BLM lands in all four states in 2010. Recreation visits on BLM lands in all four states increased by 7 percent between 2000 and 2010 (BLM 2011a). This has led to greater and more diverse forms of recreation use, as well as an increase in user conflicts and public concern over the most appropriate uses and management of the public lands. For all public lands, public demand for outdoor recreation, driven in part by a growing U.S. population and rising international visitation, continues to intensify; however, population increases in western states are not reflected in increasing visitation to BLM-managed lands in Utah and Wyoming. Other factors that may contribute to differing trends in recreation use estimates between the four states could include relative levels of disposable incomes, relative age of the population, or other demographic differences.

USFS

The National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) program provides estimates of the volume and characteristics of recreation visitation to NFS lands to help the USFS manage its recreation resources in a way that meets the needs of visitors while maintaining the quality of the natural resource base.

The NVUM program conducts more than 100,000 visitor surveys on NFS lands every 5 years, with 20 percent of the national forests conducting surveys each year. This nationwide visitor use survey provides statistically sound estimates of visitation to each national forest and to each site type. The visitation data for the Ashley, Dixie, Fishlake, Manti-La Sal, and Uinta National Forest Planning Area[1], shown in **Table 3.13-3**, are from NVUM data collection completed from FY2002 through FY2011. Each forest gets sampled once every 5 years, so in a given year several forests are engaged in NVUM field data collection. Those forests that completed their NVUM work in 2009 were updating visitation estimates from approximately 5 years earlier. The NVUM data does not provide trend measures, but reports only the most current visitation patterns and activities on NFS lands. Data for 2002 and 2006 for some forests shown in **Table 3.13-3** were collected from forest plans and may not represent the same sampling methods.

**Table 3.13-3 Estimated Recreation Use on National Forests Crossed by Analysis Area, 2002 to 2011**

| | Visits | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **National Forest** | **2002** | **2006** | **2007** | **2008** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** |
| Ashley | 1,338,428 | N/A | 960,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Dixie | N/A | 646,000 | N/A | N/A | 733,000 | N/A | N/A |
| Fishlake | 447,270 | 487,000 | N/A | 531,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Manti-La Sal | 804,301 | 672,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 352,000 |
| Uinta[1] | 2,840,000 | N/A | 2,934,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

[1] Reported visitation is for just the Uinta National Forest Planning Area. Because only recreation resources within the Uinta National Forest Planning Area are within the analysis area, all subsequent references to the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest will be only to the Uinta National Forest Planning Area.

N/A = not available.

Sources: USFS 2002 to 2011.

Based on the NVUM data, the Uinta National Forest Planning Area received the most visitation with about 3 million visits per year, with increased visitation between 2002 and 2007. The Ashley National Forest received between 900,000 and 1.4 million visits; current data show a decrease in visitation between 2002 and 2007. The Dixie and Manti-La Sal National Forests generally received between 500,000 and 800,000 visits per year; current data show an increase in visitation to the Dixie National Forest, while visitation on the Manti-La Sal National Forest dropped each reporting year, with a drop to below 400,000 in 2011 (USFS 2002 to 2011). The Fishlake National Forest received the least visitation, with an average visitation of less than 500,000.

### 3.13.4.2 Recreation Opportunities

Recreation opportunities exist on all public lands within the analysis area. Recreation opportunities may be dispersed or developed:

- Dispersed recreation opportunities include unstructured activities and typically occur in a more primitive setting. Dispersed, unstructured activities typify the recreational uses occurring on public (federal and state) lands throughout the majority of the analysis area. Dispersed recreation in the analysis area includes motorized and non-motorized activities such as undeveloped camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, rock and ice climbing, mountain biking, snowmobiling, caving, OHV trail riding or open area use, and driving for

[1] In March 2008, the Uinta National Forest and the Wasatch-Cache National Forest were combined into one administrative unit (Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest). Each of these forests continues to operate under individual forest plans approved in 2003. The term “Uinta National Forest Planning Area” is used to refer to the portion of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest managed under the 2003 LRMP for the Uinta National Forest.

pleasure. Dispersed recreation activities by Project region are included in Section 3.13.5, Regional Summary of Recreation Sites/Areas.

- Developed recreation sites on federal and state lands in the analysis area include campgrounds, picnic areas, information and interpretive sites, trailhead facilities, boat ramps, and fishing accesses. Federal agencies provide the majority of developed recreation facilities in the analysis area. City and county governments also provide public recreation facilities, consisting primarily of parks, trails, and open space areas. Privately owned recreation facilities in the analysis area include golf courses, private campgrounds, a hot springs, and facilities or services available through lodging providers. These facilities are listed by Project region in Section 3.13.5, Regional Summary of Recreation Sites/Areas.

Recreation opportunities also include special management areas designated by federal agencies, including BLM SRMAs, historic trails, scenic byways, etc. Management of SRMAs focuses on providing special recreation opportunities that would not otherwise be available to the public, reducing conflicts among users, minimizing damage to resources, and reducing visitor health and safety problems. Recreation opportunities within or along these areas may be developed or dispersed. Recreation opportunities also are present on undesignated lands, which are those areas managed by a federal agency for which no special management exists.

SRPs are required for some recreation activities on BLM public lands. They are used to ensure public health and safety, protect recreation and natural resources, and ensure the public receives a fair monetary return for certain recreation uses of BLM public lands. SRPs are required for commercial activities, competitive events, certain organized group activities, and in some designated special areas. For NFS lands, Special Use Permits (SUPs) are issued for some recreational events.

#### 3.13.4.3 Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classes in the Analysis Area

The end product of recreation management is the experience people have, and the key to providing high quality recreation experiences and opportunities is the recreation setting and how it is managed. The ROS system is used by land managers to guide management of recreation settings and opportunities. ROS classifications may be incorporated into both BLM and USFS land use planning processes. The ROS provides levels of development, facility investment, and management intensity according to the different settings under each class. Typically, the ROS is divided into six or seven major classes described in **Table 3.13-4**. These classes include conditions that range from high-density urban environments to primitive settings. Physical, social, and managerial conditions will vary along this continuum. In general, the analysis area is located primarily along existing roadway and utility corridors that are characterized by the ROS classes Roaded Natural, Roaded Modified, or Rural.

**Table 3.13-4 Recreational Opportunity Spectrum Classifications**

| ROS Class | Setting Description | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Sights and Sounds of Humans** | **Motorized Use/Parking** | **Area Characterization** |
| Urban | Predominant | Facilities for highly intensified motor use and parking are available | Large numbers of users can be expected, substantially urbanized environment although the background may have natural appearing elements |
| Rural | Readily evident | Facilities for intensified motorized use and parking are available | Considerable number of facilities are designated for use by a large number of people, moderate densities are provided far away from developed sites and facilities, substantially modified natural environment |
| Roaded Modified | Similar to the Roaded Natural setting, except this area has been heavily modified (roads or recreation facilities). This class still offers opportunity to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment and to have moderate challenge and risk and to use outdoor skills. | | |

**Table 3.13-4 Recreational Opportunity Spectrum Classifications**

| ROS Class | Setting Description | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Sights and Sounds of Humans | Motorized Use/Parking | Area Characterization |
| Roaded Natural | Moderate evidence | Conventional motorized use is provided for in construction standards and design of facilities | Interaction between users may be low to moderate, but with evidence of other users prevalent, predominantly natural appearing environment |
| Semi-primitive Motorized | Often evidence of other users | Motorized use may be evident | Concentration of users is low, predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment |
| Semi-primitive Non-motorized | Often evidence of other users | Public motorized use is not permitted | Interaction between users is low, predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment |
| Primitive | Minimal evidence of other users | Motorized use is not permitted | Interaction between users is very low, essentially unmodified natural environment |

The Fishlake, Ashley, and Manti-La Sal National Forests and Uinta National Forest Planning Area all utilize ROS classes to manage recreation. Although the Dixie National Forest LRMP does not utilize ROS classes, it does include developed recreation, semi-primitive recreation, and roaded natural recreation classifications that relate closely to ROS classes. Currently, most BLM FOs in the analysis area include very limited, if any, implementation of ROS in the RMPs; however, the Rawlins FO uses a ROS system composed of Primitive, Front Country, and Middle Country designations to guide recreation decisions within the Adobe Town DRUA. These designations are roughly analogous to the primitive, semi-primitive motorized, and roaded natural ROS categories described above.

#### 3.13.4.4 Special Recreation Management Areas

The BLM designates recreation management areas where recreation and visitor services objectives are recognized as a primary resource management consideration and specific management is required to protect the recreation opportunities. Such recreation management areas are designated as either a SRMA or an Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). SRMAs recognize unique and distinctive recreation values and are managed to enhance a targeted set of activities, experiences, benefits, and recreation setting characteristics, which become the priority management focus. ERMAs recognize existing recreation use and demand, and are managed to sustain principal recreation activities and associated qualities and conditions of the ERMA, commensurate with management of other resources (BLM 2011b). In some BLM FOs, all RAs not located within a SRMA are considered an ERMA. Generally, recreation opportunities in ERMAs are dispersed, unstructured activities that do not require intensive management or substantial investment in trails or facilities.

There are no designated recreation management areas on NFS lands within the analysis area.

SRMAs or ERMAs within the analysis area are identified for each Project region in Section 3.13.5, Regional Summary of Recreation Sites/Areas.

<u>National Recreational Areas</u>

NRAs are congressionally designated RAs, often centered on large reservoirs and emphasizing water-based recreation. Congressionally designated units of the NPS, including national RAs, and other similar Congressionally designated areas under the management of other agencies, have a higher level of national significance and protection than agency-designated land use classifications. Within the analysis area, the Lake Mead NRA is operated by the NPS and is located in southeastern Nevada and northwestern Arizona. The NRA encompasses two reservoirs (Lake Mead and Lake

Mohave) formed by the Colorado River, which flows through Glen Canyon NRA and Grand Canyon National Park before reaching the Lake Mead NRA. The Lake Mead NRA contains 1,482,476 acres of federal land and 28,212 acres of nonfederal land. The Lake Mead NRA offers year-round recreational opportunities for boating, fishing, hiking, photography, picnicking and sightseeing. It also is home to thousands of desert plants and animals. A description of the portion of the Lake Mead NRA that is within the Region IV analysis area is included in Section 3.13.5, Regional Summary of Recreation Sites/Areas.

National and State Scenic Byways and Backways

The National Scenic Byways (NSBs) Program was established under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 and reauthorized in 1998 under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. Under the program, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation recognizes certain roads as NSBs or All-American Roads based on their archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities.

To be considered for designation within the NSBs Program, a road must possess characteristics of regional importance within at least one of the six intrinsic quality categories identified above. Roads designated as All-American Roads must possess at least two of these intrinsic qualities at a level of national importance. Backways and byways are components of the NSB Program that meet the byway criteria, but generally do not meet full federal safety standards, meaning they are not wide enough, graded enough, or level enough to be safe year-round for passenger cars. States or federal agencies such as the BLM also may designate scenic byways or backways. In general, the terms NSB; All-American Road State Scenic Byway; Indian Tribe Scenic Byway; or USFS-, BLM-, BIA-, or NPS-designated Scenic Byway and Backway refer not only to the road or highway itself, but also to the corridor through which it passes.

The analysis area contains a number of scenic byways and backways. These roads and their intrinsic qualities are identified for each Project region in Section 3.13.5, Regional Summary of Recreation Sites/Areas. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, also contains information about the important landscapes viewed from scenic byways.

Designated National Trails and Other Recreational Trails

The National Trails System is a network of scenic, historic, and recreation trails created by the National Trails System Act of 1968 and amended in 1978 (NPS 2009).

- National recreation trails provide a variety of outdoor recreation uses in or reasonably accessible to urban areas.
- National scenic trail designation is extended to trails providing maximum outdoor recreation potential and conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities of the areas through which the trails may pass.
- National historic trail designation is extended to trails following as closely as possible and practicable to original trails or routes of travel of national historic significance.

There is one National Recreation Trail within the analysis area, the River Mountains Loop Trail, located near Las Vegas, Nevada. This 35-mile trail is a multi-use trail managed by the City of Henderson, Bureau of Reclamation, City of Boulder, and NPS. The River Mountains Loop Trail also is a National Millennium Trail. Impacts to this trail are discussed in Section 3.13.6.12, Region IV.

There is one National Scenic Trail that passes through the analysis area: the CDNST. Impacts to this trail are discussed in Section 3.13.6.9, Region I.

The Old Spanish NHT crosses the analysis area at numerous locations in Utah and Nevada in Regions II, III, and IV. The Old Spanish Trail route was established along a network of Native American footpaths that crossed the expanse of the Colorado Plateau and the Mojave Desert. While there are public and private organizations offering interpretation and education, cultural activities, and local heritage recreational events in some areas along the route (Old Spanish Trail Association 2011), the Old Spanish NHT is primarily a historic resource, not a recreational trail. Impacts to the Old Spanish NHT and other historic trails are therefore analyzed in Section 3.11, Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns, and Section 3.15, Special Designation Areas. However, it is unknown at this time if the segments of the historic trails/roads/highways crossed by the alternatives are contributing segments to these linear resources overall NRHP eligibility. Visual impacts to historic trails also are discussed in Section 3.12, Visual Resources.

State Wildlife Management Areas, Cooperative Wildlife Management Units, and State Parks

The analysis area contains two Wyoming state WHMAs, two Colorado SWAs, one hunting lease, and 23 units within the Utah WMA system. These WMAs have been established to preserve fish and wildlife habitat and to provide recreational opportunities including fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing. TransWest would need to apply to the managing entity for access to a permanent ROW within WMAs. Because WMAs are often acquired with Federal Aid funds to protect wildlife habitat, the USFWS-Fed Aid would need to make a determination on whether or not the proposed access and ROW would compromise the purposes for which the property was acquired before TransWest's application would be approved. Similarly, three of the WMAs totaling 6,900 acres are managed as partial mitigation for the Central Utah Project. These properties are a mix of State of Utah (39 percent) and Federal (61 percent) ownership. The Mitigation Commission, in consultation with the USFWS, would need to make a determination on whether or not the proposed access would compromise the purposes for which the properties were acquired and the appropriate compensatory mitigation that would be required should a ROW be approved.

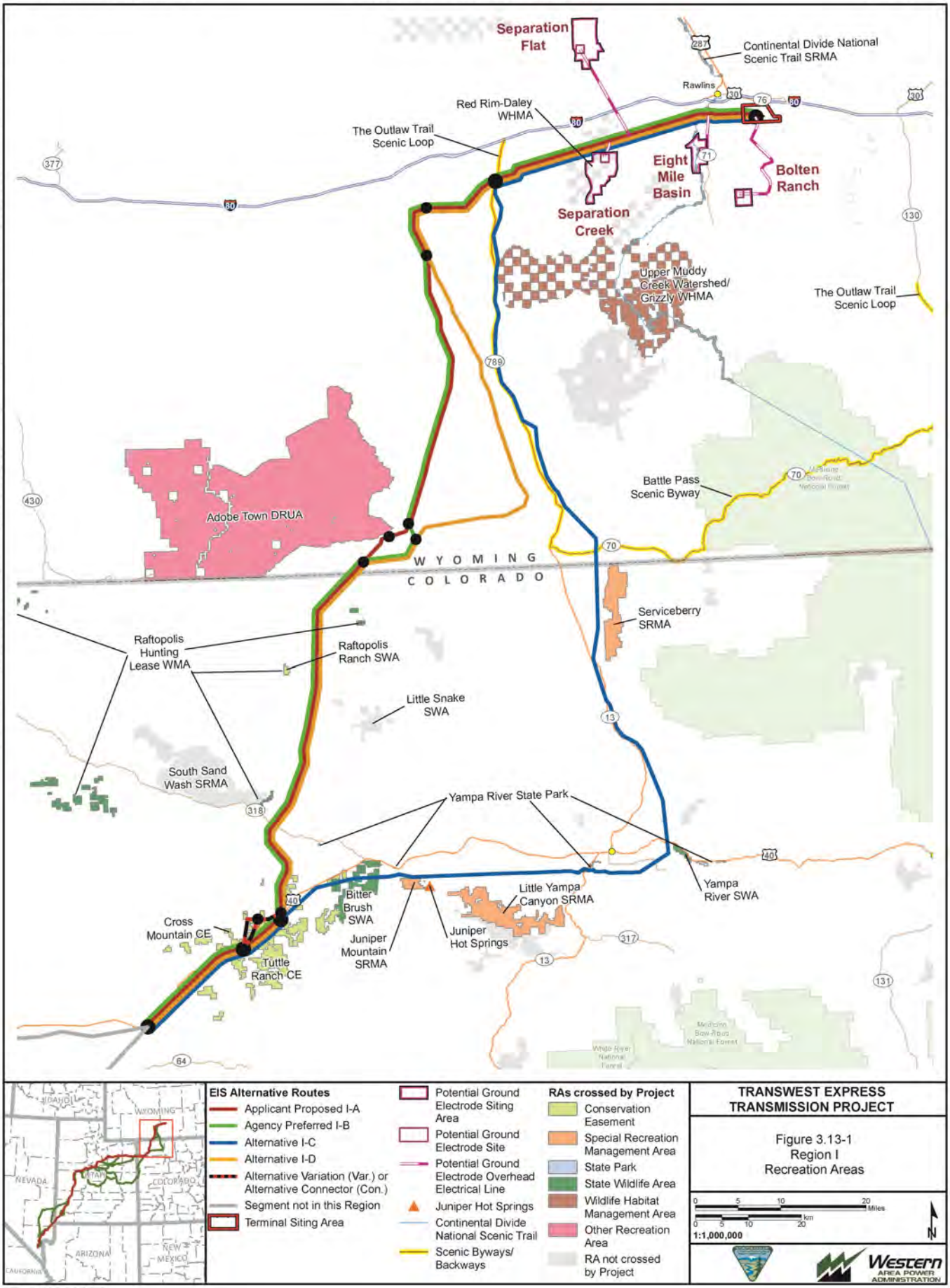
The analysis area also contains 15 CWMUs in Utah. These CWMUs are hunting areas consisting of mostly private lands that have been authorized for the specific purpose of managing big game animals. CWMUs may have special management that would preclude development of roads or transmission lines. The analysis area also includes two state parks. WHMAs, SWAs, WMAs, CWMUs, and State Parks are described by Region in Section 3.15.3, Baseline Description, and included in **Figures 3.13-1** through **3.13-5**.

Other Special Management Areas

In addition to designated RAs, there are federally designated special management areas within the analysis area where recreation occurs, including wilderness areas, WSAs, roadless areas, national monuments, and ACECs. These areas generally provide opportunities for solitude and dispersed recreation activities in a primitive setting, but are not managed primarily for recreation. Wilderness areas, WSAs, ACECs, roadless areas, national monuments, and other special designation areas are described in more detail in Section 3.15, Special Designation Areas.

#### 3.13.4.5 Off-highway Vehicle Use on Dispersed and Specially Managed Recreation Areas

OHV use is one of the fastest growing recreational activities on public lands (USFS Undated). Annual retail purchases of OHVs in the U.S. increased by 280 percent over a 10-year period from 368,600 OHVs in 1996 to 1,034,966 in 2006 (USFS 2008). OHV types used within the analysis area include all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), cars/trucks/sport utility vehicles, motorcycles, and snowmobiles; although the majority of OHV participants in the analysis area use cars/trucks/SUVs. In addition to riding OHVs as a recreation activity, OHVs provide transport for non-recreation public uses


Separation Flat
Continental Divide National Scenic Trail SRMA
Rawlins
Red Rim-Daley WHMA
The Outlaw Trail Scenic Loop
Eight Mile Basin
Bolten Ranch
Separation Creek
Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/ Grizzly WHMA
The Outlaw Trail Scenic Loop
Battle Pass Scenic Byway
Adobe Town DRUA
WYOMING
COLORADO
Serviceberry SRMA
Raftopolis Hunting Lease WMA
Raftopolis Ranch SWA
Little Snake SWA
South Sand Wash SRMA
Yampa River State Park
Yampa River SWA
Little Yampa Canyon SRMA
Bitter Brush SWA
Juniper Mountain SRMA
Juniper Hot Springs
Cross Mountain CE
Tuttle Ranch CE
IDAHO
WYOMING
NEVADA
UTAH
COLORADO
ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO
CALIFORNIA
EIS Alternative Routes
Applicant Proposed I-A
Agency Preferred I-B
Alternative I-C
Alternative I-D
Alternative Variation (Var.) or Alternative Connector (Con.)
Segment not in this Region
Terminal Siting Area
Potential Ground Electrode Siting Area
Potential Ground Electrode Site
Potential Ground Electrode Overhead Electrical Line
Juniper Hot Springs
Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
Scenic Byways/ Backways
RAs crossed by Project
Conservation Easement
Special Recreation Management Area
State Park
State Wildlife Area
Wildlife Habitat Management Area
Other Recreation Area
RA not crossed by Project
TRANSWEST EXPRESS TRANSMISSION PROJECT
Figure 3.13-1
Region I
Recreation Areas
Miles
km
1:1,000,000
N
Western AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
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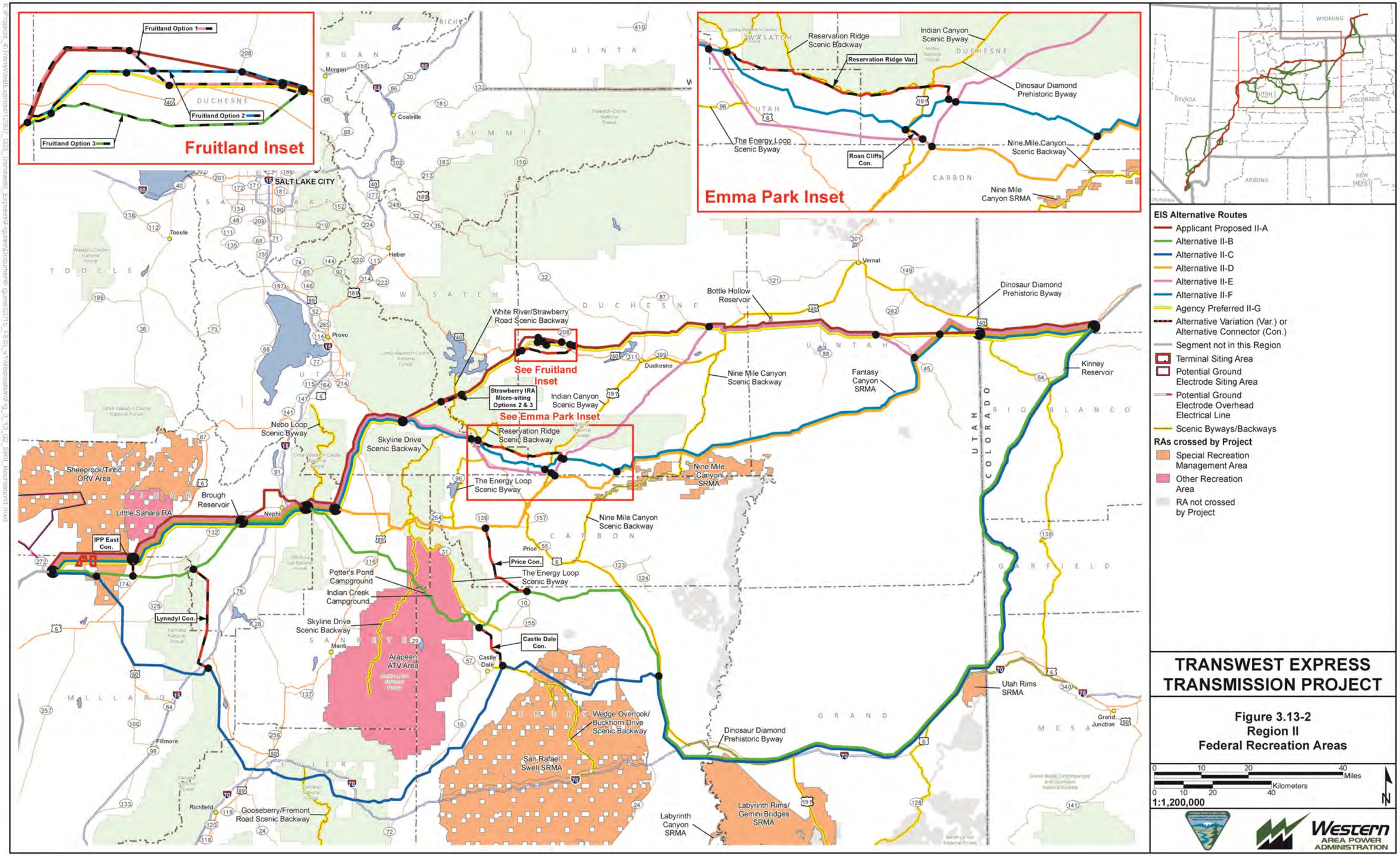


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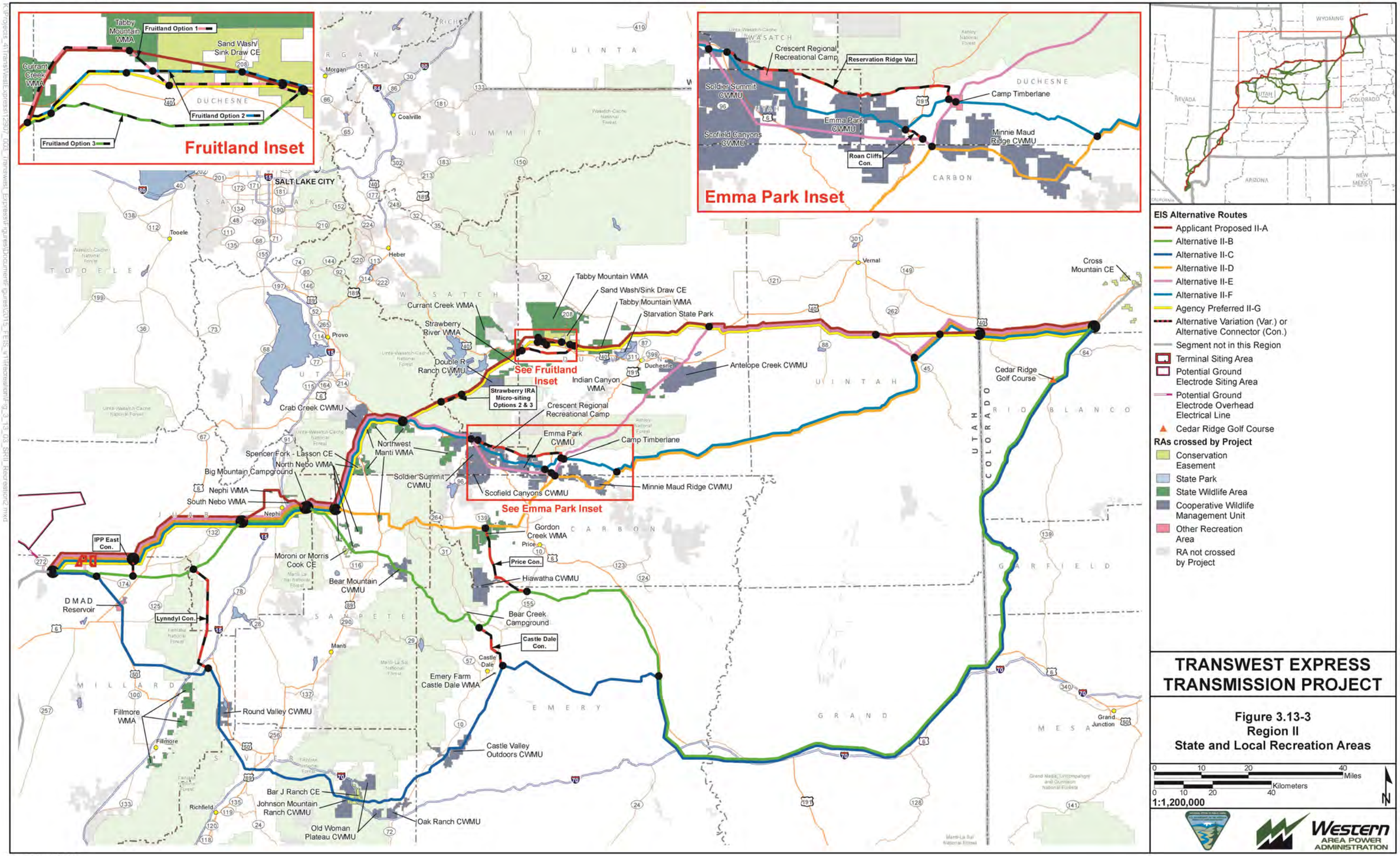


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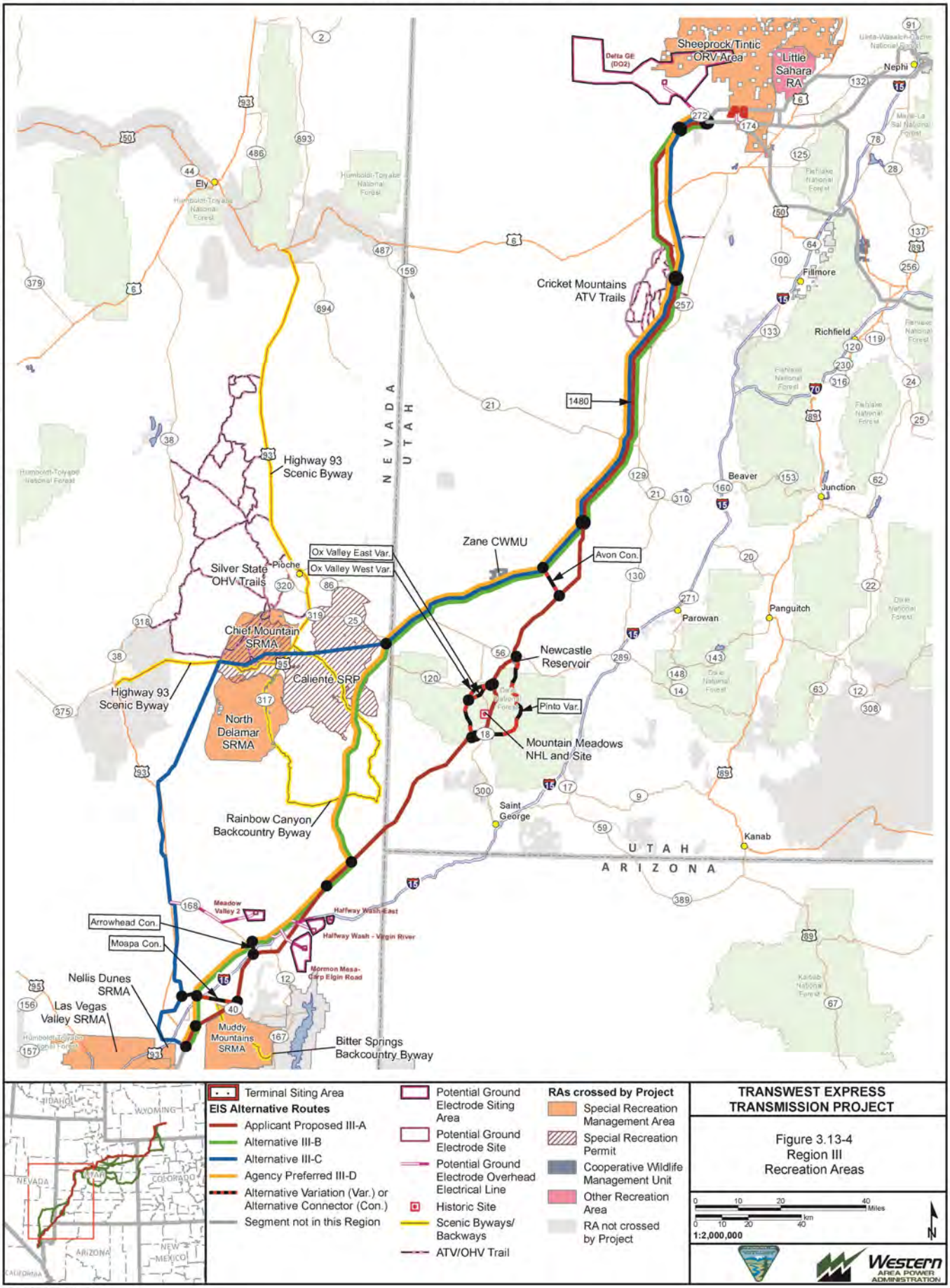


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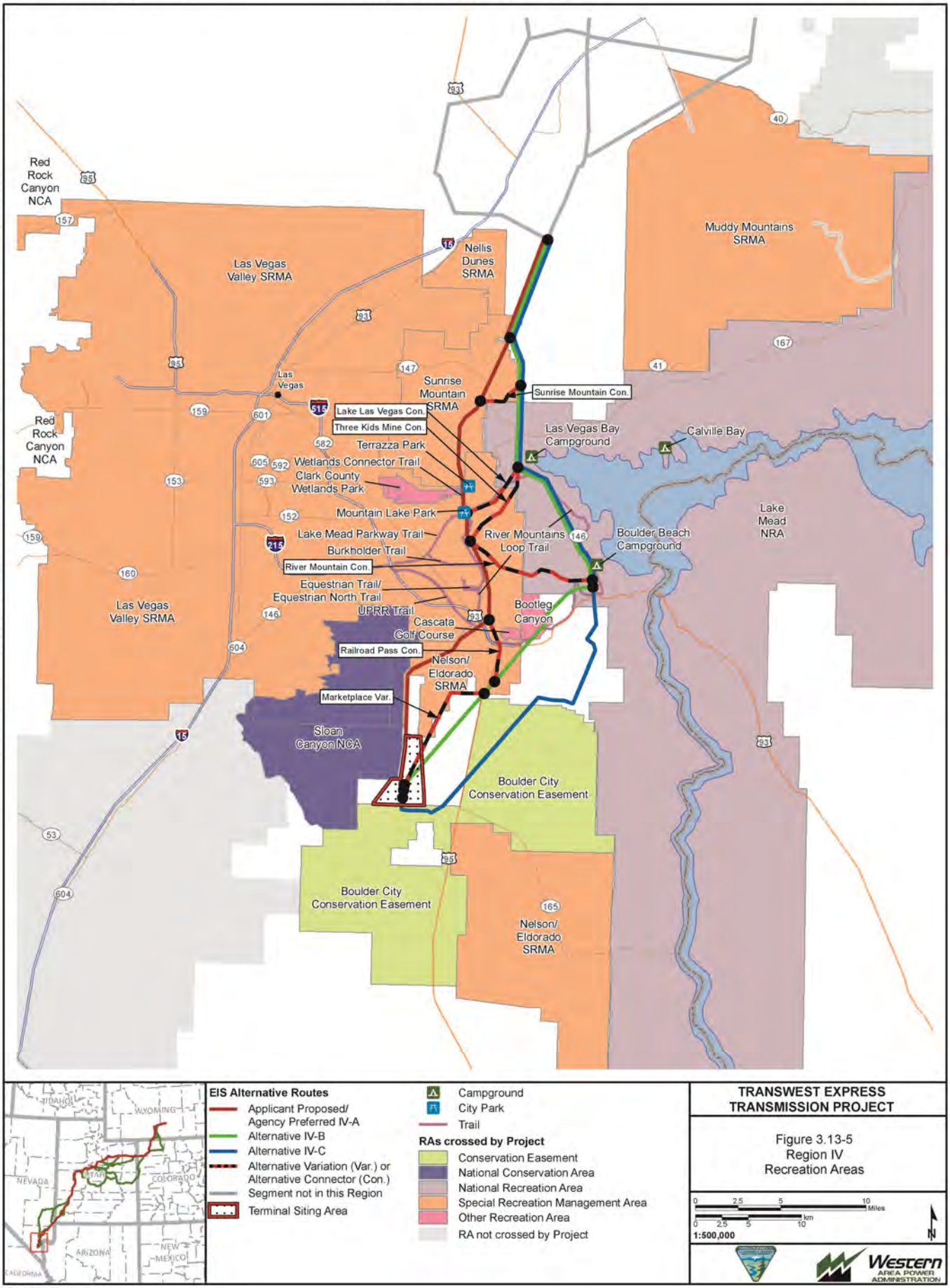
Red Rock Canyon NCA
Las Vegas Valley SRMA
Nellis Dunes SRMA
Muddy Mountains SRMA
Las Vegas
Sunrise Mountain SRMA
Sunrise Mountain Con.
Lake Las Vegas Con.
Three Kids Mine Con.
Terrazza Park
Wetlands Connector Trail
Clark County Wetlands Park
Mountain Lake Park
Lake Mead Parkway Trail
Burkholder Trail
River Mountain Con.
Equestrian Trail/ Equestrian North Trail
UPRR Trail
Cascata Golf Course
Railroad Pass Con.
Nelson/ Eldorado SRMA
Marketplace Var.
Sloan Canyon NCA
Las Vegas Bay Campground
Calville Bay
River Mountains Loop Trail
Boulder Beach Campground
Lake Mead NRA
Bootleg Canyon
Boulder City Conservation Easement
Boulder City Conservation Easement
Nelson/ Eldorado SRMA
Las Vegas Valley SRMA
Red Rock Canyon NCA
EIS Alternative Routes
Applicant Proposed/ Agency Preferred IV-A
Alternative IV-B
Alternative IV-C
Alternative Variation (Var.) or Alternative Connector (Con.)
Segment not in this Region
Terminal Siting Area
Campground
City Park
Trail
RAs crossed by Project
Conservation Easement
National Conservation Area
National Recreation Area
Special Recreation Management Area
Other Recreation Area
RA not crossed by Project
TRANSWEST EXPRESS TRANSMISSION PROJECT
Figure 3.13-5
Region IV
Recreation Areas
1:500,000
Miles
km
Western AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
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such as grazing, oil and gas development, and other authorized uses of public lands (see Section 3.14, Land Use), as well as transport for recreation opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and camping. OHV use occurs both on- and off roads and trails as designated by federal agencies that manage land in the analysis area.

Increasing OHV traffic on public lands has caused the uncontrolled proliferation of user-created, undesignated trails arising from repeated cross-country travel. Unauthorized motorized use causes natural resource damage (e.g., soils, habitat) and increased public safety concerns (USFS Undated). In 1972, EO No. 11644 was issued, requiring each federal agency to designate “areas and trails” for ORV use or restriction, and to develop regulations to implement the Executive Order (BLM 2001a). The BLM’s regulations (43 CFR 8340) established management areas as either “open,” “limited,” or “closed” to ORV use.

- Open: an area where all types of vehicle use is permitted at all times, anywhere in the area subject to the operating regulations and vehicle standards. The BLM designates areas as “open” for intensive ORV use where there are no compelling resource protection needs, user conflicts, or public safety issues to warrant limiting cross-country travel.
- Limited: an area restricted at certain times, in certain areas, and/or to certain vehicular use. These restrictions may be of any type, but can generally be accommodated within the following type of categories: numbers of vehicles; types of vehicles; time or season of vehicle use; permitted or licensed use only; use on existing roads and trails; use on designated roads and trails; and other restrictions. The agency designates areas as “limited” where it must restrict ORV use in order to meet specific resource management objectives. The BLM also may enact other limitations to protect resources, particularly in areas that motorized OHV enthusiasts use intensively or where they participate in competitive events.
- Closed: an area where ORV use is prohibited. The BLM designates areas as “closed” if closure to all vehicular use is necessary to protect resources, ensure visitor safety, or reduce use conflicts.

The BLM’s OHV designations are determined through the land use planning process.

For lands within the NFS, each national forest or ranger district designates roads, trails, and areas as open or closed to motor vehicles. In general, OHV use within national forests is limited to existing or designated roads and trails. NFS road and trail designations include class of vehicle and, if appropriate, time of year for motor vehicle use. USFS travel designations are required to be shown on a motor vehicle use map (USFS 2011). Outside of BLM and USFS lands, some OHV use is allowed. A summary of OHV designations by agency is included in the regional summaries contained in Section 3.13.5, Regional Summary of Recreation Sites/Areas.

### 3.13.5 Regional Summary of Recreation Sites/Areas

Summaries of dispersed and developed recreation opportunities and special designated management areas are provided by Project Region in the sections below.

#### 3.13.5.1 Region I

Within Region I, three BLM FOs provide a variety of recreation opportunities in Wyoming and Colorado: Rawlins, Little Snake, and White River. Recreation opportunities available on lands within the analysis area generally include hunting, fishing, geocaching, wildlife viewing, boating, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, rock hounding, camping, OHV use, and picnicking. BLM recreation lands contain almost no developed facilities. There are no USFS lands within the Region I analysis area. There is one NPS-managed national monument in the Region I analysis area (also discussed in Section 3.15, Special Designation Areas). A brief description of dispersed recreation activities by BLM FO is included in **Table 3.13-5**. **Table 3.13-6** identifies all federally managed special recreation

management areas within the Region I analysis area. There is only one recently designated scenic byway, but no designated backways, within the analysis area. **Figure 3.13-1** identifies all RAs within the Region I analysis area.

**Table 3.13-5 Federally Managed Dispersed Recreation Opportunities within Region I Analysis Area**

| Managing Entity | Key Dispersed Recreation Activities within Analysis Area |
|---|---|
| BLM Rawlins FO, Wyoming | The FO encompasses approximately 3.5 million acres of BLM-managed public lands. Dispersed recreation activities on public lands include wildlife viewing, hunting, hiking, backpacking, OHV use, fishing, biking, photography, camping, orienteering, and floating. Access to public lands is limited due to the checkerboard pattern of land ownership. Access for dispersed recreation occurs through Carbon County roads and BLM roads, the CDNST (discussed below), the North Platte River, and across public lands. Hunting occurs on federal land sections that are accessible by public roads or with permission of the private landowner. OHV use is limited to existing roads and vehicle routes within the checkerboard area and limited to designated roads and trails between the checkerboard area and the state line. The analysis area includes portions of the 238,970-acre Adobe Town DRUA, which is managed to provide dispersed recreation in an undeveloped recreation setting. The Rim Lake recreation site, a small day use and fishing area, also is located within the analysis area. The analysis area also includes portions of the Battle Pass Scenic Byway as well as the Outlaw Trail Scenic Loop, which is not a designated NSB, but is a recommended recreational driving route. |
| BLM Little Snake FO, Colorado | The FO encompasses approximately 1,336,900 acres of BLM-managed public lands. Dispersed recreation activities on public lands include hunting, fishing, geocaching, wildlife/wild horse viewing, boating, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, rock hounding, camping, OHV use, and picnicking. Hunting is a popular recreation activity. The area west of Craig/Maybell is excellent for pronghorn antelope hunting. OHV use is limited to existing roads and trails pending transportation planning; the Juniper Mountain SRMA is limited to designated roads and trails. The Yampa River is very popular for fishing, boating and floating, especially on weekends. The Yampa River is one of the most hydrologically and biologically intact rivers in the West. The portion of the Yampa River between Craig and Maybell receives intensive recreation use and is renowned for its high quality scenery and recreation opportunities. Flatwater boating occurs on both the Yampa and Little Snake rivers. The Great Divide and Little Snake River areas are valued for their open and relatively undeveloped character for sightseeing. The area contains several special management areas (discussed below). Equestrian activities on public lands in the Little Snake Resource Area generally occur on existing roads and trails or open country areas. Popular equestrian areas exist in the South Sand Wash and Little Yampa Canyon SRMAs (discussed below). |
| BLM White River FO, Colorado | The FO encompasses 1.5 million acres of BLM-managed public lands. Dispersed recreation activities are available in the analysis area. |

Sources: BLM 2012a-d, 2011c, 2008a, 1987a; Public Lands Information Center 2013.

**Table 3.13-6 Federally Managed Special Recreation Management Areas within Region I Analysis Area**

| Managing Entity | Recreation Site/Area[1] | Description |
|---|---|---|
| BLM Rawlins FO, Wyoming | CDNST SRMA | 600-acre SRMA containing about 82 miles of trail. Recreation activities on the trail include hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and limited motor vehicle use. The 3,100-mile CDNST runs along the Rocky Mountains from Canada to Mexico and is managed to provide high quality primitive hiking and horseback riding opportunities in diverse country along the trail, and to conserve natural, historic, and cultural resources along the trail corridor (USFS 2009). Within the SRMA, the BLM Rawlins FO manages the trail to emphasize interpretive and educational opportunities and to ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreation opportunities associated with the trail. Recreation activities within the SRMA include backpacking, mountain biking, camping, hunting, OHV use, picnicking, and wildlife viewing. The SRMA is an avoidance area for linear utility systems. |

**Table 3.13-6 Federally Managed Special Recreation Management Areas within Region I Analysis Area**

| Managing Entity | Recreation Site/Area[1] | Description |
|---|---|---|
| BLM Little Snake FO, Colorado | South Sand Wash SRMA | 35,510 acres. Recreation activities in the SRMA include wildlife/wild horse viewing, hunting, rock hounding, mountain biking, camping, antler gathering, and OHV use. Zone 1: open off-road motorized recreation. Zone 2: single-track and double-track OHV riding, limited to designated roads and trails. Physical, social, and administrative prescribed setting character is rural; near improved country roads and a highway, large groups and conspicuous and large-scale landscape alteration. |
| | Juniper Mountain SRMA | 1,780 acres. Recreation activities in the SRMA include boating, hunting, camping, and hiking. ROW avoidance area. Zone 1: Day use motorized and non-motorized boating. Zone 2: Hunting (national- and regional-level destination big game hunting), camping, hiking, and horseback riding. The physical setting character is natural landscape with some primitive and maintained roads and trails. The social and administrative setting is backcountry, where encounters with other people will be from 3 to 6 people and landscape alterations are uncommon. |
| | Serviceberry SRMA | 12,375 acres. Zone 1: Non-motorized hunting and heritage interpretation/education. Zone 2: Non-motorized big game hunting and undeveloped camping in a backcountry setting. |
| | Little Yampa Canyon SRMA | 27,310 acres. Managed to provide river boating, big game hunting, camping, wildlife viewing, and interpretation/education opportunities for local communities and visitors to the area. VRM Class II for areas within line of sight from the river within the SRMA; VRM Class III elsewhere. BLM and Colorado Parks and Wildlife cooperatively enforce all applicable laws and regulations on public lands within the Yampa River corridor. Colorado Parks and Wildlife is the primary manager of the Yampa River public land access sites, including those on BLM lands, under a cooperative agreement with BLM. |
| | Yampa Valley Trail (not a SRMA) | 100-mile motorized and non-motorized trail along the Yampa River. Recreation uses on the trail include mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, wildlife viewing, and OHV use. Includes the East and West Juniper Mountain trailheads. Portions of the trail are within the Little Yampa Canyon SRMA. Portions of the trail are located on primary and secondary Moffat County roads, which also are used for commerce such as hauling goods and services, livestock transport, and other daily uses of county roads. |
| NPS | Dinosaur National Monument | Dinosaur National Monument consists of 209,444 acres and offers a variety of recreation opportunities, including river rafting on the Green and Yampa rivers, scenic driving, stargazing, hiking, bicycling, camping, fishing, horseback riding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and fossil viewing. The monument also offers guided tours. |

[1] Within each BLM FO, other specially designated areas, such as WSAs, WSRs, wilderness areas, or ACECs have recreational use, but are not designated specifically for recreational use. These other areas are analyzed in Section 3.15, Special Designation Areas.

Sources: BLM 2012a-d, 2011c, 2010, 2008a, 1987a, Undated 2; NPS 2013b.

Within the Wyoming portion of the analysis area, WGFD manages two WHMAs primarily used for hunting. Within the Colorado portion of the analysis area, CPW manages one state park, which includes several popular recreation access points along the Yampa River; two SWAs; and portions of State Trust lands that are part of the Public Access Program and are available for hunting, wildlife viewing, and fishing. One private recreation site also is located in Region I, Juniper Hot Springs. **Table 3.13-7** provides a list of all state managed RAs within the analysis area, including key resource values and recreation activities.

**Table 3.13-7 State and Locally Managed Recreation Areas within Region I Analysis Area**

| Managing Entity | Management Area | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Wyoming Game and Fish | Red Rim – Daley WHMA | 25,177 acres. Provides crucial winter habitat for pronghorn antelope and a variety of other wildlife. Open all year, however, drifting snow closes most trails in early winter. Recreation activities include hunting (elk, deer, antelope, moose, and upland game birds); camping; hiking; and wildlife viewing. |
| | Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly WHMA | 59,783 acres. Utility ROW avoidance area. Managed for Colorado River fish species unique to the Muddy Creek watershed and for crucial winter habitat for elk and mule deer. Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and vehicle routes. Surface disturbing activities buffers exist around aquatic resources. |
| Colorado Parks and Wildlife | Bitter Brush SWA | 8,057 acres. Recreation activities include hunting (deer, elk, and pronghorn) and wildlife viewing. Public access is prohibited from January 15 through April 30. Vehicle access is restricted to Moffat CR-59 and CR-143. |
| | Yampa River SWA | 860 acres. Recreation activities include northern pike fishing, waterfowl hunting, wildlife-watching, and boating. Area includes put-in and take-out access point for boaters. |
| | Raftopolous Hunting Lease | 11,383 acres. CDOW conservation easement on private lands for hunting use. |
| | Yampa River State Park | 134-mile-long portion of the river, stretching from Hayden, Colorado, to Dinosaur National Monument on the Utah border. There are 13 river access points, 6 of which are within the analysis area (from east to west):<br>• Yampa River SWA (see above).<br>• South Beach (Pump Station) Access Point: 3 miles south of Craig. Offers fishing, camping, and boat launching. Access from this point offers an opportunity to float into "Little Yampa Canyon," a 32-mile stretch of river to the next access point.<br>• Juniper Mountain Access Point: 20 miles west of Craig. Offers camping, picnicking, fishing, boat launching, and wildlife viewing.<br>• Maybell Bridge Access Point: In Maybell. Improved site, offers picnic sites and overnight camping.<br>• Sunbeam Access Point: 7 miles northwest of Maybell. Primarily for boat launching; minimal facilities and no overnight camping.<br>• East Cross Mountain Access Point: 18 miles southwest of Maybell. Improved site, camping permitted.<br>Colorado Parks and Wildlife is the primary manager of the Yampa River public land access sites, including those on BLM lands, under a cooperative agreement with BLM. |
| Private | Juniper Hot Springs | Located south of Maybell, Colorado. Several mineral spring pools are available and camping is allowed. |

Sources: All Trips Steamboat Springs Colorado 2011; BLM 2010, 2008a; CDOW 2011, 2010, 2009; CPW 2012, Colorado State Parks 2011a,b; Craig Chamber of Commerce 2009; Field and Stream 2010; Juniper Hot Springs 2013; WGFD 2011, 2008.

### 3.13.5.2 Region II

Recreation opportunities within this region are provided by a variety of entities, including eight BLM FOs, four national forests, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, the Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation, one county, one tribe, and several private entities/associations. Recreation opportunities on lands within the analysis area include: OHV use, fishing, boating, camping, picnicking, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, scenic driving, and wildlife viewing. Only a few recreation sites within the region contain developed facilities. The region includes 17 WMAs/ units in Utah that primarily provide hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. In addition, the Utah Cooperative Wildlife Management Association manages 14 hunting units in the region. Emery County, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and a private company operate four campgrounds within the region. Brief descriptions of dispersed and developed recreation opportunities by BLM FO and national forest are included in **Tables 3.13-8** and **3.13-9**. **Table 3.13-10** identifies scenic byways and BLM backways within the Region II analysis area. **Table 3.13-11** identifies all federally managed

special recreation management areas within the Region II analysis area, and **Table 3.13-12** identifies all state and locally managed RAs within the Region II analysis area. **Figure 3.13-2** identifies all federally managed RAs within the Region II analysis area. **Figure 3.13-3** identifies all state and locally managed RAs within the Region II analysis area.

**Table 3.13-8 BLM-Managed Recreation Opportunities within Region II Analysis Area**

| Managing Entity | Key Recreation Activities within Analysis Area |
|---|---|
| White River FO, Colorado | 1.5 million acres of BLM-managed public lands. Recreation activities available in the analysis area include fishing and boating on the White River, and at Kinney Reservoir, as well as big game and mountain lion hunting, rock crawling, scenic driving, cultural tourism, and OHV use. |
| Grand Junction FO, Colorado | 1,280,000 acres of BLM-managed public lands. Recreation activities in the north desert area include motorized uses, including an open OHV use area, hunting, and recreational shooting. Within the Book Cliff area, recreation activities include wild horse viewing, hiking, and horseback riding. |
| Moab FO, Utah | 1.8 million acres of BLM-managed public lands, which are a destination RA with 2 million annual site visits. Recreation activities support hundreds of local jobs and the bulk of the local business community. Recreation opportunities include mountain biking; dirt bike, OHV, and jeep use; rock climbing; river rafting; casual sightseeing; and hiking. The FO experiences a high number of seasonal visitors and an intense demand for recreational activities. Busy seasons include both spring and fall, with spring bringing the most visitors to the area. Summer visitation is mainly associated with touring the nearby National Parks and with river-related activities. |
| Vernal FO, Utah | 1,697,039 acres of BLM-managed public lands. Recreation opportunities within the FO area include bird watching, camping, fishing, hiking, river running on the Green River, hunting, mountain biking, recreational driving, OHV use, and historical tourism. The analysis area contains a portion of the Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway. |
| Price FO, Utah | 2,479,000 acres of BLM-managed public lands. Recreation activities include camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, mountain biking, caving, river running, wildlife viewing, visiting historic sites, sailing, OHV use, and fishing and boating on the Green River, Price River, and San Rafael River. Historical tourism is available at dinosaur quarries and provides examples of prehistoric Fremont Culture. Key recreational areas include the San Rafael Swell, which is 2,000 square miles of public land known for its scenic sandstone formations, deep canyons, desert streams, and expansive panoramas. The analysis area contains a portion of the Energy Loop: Huntington/Eccles Canyons Scenic Byway, the Wedge Overlook/Buckhorn Drive Scenic Backway, and the Nine Mile Canyon Scenic Backway. |
| Richfield FO, Utah | 2.1 million acres of BLM-managed public lands. Recreation activities include bird watching, camping, hiking, OHV activities, horseback riding, whitewater boating, and recreational driving. Recreational opportunities are generally dispersed and without constructed facilities. |
| Salt Lake FO, Utah | 2 million acres of BLM-managed public lands. Recreation opportunities in the analysis area include camping, scenic backcountry driving, OHV use, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, mountain biking, rock climbing, wilderness backpacking, wildlife viewing, nature photography, rock hounding, and geocaching. |
| Fillmore FO, Utah | 4.7 million acres of BLM-managed public lands located on the eastern edge of the Basin and Range Geographic Province. Portions of the FO are in both Region II and Region III. Dispersed recreation opportunities within the Region II portions of the FO include hunting, fishing, hiking, round hounding, and OHV use, including 60,000 acres of sand dune riding in the Little Sahara RA and OHV events and casual riding within the almost 400,000 acre Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area. |

Sources: BLM 2012d-k, 2008b-e, 1997a, 1990, 1987a-c; Emery County 2013.

**Table 3.13-9 Forest Service-Managed Recreation Opportunities within Region II Analysis Area**

<table>
<tr><th>National Forest</th><th>Key Recreation Activities within Analysis Area</th></tr>
<tr><td>Ashley National Forest</td><td>1.4 million acres of USFS-managed public lands. Recreation opportunities within the analysis area are dispersed and include hiking, camping, OHV use, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Recreation activities mostly occur along the Sowers Canyon Road (National Forest System Road 10152) at the forks of drainages to the canyon. The upper areas of the IRA are used very little due to steep terrain and limited access. The analysis area includes the Indian Canyon Scenic Byway and portions of the Reservation Ridge Scenic Backway. The analysis area includes portions of the Duchesne/Roosevelt Ranger District and does not contain any developed recreation sites. The Avintaquin Campground is located just outside of the analysis area.<br>Considered as a whole, the Ashley National Forest contains the following acreage by ROS class:
<table>
<tr><td>Urban</td><td>N/A</td><td>0%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Rural</td><td>N/A</td><td>0%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Roaded Modified</td><td>N/A</td><td>0%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Roaded Natural</td><td>454,465 acres</td><td>32%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Semi-primitive Motorized</td><td>280,820 acres</td><td>20%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Semi-primitive Non-motorized</td><td>372,415 acres</td><td>26%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Primitive</td><td>300,040 acres</td><td>21%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-inventoried, unknown, or private</td><td>3,379 acres</td><td><1%</td></tr>
<tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>1,407,743 acres</td><td>100%</td></tr>
</table>
The analysis area includes acreage within roaded natural, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized ROS classes.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fishlake National Forest</td><td>1.8 million acres of USFS-managed public lands. Analysis area includes portions of the Richfield Ranger District and Fillmore Ranger District. Recreation opportunities within the analysis area include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, horseback riding, prospecting, rock hounding, OHV use, and snowmobiling. Key OHV areas include the Great Western Trail/Paiute ATV Trail, Gooseberry ATV Trail, and Gooseberry Fishlake Trail. The Maple Grove picnic area and campground are located just outside of the analysis area. The analysis area includes portions of the Gooseberry/Fremont Road Scenic Backway.<br>Considered as a whole, the Fishlake National Forest contains the following acreage by ROS class:
<table>
<tr><td>Urban</td><td>N/A</td><td>0%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Rural</td><td>10,838 acres</td><td>1%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Roaded Modified</td><td>N/A</td><td>0%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Roaded Natural</td><td>523,803 acres</td><td>29%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Semi-primitive Motorized</td><td>1,055,681 acres</td><td>58%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Semi-primitive Non-motorized</td><td>195,979 acres</td><td>11%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Primitive</td><td>N/A</td><td>0%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-inventoried, unknown, or private</td><td>32,231 acres</td><td>2%</td></tr>
<tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>1,818,532 acres</td><td>100%</td></tr>
</table>
The analysis area includes acreage within roaded natural, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized ROS classes.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Manti-La Sal National Forest</td><td>1.4 million acres of USFS-managed public lands. The analysis area includes portions of the Sanpete Ranger District and Ferron-Price Ranger District. Recreation activities include hunting, fishing, mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, camping, scenic driving, and OHV use. Key OHV areas include the Arapeen ATV trail system, which includes over 350 miles of ATV and OHV roads, and the Great Western Trail. Scenic driving opportunities in the analysis area include the Skyline Drive Scenic Backway and Energy Loop/Huntington-Eccles Canyons Scenic Byway. Developed facilities within the analysis area include the Indian Creek Group Campground, Potter's Pond Campground, North Skyline Winter Staging Area, Gooseberry Campground, Flat Canyon Campground, Boulger Reservoir, Wasatch Academy (operated through special use permit), and Electric Lake Reservoir. Beaver Dam Reservoir, Gooseberry Reservoir area, and the Fairview Lakes also are located just outside the analysis area.<br>Considered as a whole, the Manti-La Sal National Forest contains the following acreage by ROS class:</td></tr>
</table>

**Table 3.13-9 Forest Service-Managed Recreation Opportunities within Region II Analysis Area**

| National Forest | Key Recreation Activities within Analysis Area |
|---|---|
| | <table><tr><td>Urban</td><td>N/A</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>Rural</td><td>809 acres</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>Roaded Modified</td><td>N/A</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>Roaded Natural</td><td>502,186 acres</td><td>36%</td></tr><tr><td>Semi-primitive Motorized</td><td>705,230 acres</td><td>50%</td></tr><tr><td>Semi-primitive Non-motorized</td><td>77,626 acres</td><td>5%</td></tr><tr><td>Primitive</td><td>49,449 acres</td><td>3%</td></tr><tr><td>Non-inventoried, unknown, or private</td><td>79,182 acres</td><td>6%</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>1,414,482 acres</td><td>100%</td></tr></table> The analysis area includes acreage within rural, roaded natural, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized ROS classes. |
| Uinta National Forest Planning Area | Approximately 980,000 acres of USFS-managed public lands (not including the Wasatch and Cache national forests). The analysis area includes portions of the Spanish Fork Ranger District and Heber Ranger District. Recreation activities include OHV use, mountain biking, scenic driving, hiking, and horseback riding. Key RAs within the analysis area include Strawberry Reservoir, Strawberry River Day Use Area (used to access the Strawberry River WMA, a designated Blue Ribbon fishery), Aspen Grove Campground and Reservoir Marina, portions of the Strawberry OHV Trail System and Sheep Creek Snowmobiling area, several trails (Willow Creek, Teat Mountain, and Long Hollow), and the Great Western Trail. The analysis area includes portions of the White River/Strawberry Road Scenic Backway, the Nebo Loop NSB, and the Reservation Ridge Scenic Backway.<br>Considered as a whole, the Uinta National Forest Planning Area contains the following acreage by ROS class: <table><tr><td>Urban</td><td>N/A</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>Rural</td><td>1,655 acres</td><td><1%</td></tr><tr><td>Roaded Modified</td><td>85,222 acres</td><td>9%</td></tr><tr><td>Roaded Natural</td><td>274,406 acres</td><td>28%</td></tr><tr><td>Semi-primitive Motorized</td><td>354,817 acres</td><td>36%</td></tr><tr><td>Semi-primitive Non-motorized</td><td>122,676 acres</td><td>12%</td></tr><tr><td>Primitive</td><td>58,687 acres</td><td>6%</td></tr><tr><td>Non-inventoried, unknown, or private</td><td>86,345 acres</td><td>9%</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>983,808 acres</td><td>100%</td></tr></table> The analysis area includes acreage within rural, roaded modified, roaded natural, semi-primitive motorized, semi-primitive non-motorized and primitive ROS classes. |

Sources: Emery County 2013; USFS 2013, 2012a-e, 2003, 1986a-c.

### Table 3.13-10 Scenic Byways and Backways within Region II Analysis Area

| Name | Length/Designation | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway | 480-mile NSB within western Colorado and eastern Utah | The route passes by numerous sites where dinosaur bones and tracks are visible in the ground. There are many museums along the route that provide opportunities to see and learn about dinosaurs. |
| The Energy Loop/Huntington-Eccles Canyons Scenic Byway | 83-mile National/Utah/National Forest Scenic Byway between Huntington, Fairview, and Colton primarily through the Manti-La Sal National Forest | Passes by historical industrial development resources including coal mining operations, historic mining towns, and coal-fired power plants. Nearby Sanpete Valley contains some of the best-preserved Mormon Pioneer settlements in existence. |
| Indian Canyon Scenic Byway | 47-mile National/Utah State Scenic Byway crossing the Ashley National Forest between Helper and Duchesne | Passes by a unique display of rock formations and vegetation types, from pinyon and juniper to aspen and Douglas fir. Elk and deer are often seen along the route and the contrasts of autumn foliage are particularly beautiful. From the summit, the road follows Indian Canyon through desert terrain bordering Indian Creek. Offers access to RAs within the Ashley National Forest. This route is a portion of the Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway. |
| Reservation Ridge Scenic Backway | 45-mile Utah/National Forest Backway between Soldier Summit on US-6 to US-191 | The route roughly parallels the Right Fork of the White River at first, as it climbs up to 8,900 feet, offering dramatic views of Strawberry Reservoir, then curving south through aspen and pine stands perched on top of the plateau, where openings provide more views of rugged cliffs and steep canyons. |
| Gooseberry/Fremont Road Scenic Backway | 40-mile Utah Scenic Backway between Fremont, Utah, and Salina, Utah | Route travels through the Fishlake National Forest through mountain meadows cut by streams, offering recreation opportunities at Johnson Valley Reservoir, Lost Creek Reservoir, Rex Creek Reservoir, Sevenmile Creek, and the Gooseberry Ranger Station. |
| Wedge Overlook/ Buckhorn Drive Scenic Backway | Utah Scenic Backway; 20-mile and 25-mile segments located northeast of Castle Dale, along the San Rafael River | Vantage points along the rim of the San Rafael Swell provide views down canyon after canyon. Wedge Overlook offers a view down the "Little Grand Canyon," where the San Rafael River winds 1,200 feet below. Buckhorn Draw Road slowly descends through a narrow sandstone canyon, intersecting the river at points, and then reaching the interstate through open rangeland. |
| Nine Mile Canyon Scenic Backway | 78-mile National Backcountry Byway/Utah Scenic Backway between Price, Utah, and Myton, Utah | Passes through a major representative area of the prehistoric Fremont Culture. The canyon houses a myriad of rock panels along the main road and in side canyons. Petroglyphs (carvings on rock faces) and pictographs (paintings on rock faces) depict animals, hunting scenes, and godlike figures. Cliff granaries on high canyon ledges may be spotted by careful observers. Vegetation and terrain along this backway vary from high desert species to aspen groves. The buff colored cliffs of the canyon are highlighted by balanced rocks and window arches. Deer and elk are seen frequently. A number of side canyons branch off Nine Mile Canyon itself; rock art sites are frequently located near those junctions. |
| Skyline Drive Scenic Backway | 86-mile Utah Scenic Backway between the US-6 Tucker rest stop along I-70 through the Manti-La Sal National Forest | Mountain road that follows the spine of the Wasatch Plateau climbing to an elevation of 11,000 feet and offering panoramic views of Sanpete Valley, mile-deep canyons, lake-filled basins and alpine meadows and forests. The route is accessible July through September. High clearance 4-wheel drive vehicles are required. The Skyline Drive corridor contains portions of the Great Western Trail. |
| White River/Strawberry Road Scenic Backway | 28-mile Utah Scenic Backway between Soldier Summit on US-6 and Strawberry Reservoir | The road travels along the Left Fork of the White River, ascending 1,100 feet through the open fields of sage and grass, with stands of pine and aspen at higher elevations. At the terminus of the road is Strawberry Reservoir and Strawberry Bay, which are both fully developed for boating, fishing, camping, and picnicking. |
| Nebo Loop Scenic Byway | 37-mile NSB in Utah crossing the Uinta National Forest Planning Area between the cities of Nephi and Payson | Route provides views of the Wasatch Range and 11,929-foot Mt. Nebo. Flat bottomlands, high-alpine conifers, red rock formations, gray sandstone cliffs and salt flats. Sites visible from the route include Devil's Kitchen, Walk Flat, and Mt. Nebo Wilderness. |

Sources: Dinosaur Diamond 2010; Gorp.com 2012; Public Land Information Center 2012; Trails.com 2012; USDOT 2012; Utah.com 2011a.

**Table 3.13-11 Federally Managed Special Recreation Management Areas within Region II Analysis Area**

| Managing Entity | Recreation Site/Area[1] | Description |
|---|---|---|
| BLM Moab FO, Utah | Utah Rims SRMA | 15,424 acres. Managed as a Community SRMA to provide sustainable opportunities for motorized, mechanized, and non-motorized route-related recreation while protecting and maintaining other resource values. Includes the Bitter Creek campsite. |
| | Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges SRMA | 300,650 acres. Managed as a Destination SRMA to provide opportunities for boating, camping, mountain biking, OHV and jeep use, and scenic driving. |
| BLM Vernal FO, Utah | Fantasy Canyon SRMA | 69 acres. Provides opportunities for self-guided touring and hiking around unique geological formations. |
| | Nine Mile Canyon SRMA | 44,168 acres. Managed to protect high-value cultural values and scenic quality and provide cultural tourism opportunities within the canyon, which has the greatest abundance of well-preserved rock art in the west and is often referred to as the "world's longest art gallery." |
| BLM Price FO, Utah | San Rafael Swell SRMA | 938,500 acres. Provides opportunities for sightseeing, OHV use, mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, wildlife viewing, visiting cultural sites, camping, picnicking, photography, rock hounding, snowmobiling, and hunting. |
| | Labyrinth Canyon SRMA | 34,240 acres. Managed to provide flatwater river recreation, camping, hiking, and rock art viewing opportunities. |
| BLM Fillmore FO, Utah | Little Sahara RA | 60,000 acres. Area provides sand dune OHV riding and camping opportunities. The entire RA is open to OHV use except for campgrounds, where OHV use is limited to designated roads, and within the 9,604-acre Rockwell Natural Area, which is closed to OHVs. |
| | Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area | 394,472 acres. Provides opportunities for casual OHV use, big game and upland bird hunting, and competitive OHV and motorcycle events. |

[1] Within each BLM FO, other specially designated areas, such as WSAs, WSRs, wilderness areas, or ACECs have recreational use, but are not designated specifically for recreational use. These other areas are analyzed in Section 3.15, Special Designation Areas.

Sources: BLM 2012d-k, 2009, 2008b-e, 1997b, 1990, 1987a-c.

**Table 3.13-12 State Managed and Locally Managed Recreation Areas within Region II Analysis Area**

| Managing Entity | Management Area | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation | Starvation State Park and Reservoir | State Park includes the reservoir and developed campground area. Boating, water skiing, wake boarding, and other sports are popular at Starvation Reservoir. The reservoir offers sandy beaches and fishing for walleye, trout, and perch. |
| UDWR | Gordon Creek WMA | 22,690 acres (11,100 DWR, 6,900 BLM, 3,000 State School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration [SITLA], and 1,690 private). Developed to assure protection of critical big game winter range. Reversionary clause on some parcels if land use is changed from "big game management." |
| | North Nebo WMA—Fountain Green Unit | Three subunits: Fountain Green (365 acres), Moroni Conservation Easement (1,110 acres), and Big Hollow (850 acres). All units protect big game winter range; the Fountain Green unit is managed to reduce crop depredation on adjacent farms and improve upland game habitat. The property is closed to public access in winter and spring to protect wintering wildlife; the Fountain Green unit farm road is closed all year. Already crossed by power line(s).<br>The Moroni Conservation Easement was purchased under three transactions, so there are three parts to the Conservation Agreement. The July 1997 agreement (#2-5249) states in Section B.2. Development Rights: Grantors convey to Grantee the rights to all . . . industrial, commercial or any other forms of development that could be construed as inconsistent with the wildlife-habitat protection purpose of this Deed of Conservation Easement. Also in D.2. Easements and ROW: Without prior written approval of Grantee (UDWR), no ROWs or easements may be issued on the above-described property. In Parts II and III Section B.2., the Grantor conveyed the same development rights to the Grantee and the same terms and conditions for easements and ROWs as in the 1997 agreement. |

**Table 3.13-12 State Managed and Locally Managed Recreation Areas within Region II Analysis Area**

| Managing Entity | Management Area | Description |
|---|---|---|
| UDWR (Continued) | Currant Creek/Wildcat WMA | 22,857 acres. Acquired as mitigation for wildlife habitat lost during construction of Central Utah Project (CUP) water developments. The property also provides angler access and aquatic/terrestrial habitat protection. Vehicle use during winter is not encouraged; motorized vehicles not allowed off remaining roads. |
| | Northwest Manti WMA–Dairy Fork Unit | 4,975 acres. Unit acquired to preserve and enhance deer and elk winter range. Closed to public access in winter and spring to protect wintering wildlife. The WMA contains existing power lines. |
| | Northwest Manti WMA–Birdseye/Lake Fork Unit | 3,750 acres. Unit acquired to preserve big game winter range. Closed to public access in winter and spring to protect wintering wildlife. The WMA contains existing power lines. |
| | Nephi WMA–Nephi Unit | 152 acres. Unit supports riparian habitat and patches of emergent marsh along West Creek. Upland game hunting opportunities are available. Vehicles are not permitted on the property. |
| | Fillmore WMA | Several separate parcels covering 13,100 acres. Area managed to provide protection for big game winter range. All lands are fenced; vehicles are restricted to established roads. Closed to public access in winter and spring to protect wintering wildlife. |
| | Indian Canyon WMA – Cottonwood Canyon Unit | 7,746 acres. Area provides opportunities to view elk, antelope, and small numbers of deer. Cottontail rabbit hunting is a popular wintertime activity in the Cottonwood Canyon area. Some roads are closed; motorized vehicles are not allowed off remaining roads. Vehicle use in winter is not encouraged. |
| | Tabby Mountain WMA–Rabbit Gulch Unit | Two parcels of 8,247 and 1,160 acres. Unit acts as critical range for big game in winter. Closed to public access in winter and spring to protect wintering wildlife. Vehicle use is confined to established roads. |
| | Tabby Mountain WMA–Tabby Mountain Unit | 42,025 acres. Unit acts as critical range for big game in winter. Closed to public access in winter and spring to protect wintering wildlife. Vehicle use is confined to established roads. This WMA is adjoined by a conservation easement (Sand Wash/Sink Draw) that prohibits overhead transmission lines. |
| | North Nebo WMA–Spencer Fork Unit | 6,500 acres. Unit acquired to protect big game winter range. Closed to all access in late winter and spring to protect wintering wildlife. Vehicle use is confined to established roads. Contains existing power line(s). Section B.2.a. of the 1999 Deed of Conservation Agreement (DCA) (#73398) states that the "Grantor conveys …industrial, commercial and any other forms of development that would be construed as inconsistent with the conservation values and purpose of the Easement . . . ." Section C.3. of the DCA states that: "Without prior written approval of Grantee, no ROWs or easement may be issued on the above described property." |
| | South Nebo WMA–Triangle Ranch Unit | 4,918 acres. Unit managed to protect big game winter range. Closed to public access in winter and spring to protect wintering wildlife. Already crossed by power line(s). Reversionary clause on some parcels if land use is changed from "big game management." |
| | Strawberry River WMA | 3,070 acres. Area is mitigation for the CUP and provides unique fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities. Area contains big game and predator habitat. Vehicles are restricted to the main road and immediate parking areas. In accordance with the Mitigation Commission's and Bureau of Reclamation's management plan for the Strawberry River WMA, the middle Strawberry River from Soldier Creek Dam to about 1 mile upstream of Strawberry Pinnacles is one of the few remaining undeveloped riparian ecosystems in the region. The primary management objectives on this section of the middle Strawberry River are to provide the highest level of protection to the biological productivity and diversity of the riparian and aquatic ecosystem and to provide angling opportunities. |
| | Emery Farm Castle Dale WMA | 80-acre farm composed of salt-grass pasture and Russian olive trees. The property was obtained when the Emery County power plants were built to offer upland game habitat protection. |

**Table 3.13-12 State Managed and Locally Managed Recreation Areas within Region II Analysis Area**

| Managing Entity | Management Area | Description |
|---|---|---|
| UDWR (Continued) | Northwest Manti WMA–Hilltop Conservation Easement | 1,074 acres. Unit includes juniper/pinyon woodlands interspersed with openings dominated by oakbrush or big sagebrush. The unit was acquired to protect and enhance high-value mule deer winter range. Closed to public access in winter and spring to protect wintering wildlife. Deed of Conservation Easement, Section V-Prohibited Uses and Practices, G. Construction (grantors will not construct any structures or facilities on the property. . .); H. Roads (grantors will not construct any new roads except as specifically provided for in Section III. . .), L. Utilities (additional utility structures and systems are prohibited, unless such structures or systems are necessary for permitted ranching operations or residential use. . .). |
| | Northwest Manti WMA–Lasson Draw Unit | 2,225 acres. Unit acquired to protect big game winter range. Composed of a sagebrush/grass community in the valley and a pinyon juniper woodland/oakbrush community on the steeper slopes. Big game hunting and deer and elk viewing opportunities are provided. Property is closed to all access in late winter and spring to protect wintering wildlife. Motor vehicle use restrictions are enforced on the unit. Already crossed by buried pipeline; Questar pipeline maintenance road is not a public access road. |
| | Northwest Manti WMA–Starvation Unit | 5,770 acres. Unit provides big game hunting opportunities and is a popular use of the property. Starvation Creek supports a limited fishery that receives a fair amount of fishing pressure. The unit was acquired to protect and enhance deer and elk winter range. The property is closed to public access in winter and spring to protect wintering wildlife. Already crossed by power line(s). |
| Private/UDWR | CWMUs | Antelope Creek (31,853 acres), Bear Mountain (8,037 acres), Castle Valley Outdoors (10,558 acres), Crab Creek (10,409 acres), Double R Ranch (6,390 acres), Emma Park (22,471 acres), Hiawatha (15,355 acres), Johnson Mountain Ranch (13,330 acres), Minnie Maud Ridge (16,030 acres), Oak Ranch (4,670 acres), Old Woman Plateau (8,165 acres), Round Valley (7,976 acres), Scofield Canyons (15,658 acres), Soldier Summit (26,127 acres). |
| Emery County | Bear Creek Campground | Located 8 miles up Huntington Canyon, the campground provides 29 campsites and 2 pavilions. |
| Private | Big Mountain Campground | Located 5 miles east of Nephi, Utah, the campground provides recreational vehicle (RV) camping, fishing, and camping amenities at the base of the Nebo Loop Scenic Byway. |
| Ouray Park Irrigation Company | Brough Reservoir | Blue ribbon trophy trout fishing. |
| Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation | Bottle Hollow Reservoir | Used for fishing. |
| Western Rio Blanco Metropolitan Recreation and Park District | Cedar Ridges Golf Course | Par 36, 9-hole public golf course near Rangely, Colorado. |
| Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints | Camp Timberlane | The camp consists of 720 acres of forest land at the top of Argyle Canyon. The camp consists of 4 major campgrounds, a summer home for the Camp Manager, a smaller campground, a family size “A” frame and 2 individual campsites. The camp is generally available from early June to Labor Day. Several hiking trails also are available. |
| | Crescent Regional Recreational Camp | The camp is located on 600 acres of forest land near Soldier Summit. The camp consists of 4 campgrounds and a lake for canoeing. The camp contains 9 small campsites, 12 medium campsites, 10 large campsites, archery ranges, a zipline, drinking water, restrooms/showers, pavilions and amphitheaters, and a volleyball court. The 4 campgrounds can accommodate groups of 30, 50, 175, and 350 people. There are 2 campgrounds proposed for future development near the lake. |

Sources: Big Mountain Campground 2013; Camptimberlane.org 2013a,b; Emery County 2013; The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Undated, 2012; UDWR 2002; Western Rio Blanco Metropolitan Recreation and Park District 2013.

#### 3.13.5.3 Region III

The BLM is the main federal agency providing recreation opportunities in this region. Five BLM FOs provide RAs within the analysis area that contain few to no developed facilities. Despite the lack of facilities, there are many recreation opportunities available on lands within the region, including hiking, camping, rock climbing, horseback riding, hunting, OHV use, scenic driving, fishing, mountain biking, and competitive OHV events. In addition, there are recreation opportunities available on NFS lands on the Dixie National Forest and USFWS lands on the Desert NWR; the NWR is discussed in Section 3.15, Special Designation Areas. There is one private recreation site within the region, Newcastle Reservoir. A brief description of dispersed recreation opportunities by BLM FO and national forest within the Region III analysis area is included in **Table 3.13-13**. **Table 3.13-14** identifies Scenic Byways and Backways within the Region III analysis area. **Table 3.13-15** identifies all federally managed special recreation management areas and **Table 3.13-16** identifies all state and locally managed RAs within the Region III analysis area. **Figure 3.13-4** identifies all RAs within the Region III analysis area.

**Table 3.13-13 Federally Managed Recreation Opportunities within Region III Analysis Area**

| Managing Entity | Key Dispersed Recreation Activities within Analysis Area |
|---|---|
| Fillmore FO, Utah | 4.7 million acres of BLM-managed public lands located on the eastern edge of the Basin and Range Geographic Province. Portions of the FO are in both Region II and Region III. Dispersed recreation opportunities within the Region III portions of the FO include hunting, fishing, hiking, rock hounding, and OHV use. The FO also contains several state-managed WMAs. Cultural tourism sites include the Dominquez-Escalante trail. The 129-mile Cricket Mountains ATV loop trail system is located within the analysis area. |
| Cedar City FO, Utah | 2.2 million acres of BLM-managed public lands. The FO area is characterized by vast acres of sagebrush and pinyon-juniper clad foothills, home to greater sage grouse, the Utah prairie dog, the Southwest Desert Elk Herd, and the Sulphur Wild Horse Herd - a breed of horse noted by its distinct markings and Spanish genetics. Dispersed recreation opportunities within the FO include primitive camping, hiking, horseback riding, OHV use, bird watching, rock hounding, mountain biking, nature study, and photography. Cultural tourism sites include the Dominquez-Escalante trail. The analysis area also contains portions of the American Discovery Trail, a system of 6,800 miles of recreational trails and roads that collectively form a coast-to-coast hiking and biking trail across the U.S. |
| St George FO, Utah | 635,000 acres of BLM-managed public lands. Located at the merge point of the Mojave Desert, the Great Basin, and the Colorado Plateau ecosystem, these public lands are a rich mix of geologic formations, biological habitats, scenic landscapes, and cultural history. Recreation activities range from casual sightseeing and hiking to more physically demanding activities such as mountain biking, ATV riding, rock climbing, horseback riding, and canyoneering. Other activities include geocaching and cultural tourism (including the Dominquez-Escalante and Old Spanish trails). |
| Caliente FO, Nevada | 4.2 million acres of BLM-managed public lands. Much of the FO area is representative of the Great Basin with large expanses of rolling sagebrush and grasses. Recreation opportunities include hunting (pronghorn, mule deer, elk), hiking, biking, horseback riding, camping, OHV use, and rock hounding. The analysis area includes portions of the Silver State OHV trail, a 260-mile congressionally designated OHV trail and BLM Backcountry Byway; there are several trailheads in and near the Town of Caliente. The Chief Mountain area is frequently used for OHV riding and includes three developed trailheads, 413 miles of roads, OHV routes and trails, including 39 miles of the Silver State Trail. The Oak Springs Summit Trilobite Area is located 12 miles west of Caliente. Areas of the FO within the analysis area include portions of the Chief Mountain and North Delamar SRMAs. The analysis area includes portions of the US-93 Scenic Byway and Rainbow Canyon Backcountry Byway. |
| Las Vegas FO, Nevada | 2.4 million acres of BLM-managed public lands, portions of which are included in both Region III and Region IV. Dispersed recreation opportunities within the Region III analysis area include hunting, camping, and OHV use. The FO permits a number of commercial and competitive high speed desert events. Other recreation opportunities within the analysis area include rock climbing in Arrow Canyon and recreational driving along the Bitter Springs Backcountry Byway. |

### Table 3.13-13 Federally Managed Recreation Opportunities within Region III Analysis Area

<table>
<tr><th>Managing Entity</th><th>Key Dispersed Recreation Activities within Analysis Area</th></tr>
<tr><td>Dixie National Forest</td><td>1.7 million acres of USFS-managed public lands. The analysis area includes portions of the Pine Valley Ranger District. Recreational opportunities are highly diversified and include camping, hunting, viewing scenery, hiking, horseback riding, and fishing in both primitive settings and developed areas. Vehicle-based activities include camping, picnicking, hunting, gathering forest products, viewing interpretive exhibits, viewing scenery, snowmobiling, and biking. Developed recreation opportunities within the analysis area include the Mountain Meadows NHL and the Ox Valley ATV Trail. Considered as a whole, the Dixie National Forest contains the following acreage by ROS class:
<table>
<tr><td>Urban</td><td>N/A</td><td>0%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Rural</td><td>N/A</td><td>0%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Roaded Modified</td><td>N/A</td><td>0%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Roaded Natural</td><td>54,848 acres</td><td>3%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Semi-primitive Motorized</td><td>115,513 acres</td><td>7%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Semi-primitive Non-motorized</td><td>225,221 acres</td><td>13%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Primitive</td><td>67,292 acres</td><td>4%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-inventoried, unknown, or private</td><td>1,248,423 acres</td><td>73%</td></tr>
<tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>1,711,297 acres</td><td>100%</td></tr>
</table>
The analysis area includes acreage within roaded natural, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized ROS classes.</td></tr>
</table>

Sources: BLM 2012k-o, 2008f, 1998, 1997b, 1987a,b, 1986; Great Basin Institute 2012; Millard County 2011a,b; USFS 2012f, 1986c.

### Table 3.13-14 Scenic Byways and Backways within Region III Analysis Area

| Name | Length/Designation | Description |
|---|---|---|
| US-93 Scenic Byway | 148.8-mile Nevada State Scenic Byway between the Town of Crystal and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest on US-93 in eastern Nevada | Route provides high desert scenery with views of Mount Gafton, Dutch John Peak, and the Wilson Creek Range. Roadway passes through Pioche, an early 20th century mining camp filled with historic buildings. |
| Rainbow Canyon Backcountry Byway | 21-mile BLM Backcountry Byway | Route provides views of Rainbow Canyon, a deep canyon full of red rock and unique rock formations. The road closely follows the busy Union Pacific Railroad. |
| Bitter Springs Backcountry Byway | 28-mile BLM Backcountry Byway | Scenic drive with many rock formations, like the Muddy Mountains, and colorful sandstone for sightseeing. Byway features include abandoned borax mines. |
| Silver State OHV Trail | 260-mile BLM Backcountry Byway | OHV trail network offering access to the rugged, scenic, and remote deserts and mountains of eastern Nevada. The trail system can be accessed from Panaca, Pioche, and Caliente. There are five main trailheads to access the Silver State Trail; Patterson, Pahroc Wash, Stampede, Chief Mountain South, and Chief Mountain West. |

Sources: BLM 2012n, 2008f, 1998, 1997b, 1987a,b, 1986; Exploring Nevada.com 2012; Great Basin Institute 2012; USDOT 2012.

**Table 3.13-15 Federally Managed Special Recreation Management Areas within Region III Analysis Area**

| Managing Entity | Recreation Site/Area[1] | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Caliente FO, Nevada | Chief Mountain SRMA | 111,181 acres. Recreation opportunities include rock hounding, trilobite collecting, camping, hunting, and both event-organized and casual OHV riding. The SRMA contains 413 miles of roads, OHV routes, and trails. The Chief Mountain SRMA is crossed by 38.7 miles of the Silver State Trail. Both the West and South Chief Mountain trailheads provide access to this trail. The SRMA contains two trilobite collection areas. |
| | North Delamar SRMA | 202,890 acres. Managed for a broad spectrum of recreation opportunities to ensure a balance of recreation experiences. A wide range of activities occur within the SRMA including backcountry driving, hunting, OHV use, competitive racing, heritage tourism, and hiking. |
| | Caliente Motorcycle SRP Area | Consists of certain BLM lands around Caliente, Nevada (generally overlaps with the Chief Mountain SRMA), and south and east of Panaca, Nevada, that are managed to provide opportunities for competitive motorcycle special events on designated routes. |
| Las Vegas FO, Nevada | Muddy Mountains SRMA | 123,400 acres. Managed to provide integrated management of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and recreational uses. 78,480 acres managed as a semi-primitive non-motorized area; 44,897 acres managed as a semi-primitive motorized area. |
| | Nellis Dunes SRMA | 10,000 acres. Managed as an open area for intensive OHV and other recreation opportunities, including organized OHV events, casual OHV freeplay, picnicking, photography, and other non-OHV commercial and competitive permitted activities. Portions of this SRMA are within Regions III and IV. |

[1] Within each BLM FO, other specially designated areas, such as WSAs, WSRs, wilderness areas, or ACECs have recreational use, but are not designated specifically for recreational use. These other areas are analyzed in Section 3.15, Special Designation Areas.

Sources: BLM 2012k-o, 2008f, 1998, 1997b, 1987a,b, 1986.

**Table 3.13-16 State and Locally Managed Recreation Areas within Region III Analysis Area**

| Managing Entity | Management Area | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Private/UDWR | CWMUs | Zane (9,779 acres) |
| Newcastle Irrigation Company | Newcastle Reservoir | The Newcastle Irrigation Company owns the reservoir and presently provides unrestricted public access to the shoreline for fishing. |

Sources: UDEQ 2011.

### 3.13.5.4 Region IV

Recreation opportunities in this region are primarily provided by the BLM, NPS, and the City of Henderson. Several BLM areas provide opportunities for scenic driving, OHV use, and trail use. NPS provides developed recreation opportunities at two campgrounds in the Lake Mead NRA, in addition to trail use opportunities on the River Mountains Loop Trail and on backcountry roads. The City of Henderson provides two city parks and several trails west of the River Mountains Loop Trail. Region IV also includes a county wetlands park, a city park renowned for its mountain biking trails, and a private golf course.

Currently, there are no NSBs or BLM-designated Scenic Byways or Backways within Region IV. The Nevada Commission on Tourism currently is facilitating the nomination of Lakeshore and Northshore Roads within Lake Mead NRA for State Scenic Byway status. The nomination is primarily honoring the scenic, cultural, and natural features found along these roads.

A brief description of recreation opportunities on federally managed lands is included in **Table 3.13-17**. **Table 3.13-18** identifies all federally managed special recreation management areas within the

Region IV analysis area, and **Table 3.13-19** identifies all state, local, or privately managed RAs within the Region IV analysis area. **Figure 3.13-5** identifies all RAs within the Region IV analysis area.

### Table 3.13-17 Federally Managed Recreation Opportunities within Region IV Analysis Area

| Managing Entity | Key Recreation Activities within Analysis Area |
|---|---|
| Las Vegas FO, Nevada | 2.4 million acres of BLM-managed lands, portions of which are included in both Region III and Region IV. Dispersed recreation opportunities within the Region IV analysis area include the River Mountains Loop Trail, a 32-mile loop trail circling the River Mountains and linking residential areas to local and regional parks, including Bootleg Canyon to the south and Lake Mead NRA to the east. Camping is dispersed outside of the Red Rock NCA and not allowed within Las Vegas Valley, which includes areas west of the Lake Mead NRA including the northern portion of Sloan Canyon NCA, Las Vegas Valley SRMA, Nellis Dunes SRMA, and the western portion of the Muddy Mountains wilderness area/SRMA. These same areas are generally closed to OHV use, with the exception of Nellis Dunes, which is a popular OHV open use area. The Eldorado Valley, Nelson Hills and Jean/Dry Lake areas also are popular OHV use areas. |
| NPS Lake Mead NRA | The NRA contains 1,482,476 acres of federal land and 28,212 acres of nonfederal land. Lake Mead NRA offers year-round recreational opportunities for boating, fishing, hiking, photography, picnicking and sightseeing. A portion of the Boulder Basin Zone of the NRA is within and adjacent to the analysis area. The majority of visitors to this zone are day users; overnight accommodations are limited. There are two developed areas:<br>• Las Vegas Bay is the closest area to Las Vegas and therefore attracts a large number of day use visitors; includes camping and picnicking facilities.<br>• Boulder Harbor/Beach is the largest and most heavily visited development in the RA; offers camping, picnicking, RV hookups, and boat launch and harbor areas.<br>The area also contains several trails including a bluffs trail, wetlands trail, a historic railroad trail, and a portion of the River Mountains Loop Trail. The area also offers recreational driving opportunities along Lakeshore Drive. |
| BLM Sloan Canyon NCA | 48,000 acres. Managed to conserve, protect, and enhance the cultural, archaeological, natural, wilderness, scientific, geological, historical, biological, wildlife, educational, and scenic resources of this area. The area features important archaeological sites, scenic vistas, important wildlife habitat, and opportunities for primitive recreation. The northern end of the NCA is designated as a roaded natural area and contains a system of hiking and biking trails. The southeast portion is managed for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation. The western portions contain the North McCullough wilderness areas and are managed for primitive recreation. |

Sources: BLM 2012o,p, 2006, 1998; City of Henderson 2010c; NPS 2012, 1987.

### Table 3.13-18 Federally Managed Special Recreation Management Areas within Region IV Analysis Area

| Managing Entity | Recreation Site/Area[1] | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Las Vegas FO, Nevada | Nelson/Eldorado SRMA | 81,600 acres. Offers competitive OHV events in accordance with desert tortoise protection requirements, including up to nine speed events scheduled only between November 1 and February 28 if within critical tortoise habitat. |
| Las Vegas FO, Nevada | Sunrise Mountain SRMA | 37,620 acres. Offers recreation opportunities in concert with sensitive plant, scenic, cultural, and geologic values of the concurrent ACEC. Recreation opportunities include non-speed motorized and mechanized activities on designated roads. |
| Las Vegas FO, Nevada | Las Vegas Valley SRMA | 197,300 acres. Designated to facilitate the provision of open space areas, recreational trails, and parks necessary for valley residents in coordination with county and city governments. |
| Las Vegas FO, Nevada | Nellis Dunes SRMA | 10,000 acres. Managed as an open area for intensive OHV and other recreation opportunities, including organized OHV events, casual OHV freeplay, picnicking, photography, and other non-OHV commercial and competitive permitted activities. Portions of this SRMA are within Regions III and IV. |

Sources: BLM 2012o, 1998.

**Table 3.13-19 State, Local, and Privately Managed Recreation Areas within Region IV Analysis Area**

| Managing Entity | Management Area | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Clark County | Clark County Wetlands Park | 2,900-acre nature and wildlife habitat viewing area bordering both sides of the Las Vegas Wash between Frenchman Mountain and Lake Mead. The park features a 100-acre nature preserve area with an information center, concrete walking trails, and graveled secondary trails. The park offers hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking opportunities. |
| City of Henderson | Mountain Lake Park | 5-acre park that features a playground, bocce ball court, picnic area with shade structures and barbeque grills, open turf area, and equestrian hitching rails and hose bibbs. Parking and restrooms also are provided. The park is located just off Lake Mead Parkway and provides connections to the River Mountains Loop Trail, Lake Mead Parkway Trail, and Wetlands Connector Trail. |
| City of Henderson | Terrazza Park | 5-acre park that features a playground, basketball court, open turf area, picnic area with shade structures, and an overlook. Parking and restrooms also are provided. The park is located just east of the Wetlands Park and overlooks Las Vegas Wash. A trailhead for the Wetlands Connector Trail also is located at the park. |
| City of Henderson | Various trails | Several trails provided by the City of Henderson are located within the analysis area including the Lake Mead Parkway Trail, Wetlands Connector Trail, Burkholder Trail, Equestrian Trail, Equestrian North Trail, and Union Pacific Railroad [UPRR] Trail. The 7.2-mile Lake Mead Parkway Trail is a recently constructed trail along the Lake Mead Parkway road that connects to the Boulder Highway Trail, Clark County Wetlands, River Mountains Loop Trail, and Lake Mead NRA. The 2.2-mile Wetlands Connector Trail links the River Mountains Loop Trail with Mountain Lake Park, Terrazza Park, and the Clark County Wetlands Park. The 3.2-mile Burkholder Trail runs from E. Lake Mead Parkway east along Burkholder Blvd. and joins with the River Mountains Loop Trail north of the equestrian trails. Horses are allowed on the Burkholder Trail east of Heritage Park. The two equestrian trails, Equestrian Trail and Equestrian North Trail, are located just west of the River Mountains Loop Trail and just north of Equestrian Drive. The 1.78-mile Equestrian North Trail runs from Equestrian Park North down to Equestrian Park South and east to the River Mountains Loop Trail. The 1.83-mile Equestrian Trail begins at Equestrian Park South and contains 3 adjacent loops before connecting with the River Mountains Loop Trail just south of the Equestrian North Trail. Horses are allowed on both equestrian trails. The UPRR Trail is a 12-mile trail located within an existing railroad corridor. South of I-215, the trail runs southeast across the I-515 corridor and continues southeast towards the River Mountains Loop Trail. |
| Boulder City Parks and Recreation Department | Bootleg Canyon | Contains miles of popular mountain bike trails of varying degrees of difficulty and a commercial zipline operation. |
| Clark County Desert Conservation Program | Boulder City Conservation Easement | 86,423-acre area in the Eldorado Valley south of Boulder City. Recreation uses allowed within the easement area include hiking, bird watching, bicycling, horseback riding, photography, sightseeing, picnicking, and bird hunting. Driving slowly (under 25 mph) is allowed on designated routes within the easement area. |
| Private | Cascata Golf Course | Privately owned par-72 luxury golf course featuring lush fairways, lakes, and streams surrounded by canyons. Rated #1 in the country by Zagat Survey in 2008. |

Sources: Bootleg Canyon Mountain Bike Park 2012; Cascata Golf 2012; City of Henderson Undated, 2013, 2012, 2010a,b; Clark County 2013, 2011; Flightlinez Bootleg Canyon 2012.

### 3.13.6 Impacts to Recreation

The NEPA scoping process revealed the public's concerns with impacts to recreation at specific locations, increases in traffic from construction, and the effects of noise and the "humming" sound from transmission lines on recreation users. Comments also were received related to the future use of access roads; comments were received that advocated for public use of access roads, as well as designing access roads to minimize unpermitted ORV use.

This section analyzes the impacts that construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the transmission line would have on recreational resources and opportunities, as well as recreational expectations and the likelihood for user satisfaction throughout the analysis area. *Recreational resources* are defined as the natural elements within the environment that provide the physical basis for recreation. *Recreational opportunities* are defined as the combination of the natural elements (e.g., scenery, vegetation, geology, land forms, weather) and human-controlled conditions and services (e.g., roads and trails, developed sites, facilities, guiding services) that create the potential for recreation and may include dispersed or specially managed opportunities. *Recreational expectations* are those assumptions made by the user that, having prepared for the desired recreational experience (given their knowledge, preferences, or desires) and having entered the area of opportunity, he/she would have that expected experience (e.g., the natural sights and sounds of an undeveloped landscape while hiking or during a river rafting trip, a scenic drive through high quality scenery, or a hunting trip into areas with high quality wildlife habitat). It is important to note that achieving recreational expectations are not guaranteed regardless of the presence of the resource and the opportunity; unforeseen and/or changing conditions that are beyond the control of the managing entity or the user can influence and partially determine the user experience. *User satisfaction* can be defined as that subjective evaluation of the recreation activity in which the resource user recognizes that his/her recreational experiences meet or exceed his/her recreational expectations and recreational desires.

While recognizing that recreation resource users are individuals with uniquely personal expectations, desires, knowledge, goals, and levels of recreational satisfaction, it was assumed for the purposes of impact analysis that:

1. Recreation users within the analysis area could be classified into general user groups based on their primary recreation activity, each of which has its own set of recreational desires and expectations; and
2. Based on these desires and expectations, each group also has specific recreational conditions and criteria that increase the likelihood for having satisfying user experiences.

The following sections outline key recreation user groups that exist within the analysis area. Each user group description identifies the types of recreational opportunities and expectations associated with each group, and in general, types of construction and operation impacts that would impact those opportunities and expectations.

Scenic Drivers

This group primarily would include users of passenger cars and RVs driving for pleasure while enjoying scenic attractions. Recreationists that also could be included in this group are recreational aircraft users that enjoy scenic views from above. Recreational opportunities include scenic highways and byways and other areas where scenic integrity can be accessed by roads. The desired recreational experience for this user group generally relies upon paved access to scenic attractions (with the ability to access turnoffs and/or temporary parking) and developed campsites. During construction, activities that would result in high traffic volumes, crowded or closed parking areas or turnoffs, or construction activities and fugitive dust directly along the route would adversely affect this user group, as would noise and visual disturbances within developed campsites. During operations, impacts to the scenic attractions that can be viewed from the paved viewpoints, day use areas, or within developed campsites would adversely affect this user group.

Hunters and Wildlife Viewers

This group would include those using BLM and NFS lands, state-managed WMAs, or conservation easement areas for hunting of a variety of wildlife species, although generally big game or upland game avian species. The desired recreational experience for this user group generally relies upon access during hunting seasons to key hunting areas, dispersed camping areas, and a generally

natural-appearing environment containing sufficient wildlife habitat to support the species. During construction, activities that would remove wildlife habitat, or would cause access road or area closures or noise and human activity affecting wildlife during hunting seasons would adversely affect this user group. During operations, impacts are expected to be lower for this user group, with the exception of noise and activities from transmission line maintenance including reconnaissance flights and increased vehicle activity. The primary potential indirect impact would be wildlife avoidance (displacement) of otherwise suitable habitat in the vicinity of Project disturbance areas due to increased noise and human activity (see Section 3.7, Wildlife, for more information), thus affecting hunting success in allowable hunting areas. Facilities and human activities could be present if they do not interfere with access, degrade or remove habitat, impede wildlife movement or cause avoidance behaviors, or otherwise interfere with potential for hunting success; however, wildlife photographers would be impacted by the presence of human structures.

Motorized (Off-highway) Drivers

This group would include users of off-road motorcycles, dune buggies, ATVs, 4 wheel drive vehicles, and other OHVs. Recreation opportunities would include all designated OHV use areas and trails. The desired recreational experience for this user group generally relies upon a somewhat natural-appearing environment with non-paved surfaces ranging from graded dirt roads to challenging routes with some evidence of human sights, sounds, and disturbances to remote, natural-appearing environments. The presence of construction activity and some presence of human-constructed structures are acceptable; however, road or trail closures during either construction or operation would adversely affect this user group. If new roads or routes were left open for use by the general public, this generally would be positive for this group due to additional OHV access.

Mountain Bikers

The desired recreational experience for this user group generally relies upon a relatively natural or natural appearing environment in which evidence of human disturbances, restrictions, and controls is present but not appearing to dominate the environment. Recreation opportunities would include all roads and trails where mechanized travel is permitted. During construction, trail or trailhead facility closures and noise or dust/vehicle emissions would have adverse impacts on this group's recreational experience. Operations are assumed to have few adverse impacts to this group, as long as trails are not permanently closed.

Non-mechanized Users

This group would include hikers, backpackers, and equestrians. The desired recreational experience of this group generally relies upon dispersed recreation opportunities within a natural-appearing environment with little evidence of disturbance. Such areas would include national recreation or scenic trails as well as other hiking trails developed by the managing entity for day or extended use. During construction, closure to trails, trailhead facilities, or camping areas, and visual impacts and noise or dust/vehicle emissions would have adverse impacts on this group's recreational experience. During operations, visual impacts from the transmission line that cannot be mitigated would adversely affect this user group. In addition, visual impacts from the maintenance of transmission line roads and routes also would adversely affect this user group.

Recreational Boaters and Anglers

This user group includes primarily people who recreate on non-motorized boats such as canoes, kayaks, and rafts. Recreational opportunities in the analysis area primarily consist of floating on the Yampa and Green rivers. The needs of this group are similar to those of the non-mechanized user group. In general, the desired recreational experience for this user group relies upon a natural-appearing environment that shows little evidence of human disturbances within the river corridor, other than at the river access points and designated primitive campsites. During construction, closures to access points, noise, dust/vehicle emissions, and visual disturbances along the river

corridor would have adverse impacts on this group's recreational experience. During operations, visual impacts to the river corridor's scenic quality would adversely affect this user group. The desired recreational experience for anglers would include many of these factors, but would rely more heavily on factors that lead to fishing success (i.e., access to key fishing areas, undisturbed waters, etc.), and less on undisturbed land vistas. Access point closures, noise or human activity along river corridors, or sedimentation affecting water quality or fish habitat would have adverse impacts on this group's recreational experience; therefore, impacts to this user group are expected to occur primarily during construction.

For each user group and within each Region, the analysis identifies the following:

- Impacts to resources that underlie recreational use (e.g., impacts to big game or big game habitat within WMAs or dispersed hunting areas);
- Temporary or permanent closures to existing recreational opportunities from construction or operation of the transmission line and facilities, including any permitted special events;
- Temporary or permanent access restrictions to recreational opportunities from construction or operation of the transmission line and facilities; and
- Changes to the recreation setting of recreational opportunities (noise, visual) that would not meet user expectations.

Effects were determined by assessing the location of Project facilities associated with each alternative in relation to existing recreation opportunity areas. This assessment was conducted by using maps of recreation facilities and use areas overlaid with maps showing the location of Project transmission lines and support facilities in the analysis area. Impacts were determined by reviewing recreation activities that take place within affected areas, including typical use periods, users, and activity requirements to determine potential impacts from both construction and operations on recreation facilities, recreation use, recreation users, and the recreation setting. Impacts are described for both dispersed recreation and recreation at developed sites. In addition to typical recreation activities affected, the acreages of affected dispersed RAs are included, as are acreages for affected ROS classes within national forests. Impacts to key user groups also are described, as are general impacts to the key recreation seasons most affected by construction and maintenance activities. Especially noted are impacts to recreation activities or facilities for which displaced visitors cannot easily find a substitute.

Aesthetic effects identified in Section 3.12, Visual Resources, were used to evaluate adverse effects on the recreation setting, including degraded scenic vistas, or establishment of highly obtrusive features. Obtrusive noises, identified in Section 3.18, Public Health and Safety, were considered in relation to the location of recreation opportunities and uses to evaluate adverse effects to the recreation setting. Obtrusive noises, such as construction equipment movement, earthwork, tree removal, other short-term construction activities, and operational transmission line "buzzing" were considered in comparison to other existing noise sources on nearby recreational activities. Potential effects on wildlife or aquatic resources were determined using the findings presented in Sections 3.5, Vegetation; 3.6, Special Status Plant Species; 3.7, Wildlife; 3.8, Special Status Wildlife Species; 3.9, Aquatic Biological Resources; and 3.10, Special Status Aquatic Species. Sections 3.14, Land Use, and 3.16, Transportation and Access, provided the basis for addressing changes in land use and management or access to recreation opportunities.

#### 3.13.6.1 Impacts from Terminal Construction and Operation

The northern and southern terminals would be constructed regardless of alternative route or design option. This section describes the impacts to recreation from terminal construction and operation.

Northern Terminal

The Northern Terminal would be located on private property southwest of Sinclair, Wyoming. There is no public use of the proposed Northern Terminal siting area for recreation and no known private recreation use occurs on or adjacent to the property. Land areas around the terminal area are used for dispersed recreation.

The CDNST is located approximately 3 miles from the Northern Terminal siting area, and approximately 5 miles from the conceptual location for the terminal. During construction, recreational uses in adjacent portions of the CDNST SRMA area closest to the Northern Terminal could be temporarily affected by noise and activity; however, any potential affects at the recreation site would be remote and minor due to the distance and other activity (highway use, proximity to town, nearby developments) present in the vicinity. There are no special management areas and no recreational use that could not occur on other public lands in the vicinity.

No impacts to recreation would be anticipated from construction and operation of the proposed Northern Terminal because there is no public use or known recreation use occurring at the site.

Southern Terminal

The Southern Terminal would be located primarily on private property southwest of Boulder City, Nevada. Existing substations and energy facilities are located in the area. Although there are no designated recreation sites within the Southern Terminal siting area, there are multiple adjacent recreation sites, including: the Nelson/Eldorado SRMA to the north, Sloan Canyon NCA to the west, and Boulder City Conservation Easement (BCCE) to the south. Recreation uses (hiking, bird watching, bicycling, horseback riding, photography, sightseeing, picnicking, and bird hunting) on these adjacent sites could be temporarily affected by noise and activity during construction, particularly in areas closer to the area where the terminal is constructed.

Public recreation use of the Southern Terminal siting area includes OHV use of Boulder City roads (25 mph maximum and no dust creation) (Irwin 2013) and some unauthorized OHV use (i.e., not on Boulder City roads) on private property due to OHV use on adjacent BLM lands. Development of the Southern Terminal would affect OHV use if portions of any Boulder City roads were closed during construction or operation of the terminal site, although impacts would be minor as nearby BLM lands and designated open roads in the adjacent BCCE provide ample availability for OHV activities.

Design Option 2 – DC from Wyoming to IPP; AC from IPP to Marketplace Hub

Because the implementation of Design Option 2 would use the same alternative routes and construction techniques as the proposed Project, impacts from construction and operation of this design option would be similar to those discussed under the alternative routes. Differences between this design option and the proposed Project include the locations of the southern converter station and ground electrode systems, as well as the addition of a series compensation station midway between the IPP and Marketplace. The southern converter station would be located near the IPP in Utah instead of at the Marketplace in Nevada and the ground electrode system would be within 50 miles of the IPP. Construction and operation of a converter station near IPP, and a series compensation station would not be expected to impact recreation resources beyond what is described for in the analysis area Project impacts. Though additional acreage within the Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area would be affected by the substation and converter station, effects would be similar to those described under analysis area Project impacts. Construction of the ground electrode site near the IPP would affect 64 acres of undesignated BLM lands available for dispersed recreation and lands within the Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area in the Fillmore FO. Please see Section 3.13.6.8 for general construction and operation impacts to dispersed recreation and Section 3.13.6.10, Alternative II-A, for a description of potential impacts to recreation from construction and operation of the ground electrode site near Delta.

Design Option 3 – Phased Build-out

Because the implementation of Design Option 3 would utilize the same alternative route, facilities, and construction techniques as the proposed Project, impacts from construction and operation of this design option would be the same as those discussed under the alternative routes. The additional substation near the IPP needed for Design Option 3 would result in similar impacts to those described in Design Option 2.

#### 3.13.6.2 Impacts Common to all Alternative Routes and Associated Components

Construction and operation of all of the alternative routes in each analysis area region would entail impacts to undesignated, general BLM and NFS lands (i.e., the lands do not contain specific recreation facilities or activities, or are not designated for specific purposes). Undesignated BLM and NFS lands typically receive dispersed hunting, fishing, camping, and OHV use. In general, a large portion of the land managed by each BLM FO or national forest is undesignated. This section includes a description of the general impacts that power line construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning would have on dispersed recreation. Context and intensity would vary by alternative and would depend upon acreage losses (i.e., acreage encumbered with facilities) or used during construction, the specific user group, and landscape characteristics near the construction area. These issues are discussed in greater detail by region, FO, and national forest in Sections 3.13.6.9 to 3.13.6.12. Impacts to designated recreational areas/sites or areas with known developed uses also are described by region, FO, and national forest in these sections. Any recreation-related BMPs within the relevant management plans, such as measures to protect the recreation viewshed or setting, would be required of the applicant to minimize impacts to recreation resources.

General Construction Impacts to Dispersed Recreation

During construction, noise or visual presence of construction activities could temporarily affect the experiences of visitors participating in dispersed recreation opportunities near the construction area (generally limited to those areas within the analysis area). Construction is expected to affect dispersed recreation use particularly on the weekends (Saturdays; there will be no construction on Sundays); seasons of use may vary by region and are discussed in Sections 3.13.6.9 to 3.13.6.12. The duration of transmission line construction activities on any given parcel of land may extend up to a year, although the total amount of time of actual construction activity would be much shorter, in the range of a few months. Over any particular section of the route, transmission line construction would be characterized by short periods (ranging from 1 day to 1 to 2 weeks) of relatively intense activity interspersed with periods of no activity.

Construction generally would result in vegetation (habitat) removal within the entire transmission line ROW. Roads and construction support areas would be built within the analysis area, resulting in additional surface disturbance. At peak construction levels, human activity would be high and noise would generally be above existing background levels within the entire width of the analysis area (see Section 3.18, Public Health and Safety, for a discussion of noise); however, terrain and vegetation of the area could provide visual screening and noise attenuation. As discussed in Section 3.13.6, some user groups would be more affected by habitat removal, noise and visual disturbance than others; for example, hunters, wildlife viewers and mountain biker user groups, whose recreation experience is dependent upon quiet natural experiences or undisturbed wildlife would be more affected than OHV users or other activities for which vegetation removal, noise, and human activity does not affect the recreation experience. Section 3.13.6 provides a list of key user groups and assumptions related to changes in their recreation experience from transmission line construction. In most cases, dispersed recreation opportunities are not limited to one particular locale and suitable substitute locations would exist nearby for the same dispersed recreational activities. Exceptions are described by region, FO, and national forest in Sections 3.13.6.9 to 3.13.6.12. Construction also could temporarily affect the ability of visitors to participate in dispersed recreation opportunities by limiting access. As noted in Section 3.16, Transportation and Access, Project construction would create short-term, minor and incidental increases in local traffic, but the construction phase is not expected to create substantial

congestion for extended periods. Site-specific construction impacts associated with access are not provided in Section 3.16 at this stage due to the length of the corridors for each alternative; therefore, recreation site-specific access construction impacts are only discussed generally within this section. Road Access Plans will be developed for the Agency Preferred Alternative as part of the Final Engineering before the Notice to Proceed. Please see Section 3.16, Transportation and Access, for a description of the construction phase mitigation regarding the preparation of Road Access Plans and Construction Period Traffic Management Plans for the corridor as part of the COM Plan.

General Operation Impacts to Dispersed Recreation

Operations would result in permanent visual impacts to areas along the transmission line, including areas used for dispersed recreation. While these impacts would not appreciably affect the availability of the recreation resource used while engaging in dispersed recreational activities (i.e., big game or fish habitat), the setting in which they occur would be affected visually and some users may choose to recreate elsewhere. In general, suitable substitute locations would exist nearby for the same dispersed recreational activities. Exceptions are described by region, FO, and national forest in Sections 3.13.6.9 to 3.13.6.12.

Maintenance activities, particularly maintenance of access roads and vegetation management could affect access to recreation sites/areas; however, any access impediments or delays from Project-related activities would be temporary. Maintenance activities and vegetation management also could temporarily affect the ability of some user groups to participate in certain recreation opportunities (e.g., hunting, wildlife viewing) or affect the recreation experiences of visitors adjacent to maintenance work sites due to noise from maintenance activities. Transmission line maintenance activities are expected to occur infrequently; the frequency and type of vegetation maintenance activities would vary by area, but could involve annual maintenance programs. Maintenance-related noise could temporarily affect adjacent hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing opportunities by making the area less hospitable for wildlife or fish. In addition, maintenance-related noise also could temporarily affect adjacent opportunities for solitude or viewing scenery. Annual ground inspections would likely not result in any impacts to recreation opportunities or experiences. Semi-annual aerial inspections (passing helicopters) could result in temporary noise effects to the ambient recreation setting of any adjacent or nearby recreation site/area. Section 3.13.6, Impacts to Recreation, provides a list of key user groups and assumptions related to changes in their recreation experience from transmission line operation.

Project access roads would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the appropriate federal or state land manager to determine whether to close roads to the public, close and reclaim roads, or leave roads open as part of the transportation network. Roads to be closed to the public would have signage indicating the restriction or regulation, location, penalty for violation, and appropriate contact information for reporting violations. Despite the presence of closure signs, closed roads may become an attractive nuisance and lead to unauthorized OHV use and associated resource damage, noise, etc. Other deterrents such as barriers, contouring, and revegetation may be used to indicate closed roads as determined on a site-specific basis depending on site-specific needs, management requirements, and reasonable application of the treatment. The Applicant would monitor permanent roads on NFS land and BLM-administered lands yearly, and the applicable land-managing agency would be provided with annual monitoring reports. If TransWest-maintained access roads remain available for public use, continued maintenance of these roads would be a beneficial impact for those recreationists seeking motorized recreational opportunities and increased access in the area; conversely, such roads could adversely impact recreational opportunities for solitude or non-motorized recreational experiences.

General Decommission Impacts to Dispersed Recreation

At the end of the Project's 50-year ROW grant, or when it is determined that the Project is no longer economical, the Project would be decommissioned and the area reclaimed. During decommissioning, the level of effort, equipment needed, and phasing to decommission the transmission lines and

support facilities would be similar to constructing the facilities. Chapter 2.0 and **Appendix D** contain information regarding the preparation of Reclamation Plans.

### 3.13.6.3 Region I

**Table 3.13-20** provides a summary of Region I RAs/sites by alternative within the analysis area.

**Table 3.13-20 Region I Recreation Areas within the Refined Transmission Corridor and Analysis Area**

| Recreation Area/Site | Alternative I-A Refined Transmission Corridor Analysis Area Acres (% of total area) | Alternative I-B Refined Transmission Corridor Analysis Area Acres (% of total area) | Alternative I-C Refined Transmission Corridor Analysis Area Acres (% of total area) | Alternative I-D Refined Transmission Corridor Analysis Area Acres (% of total area) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BLM Rawlins FO** | | | | |
| Dispersed, undesignated RAs | 7,528 (0.2)<br>77,921 (2.2) | 7,886 (0.2)<br>81,255 (2.3) | 3,244 (0.09)<br>59,520 (1.7) | 7,344 (0.2)<br>94,715 (2.7) |
| CDNST SRMA | 10 (1.6)<br>1.4 miles/179 (29.8) | 10 (1.6)<br>1.4 miles/179 (29.8) | 10 (1.6)<br>1.4 miles/179 (29.8) | 10 (1.6)<br>1.4 miles/179 (29.8) |
| Adobe Town DRUA | 0<br>62 (0.03) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **BLM Little Snake FO** | | | | |
| Dispersed undesignated RAs | 8,295 (0.7)<br>99,767 (7.9) | 8,295 (0.7)<br>99,767 (7.9) | 4,133 (0.3)<br>26,141 (2.1) | 8,295 (0.7)<br>99,767 (7.9) |
| South Sand Wash SRMA | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Juniper Mountain SRMA | N/A | N/A | 134 (7.5)<br>1,437 (80.7) | N/A |
| Serviceberry SRMA | N/A | N/A | 0<br>1,462 (11.8) | N/A |
| Little Yampa Canyon SRMA | N/A | N/A | 0<br><1 acre (0) | N/A |
| **BLM White River FO** | | | | |
| Dispersed, undesignated RAs | 1,709 (0.1)<br>13,929 (1.0) | 1,709 (0.1)<br>13,929 (1.0) | 1,709 (0.1)<br>13,929 (1.0) | 1,709 (0.1)<br>13,929 (1.0) |
| **Other Federal RAs** | | | | |
| Dinosaur National Monument | 3.7 (Option 3)/ 11.4 (Option 4)<br>3.7 (Option 3)/15.6 (Option 4) | 3.7 (Option 3)/ 11.4 (Option 4)<br>3.7 (Option 3)/15.6 (Option 4) | 3.7 (Option 3)/ 11.4 (Option 4)<br>3.7 (Option 3)/15.6 (Option 4) | 3.7 (Option 3)/ 11.4 (Option 4)<br>3.7 (Option 3)/15.6 (Option 4) |
| **State RAs** | | | | |
| **Wyoming** | | | | |
| Red Rim-Daley WHMA | 112 (0.4)<br>2,847 (11.3) | 112 (0.4)<br>2,847 (11.3) | 112 (0.4)<br>2,847 (11.3) | 112 (0.4)<br>2,847 (11.3) |
| Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly WHMA | N/A | N/A | 39 (<0.1)<br>1,015 (1.7) | N/A |
| **Colorado** | | | | |
| Yampa River SWA | N/A | N/A | 0<br>199 (23.1) | N/A |
| Bitter Brush SWA | N/A | N/A | 803 (10)<br>4,921 (61.1) | N/A |
| Raftopolous Hunting Lease | 0<br>617 (5.4) | 0<br>617 (5.4) | 0<br>617 (5.4) | 0<br>617 (5.4) |
| Yampa River State Park | 1 river crossing;<br>1 access point | 1 river crossing;<br>1 access point | 3 river crossings;<br>3 access points | 1 river crossing;<br>1 access point |

**Table 3.13-20 Region I Recreation Areas within the Refined Transmission Corridor and Analysis Area**

| Recreation Area/Site | Alternative I-A Refined Transmission Corridor Analysis Area Acres (% of total area) | Alternative I-B Refined Transmission Corridor Analysis Area Acres (% of total area) | Alternative I-C Refined Transmission Corridor Analysis Area Acres (% of total area) | Alternative I-D Refined Transmission Corridor Analysis Area Acres (% of total area) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Local RAs** | | | | |
| Juniper Hot Springs | N/A | N/A | 0<br>Entire site | N/A |
| **Scenic Backways and Byways** | | | | |
| Battle Pass Scenic Byway | N/A | N/A | 1 crossing<br>2.1 miles | N/A |

Alternative I-A (Applicant Proposed)

Alternative I-A would cross dispersed RAs in three FOs, two specially managed RAs, one national monument, one wildlife area in Wyoming and one in Colorado. Alternative I-A also would affect one Yampa River access point and cross the river once.

*BLM Dispersed Recreation Areas*

General construction impacts to dispersed recreation activities are described in Section 3.13.6.8 and would affect recreationists by displacing visitors due to area closures, noise or visual presence of construction, or making the area inhospitable for wildlife. Within Region I, the refined transmission corridor for Alternative I-A would impact a portion of 7,528 acres of dispersed RA in the Rawlins FO, 8,295 acres within the Little Snake FO, and 1,709 acres within the White River FO during construction. The analysis area for Alternative I-A, would encompass approximately 77,921 acres of dispersed RA in the Rawlins FO; 99,767 acres within the Little Snake FO; and 13,929 acres within the White River FO during construction. This is 2.2 percent, 7.9 percent, and 1 percent, respectively, of total available acreage for dispersed recreation in each FO. A portion of this area would temporarily be removed from use during construction due to surface disturbance, increased noise, and human activity related to access roads and construction support areas. Construction impacts would be greatest to the hunter and wildlife viewer user group due to the direct loss of habitat, and to non-mechanized users such as hikers or backpackers, due to aesthetic impacts that would make recreation experiences in those areas undesirable. However, since construction is sequential, not all acreage within the refined transmission corridor or analysis area would be subject to noise and human activity at the same time.

Recreation use in Region I would be affected most during the summer, when general recreation use peaks in this area, and during the fall and winter (generally September to February), when most big game hunting occurs. There are no high use areas identified within the White River FO that would be near or within the analysis area. Within the Little Snake FO, Alternative I-A would pass through important hunting areas west of Maybell. These areas would likely be lost to hunting during construction (see Section 3.8, Special Status Wildlife Species for more information regarding avoidance behavior of big game from noise); however, the areas outside the analysis area, to which big game likely would be displaced, are federal lands that are open to hunting.

Within the Rawlins FO, Alternative I-A would cross Muddy Creek; within the Little Snake FO, Alternative I-A would cross the Little Snake and Yampa rivers. There are no high recreational use areas or access points to Muddy Creek or the Little Snake River within the analysis area. Alternative I-A would cross the Yampa River near a high use access area west of Maybell (the East Cross Mountain access point). The access point would be within the analysis area, resulting in adverse impacts to recreational boaters or anglers on the river and campers at the access point due to the sounds and sights of construction. Impacts to the Yampa River are discussed in greater detail as

part of the Yampa River State Park analysis, below. Alternative I-A also would cross the Yampa Valley Trail west of Maybell. The trail is commonly used for mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, wildlife viewing, and OHV use. However, use of the trail in this area is low; the more popular trail segment is in the Little Yampa Canyon SRMA (BLM 2010). Although construction activities could potentially degrade the recreation setting from construction noise and activities, only a small section of the trail would be temporarily or permanently affected and the majority of nearby trail mileage would not be affected. If visitors participate in recreation opportunities near the construction area (generally within the analysis area), recreation experiences for visitors could be temporarily degraded from construction noise and activities.

Within the Rawlins FO, the analysis area would encompass 62 acres (less than 0.1 percent) of the Adobe Town DRUA. The analysis area would be located entirely in areas with Front Country ROS designations. These areas are roughly consistent with the Roaded Natural ROS class described in **Table 3.13-4**; development would be consistent with recreation management goals for this area.

Operation of Alternative I-A would affect a portion of 7,528 acres of the refined transmission corridor within the Rawlins FO; 8,295 acres within the Little Snake FO; and 1,709 acres within the White River FO. This represents <0.1 percent of each FO. Operation would have minimal impacts to most dispersed recreation experiences (see Section 2.14.6.2); however, the presence of a transmission line crossing the Yampa River would be a permanent adverse impact to the river recreation experience. Maintenance activities also could disrupt hunting and wildlife watching activities due to noise and human presence. Due to the importance of the area around Maybell for big game hunting, the following mitigation measure is recommended to reduce the potential for impacts to hunting:

***REC-1**: Where practicable, operation phase vegetation maintenance activities within dispersed RAs or key hunting locales would not occur during big game hunting seasons.*

Implementation of this measure would be highly effective in reducing impacts to hunting activities and also would be a beneficial impact to worker safety.

*BLM SRMAs or Other Specially Managed Recreation Areas*

CDNST SRMA. On BLM lands within the Rawlins FO, approximately 1.4 miles of the CDNST would be included within the analysis area for Alternative I-A; the refined transmission corridor would include 0.1 miles of the CDNST on BLM lands. Approximately 2.8 miles of the CDNST would be included within the analysis area on private property under Alternative I-A. Approximately 10 acres of the refined transmission corridor would be within the 600-acre CDNST SRMA. This is approximately 1.6 percent of the SRMA, which covers about 82 miles of trail. Approximately 179 acres of the analysis area, in which roads and construction support areas could be constructed, also would be located within the SRMA. The trail/SRMA is managed to provide primitive recreational experiences and the scenic trail has national importance. Impacts to the trail itself would be minimized by the placement of the transmission line ROW within a designated overhead utility corridor; towers would be placed to avoid surface disturbance near the actual trail. Impacts from construction, as described in Section 3.13.6, would adversely affect the non-mechanized user group (hikers, backpackers, and equestrians). Visual impacts would be permanent; however, operation of the line is unlikely to appreciably affect the overall recreational experience of the SRMA and trail because of the small percentage of area affected and the recreational experience and character of the trail at this location is already affected by an existing 230- to 287-kV transmission line and the I-80 crossing. The transmission line would be consistent with SRMA management objectives because the line would be located within a designated utility corridor. Development of additional roads and construction support areas would have adverse impacts to the SRMA by subjecting visitors to construction noise and visual impacts. Impacts to the SRMA could be reduced with application of the following mitigation measures.

***REC-2**: Within designated recreation management areas, access shall be limited to existing roads whenever practicable. If new and improved access cannot be avoided within these areas, access*

*roads shall be closed or rehabilitated through methods and monitoring developed through consultation with the landowner or land management agency. Methods for closure could include gates, obstructions such as berms or boulders, or partial or full restoration to natural contour or vegetation.*

***REC-3**: If designated corridors exist within the RA, new roads and ancillary construction areas shall only be located within designated utility corridors.*

Use of existing roads or placement of new roads and construction areas only within the designated corridor would be highly effective in limiting impacts to areas in which these actions are consistent with area management.

Within the Little Snake FO, neither the refined transmission corridor nor the analysis area would be located within a SRMA. The analysis area would be located approximately less than 1 mile outside of the South Sand Wash SRMA, but would not enter the SRMA. The portion of the SRMA that is closest to the analysis area is an isolated patch of open OHV play area (Zone I). The prescribed setting is "rural" (i.e., on or near improved country roads and a highway) and with conspicuous and large-scale landscape alteration from OHV use. Construction noise levels and visual disturbances would not be inconsistent with Zone I management. Recreation in the SRMA is unlikely to be appreciably affected by any permanent road construction or temporary construction support areas within the analysis area because the recreational experience can accommodate large scale landscape alteration.

*Other Federally Managed Recreation Areas*

Dinosaur National Monument. Tuttle Ranch Micro-Siting Options 3 and 4 include 3.7 and 11.4 acres, respectively, of the Dinosaur National Monument within the refined transmission corridor. The analysis area would include 3.7 and 15.6 acres of the monument for Options 3 and 4, respectively. The portion of the monument within the refined transmission line corridor and analysis area lies along Deerlodge Road at the road's junction with US-40. Deerlodge Road is the only road entrance to the eastern portion of the monument and provides access to a campground, ranger station, and the only Yampa River boat launch site in the National Monument. An outdoor kiosk that provides information on the monument and Yampa River also is located at Deerlodge Road near the junction with US-40. The average daily traffic count on the road is less than 350 vehicles (NPS 2013a). Construction activities within the National Monument would not be anticipated to affect visitor access to the campground, boat launch site and ranger station since line stringing would occur over the road with safety measures in place to prevent any disruption to road traffic; however, it is possible that very brief closures over a few days with flagmen may be employed if deemed necessary for visitor safety. Construction also could affect visitor's recreation experiences due to noise, delays, and visual intrusions from construction activities, particularly for visitors stopping and exiting their vehicles at the informational kiosk. Operation of Tuttle Ranch Micro-Siting Options 3 and 4 could affect recreation use and visitors to the national monument because the transmission line would cross over Deerlodge Road under these options. Thus, maintenance activities could affect visitor access and recreation experiences due to traffic delays or temporary road closures for public safety, particularly for visitors at the kiosk. Application of **REC-6** would minimize construction impacts related to access by continuing to maintain access to high use RAs. Please see Section 3.18, Public Health and Safety, and Section 3.12, Visual Resources, for additional details regarding noise and visual impacts to the monument and its visitors.

*State-managed Recreation Areas*

Red Rim-Daley WHMA. Within Wyoming, approximately 112 acres of the refined transmission corridor and 2,847 acres of the analysis area for Alternative I-A would fall within the Red Rim-Daley WHMA. This 25,177-acre WHMA provides crucial winter habitat for pronghorn antelope and a variety of other wildlife and is used recreationally for hunting and wildlife watching. During construction, wildlife habitat within a portion of the 112 acres within the refined transmission corridor (0.4 percent of the WHMA) would be permanently removed for creation of the transmission line ROW. During peak construction, it is likely that big game would be temporarily displaced from the entire 2,847-acre portion of the analysis

area within the WHMA (11 percent of the WHMA) due to their avoidance response (see Section 3.7, Wildlife, for a full discussion of noise impacts on wildlife). Access roads and construction staging areas also could be constructed within the analysis area, further fragmenting habitat and extending the area affected by construction noise and activity. Implementation of timing restrictions would prevent disturbance to wintering big game (TWE-32 and TWE-33 as well as BLM, USFS, and state wildlife agency restrictions); however, vegetation removal would still occur for transmission line and road construction.

Application of **REC-2** would minimize this impact by limiting access to existing roads within the WHMA and/or requiring full reclamation of any roads that are constructed. This would reduce habitat modification and fragmentation; however, a portion of the 112 acres within the refined transmission corridor (0.4 percent of the WHMA) would still have some level of vegetation maintenance during operations that could affect habitat.

Construction of Alternative I-A would adversely affect the hunter and wildlife viewer user group through habitat removal, restricted access to areas undergoing construction, and by displacing wildlife in and near construction zones. Recreationists seeking wildlife watching experiences would be adversely impacted by these activities regardless of their timing. Hunters would largely be adversely impacted only if these activities were scheduled during active hunting seasons. Due to the checkerboard nature of land ownership, recreationists may not be able to easily move to other areas of the WHMA to follow wildlife movement, and wildlife may be displaced to areas that are not open to public use. The following additional mitigation measure is recommended to reduce the potential for impacts to hunting:

***REC-4**: Where practicable, construction activities within key hunting locales such as WHMAs/WMAs/ SWAs would not occur during big game hunting seasons.*

Implementation of this measure would be highly effective in reducing impacts to hunting activities and also would be a beneficial impact to worker safety.

Operation of the transmission line is unlikely to affect hunting or other wildlife-dependent recreation activities. Some visitors seeking a completely natural setting (such as wildlife photographers) might choose to visit areas without transmission lines; however, the majority of the WHMA would be visually undisturbed. The noise and activity associated with annual maintenance could temporarily displace wildlife. Application of **REC-1** (scheduling vegetation maintenance outside of big game hunting seasons where practicable) would further minimize impacts to hunting. Please see Section 3.18, Public Health and Safety, and Section 3.12, Visual Resources, for additional details regarding operational noise and visual impacts.

Raftopolous Hunting Lease and Other Public Access Program Areas. Within Colorado, no SWAs would be located within either the refined transmission corridor or analysis area for Alternative I-A; however, approximately 617 acres of the analysis area would fall within the 11,383-acre Raftopolous hunting lease. The Raftopolous hunting lease area and several smaller parcels of State Trust Lands that are part of the Public Access Program are open to hunting (CPW 2012). Application of **REC-2** would limit access to existing roads within the area and/or require full reclamation of any roads that are constructed; however, wildlife in this 617-acre portion of the hunting lease (approximately 5 percent of the total lease area) could still be temporarily displaced by noise and activity from construction activities. However, the other 95 percent of the hunting lease area would still be available to hunters and the areas surrounding the lease are BLM lands, which also are open to hunting.

Yampa River State Park. The analysis area for Alternative I-A would pass through the Yampa River State Park and include the State Park's East Cross Mountain access point (River Mile 60) west of Maybell, Colorado. Temporary and permanent facilities within the analysis area adjacent to the river would adversely affect the recreation setting for boaters on the Yampa River as roads and temporary construction areas would substantively change the visual setting of this mostly undeveloped river. The

East Cross Mountain access point offers camping and picnicking in addition to river access. The access point would remain open during construction; however, recreational river users, campers, and picnickers could experience noise and visual disturbances. The nearest State Park access point is about 11 miles upstream, but does not offer camping and has minimal facilities. The Maybell Bridge access point, located 3 miles east of Maybell and 28 miles upstream from the East Cross Mountain access point, is the closest improved access point offering camping. There also are two access points downstream (River Mile 55 and 46) managed by the NPS; however, the river is expert class beyond River Mile 60 (class 5-6 within Cross Canyon). In addition to **REC-2**, the following mitigation measures are recommended to reduce impacts to boaters and campers in the area:

***REC-5****: No construction shall be allowed after 5:00 p.m. on weeknights, and no construction shall be allowed on weekends, holidays, or the opening of big game hunting seasons in areas that are within 1 mile of developed recreation sites.*

***REC-6****: Construction zones will be sited such that access to high use recreational areas and trails is not impeded. If public safety concerns are such that current access or use cannot be maintained, the applicant will work with the appropriate land manager to develop alternative access points or redirect users to alternative existing points of access.*

***REC-7****: Ancillary construction areas would not be located within 1 mile of developed RAs (trails, trailheads, campgrounds, etc.).*

***REC-8****: Temporary roads and ancillary construction areas would not be located within the view of boaters on the Yampa River.*

Application of these measures would reduce the adverse impacts from noise and visual disturbances from construction activity during key recreational use times and ensure continued recreational access was available. However, noise and visual impacts would be present during weekdays.

*Local Recreation Areas*

There are no local RAs within Alternative I-A.

*Scenic Backways and Byways*

Within the Rawlins FO, Alternative I-A would cross the Outlaw Trail Scenic Loop Highway; one crossing within the refined transmission corridor and 1.4 miles within the analysis area. Although not a nationally designated scenic byway, this route is recommended for recreational drivers in the area (Carbon County Visitors Council 2012). The transmission line would cross the highway near its junction with I-80. Scenic drivers would be subject to views of road construction near the byway and also would be able to view the transmission line (see Section 3.12, Visual Resources, for more information). Viewshed impacts from development of new access roads within the analysis area would be permanent unless fully restored. Impacts would be reduced through application of **REC-2**, which would limited access to existing roads near the highways and/or require full reclamation of any roads that are constructed. During construction, the affected portion of the highway also could experience additional traffic for segments used for employee commute, supply delivery, etc. (see Section 3.16, Transportation and Access).

<u>Alternative I-B (Agency Preferred)</u>

Alternative I-B would cross dispersed RAs in three FOs, one specially managed RA, one national monument, one wildlife area in Wyoming and one in Colorado. Alternative I-B also would affect one Yampa River access point and cross the river once.

*BLM Dispersed Recreation Areas*

The analysis area for Alternative I-B would encompass approximately 81,255 acres of dispersed RA in the Rawlins FO; 99,767 acres within the Little Snake FO; and 13,929 acres within the White River FO. This is 2.3 percent, 7.9 percent, and 1 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation in each FO, respectively. A portion of this area would temporarily be removed from use during construction due to surface disturbance, increased noise, and human activity related to access roads and construction support areas. Construction impacts to dispersed recreation and suggested mitigation would be the same as described under Alternative I-A.

Operation of Alternative I-B would affect a portion of 7,886 acres of the refined transmission corridor within the Rawlins FO; 8,295 acres within the Little Snake FO; and 1,709 acres within the White River FO. This represents less than 1 percent of each FO. Impacts to dispersed recreation and suggested mitigation would be the same as described under Alternative I-A.

*BLM SRMAs or Other Specially Managed Recreation Areas*

CDNST SRMA. Impacts to the CDNST SRMA would be the same as described under Alternative I-A. No other SRMAs would be affected by Alternative I-B.

*Other Federally Managed Recreation Areas*

Dinosaur National Monument. Impacts to the monument would be the same as described under Alternative I-A.

*State-managed Recreation Areas*

Red Rim-Daley WHMA. Impacts to the Red Rim-Daley WHMA would be the same as described under Alternative I-A.

Raftopolous Hunting Lease and Other Public Access Program Areas. Impacts to the Raftopolous hunting lease area would be the same as described under Alternative I-A.

Yampa River State Park. Impacts to Yampa River State Park would be the same as those described under Alternative I-A.

*Local Recreation Areas*

There are no local RAs within Alternative I-B.

*Scenic Backways and Byways*

Impacts to the Outlaw Trail Scenic Loop highway would be the same as described under Alternative I-A.

Alternative I-C

Alternative I-C would cross dispersed RAs in three FOs, three specially managed RAs, one national monument, two wildlife areas in Wyoming and three in Colorado, and one private recreation site. Alternative I-C also would affect three Yampa River access points and cross the river three times, as well as affect one scenic byway.

*BLM Dispersed Recreation Areas*

The analysis area for Alternative I-C would encompass approximately 59,520 acres of dispersed RA in the Rawlins FO; 26,141 acres within the Little Snake FO; and 13,929 acres within the White River FO. This is 1.7 percent, 2.1 percent, and 1 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation in each FO, respectively. A portion of this area would temporarily be removed from use during

construction due to surface disturbance, increased noise, and human activity related to access roads and construction support areas. Construction impacts to dispersed hunting, wildlife, and river boating and suggested mitigation would be similar to those described under Alternative I-A, except that Alternative I-C would cross the Yampa River a total of three times and three river access points would fall within the analysis area. Impacts to river access points are discussed further under State Recreation Areas, below. Operation of Alternative I-C would affect a portion of 3,244 acres of the refined transmission corridor within the Rawlins FO; 4,133 acres within the Little Snake FO; and 1,709 acres within the White River FO. This represents less than 1 percent of each FO. Impacts to dispersed recreation and suggested mitigation would be the same as described under Alternative I-A.

*BLM SRMAs or Other Specially Managed Recreation Areas*

CDNST SRMA. Impacts to the CDNST SRMA would be the same as described under Alternative I-A.

Juniper Mountain SRMA. Within the Little Snake FO, approximately 1,437 acres of the analysis area for Alternative I-C would fall within the northern portion of the 1,780-acre Juniper Mountain SRMA. The refined transmission corridor would cross the Yampa River just northwest of the SRMA. The SRMA is managed for boating, hunting, camping, and hiking. The portion of the SRMA within the analysis area is primarily within Zone 2, which is managed for national- and regional-level destination big game hunting, as well as hiking, camping, and horseback riding. The prescribed setting is natural backcountry, where landscape alterations are uncommon, and the area is managed as VRM Class II within line of sight of the river. Alternative I-C would cross the Yampa River downstream of the SRMA; however, the Juniper Mountain access point would be within the analysis area and the transmission line would be visible to river users within the SRMA. Operation of the transmission line would not be in conformance with the prescribed recreation setting for the SRMA (natural backcountry, where landscape alterations are uncommon, and VRM Class II within line of sight of the river) and would result in adverse impacts to user groups such as river boaters, hikers, and backpackers, whose recreational experience is dependent upon a natural landscape. Impacts to river users within the SRMA also are discussed under Yampa River State Park, below.

During construction, wildlife habitat within a portion of the refined transmission corridor could be permanently removed for construction of the transmission line. During peak construction, it is likely that big game would be temporarily displaced from the entire 1,437-acre portion of the analysis area located within the SRMA (81 percent of the SRMA) due to the avoidance response of big game. Access roads and construction staging areas also could be constructed within the analysis area, further fragmenting habitat and extending the area affected by construction noise and activity. Implementation of timing restrictions (TWE-32 and TWE-33 as well as BLM, USFS, and state wildlife agency restrictions) would prevent disturbance to wintering big game; however, vegetation removal would still occur for transmission line and road construction. Application of **REC-2** would minimize this impact by limiting access to existing roads within the SRMA and/or requiring full reclamation of any roads that are constructed. This would reduce habitat modification and fragmentation; however, habitat within a portion of the refined transmission corridor (134 acres, 7.5 percent of the SRMA) would still have some level of vegetation maintenance during operations that could affect wildlife.

Construction would adversely affect the hunter and wildlife viewer user group through habitat removal, restricted access to areas undergoing construction, and by displacing wildlife in and near construction zones. Construction also would adversely affect the non-mechanized user group (hikers, backpackers, and equestrians) that recreate in this SRMA through construction activity and noise. Recreationists seeking wildlife watching experiences or natural settings would be adversely impacted by these activities regardless of their timing. Hunters would be adversely affected only if these activities were scheduled during active hunting seasons. Due to the importance as a national- and regional-level destination for big game hunting, application of **REC-4** (scheduling construction outside of hunting seasons) is recommended to reduce impacts to this activity. Application of **REC-1** (scheduling vegetation maintenance outside of big game hunting seasons where practicable) would further minimize impacts to hunting during operations. Application of **REC-5**, **REC-6**, **REC-7**, and **REC-8**

would minimize impacts to all recreation user groups by prohibiting construction during weekends and other high use periods, maintaining access to high use RAs, locating ancillary construction facilities away from developed RAs, and prohibiting temporary roads and ancillary construction areas from being located within the viewshed of boaters on the Yampa River.

Serviceberry and Little Yampa Canyon SRMAs. Approximately 1,462 acres (11.8 percent) of the 12,380-acre Serviceberry SRMA lie within the analysis area in which roads and other construction facilities would be located. This portion of the SRMA (Zone 2) is managed for non-motorized big game hunting and undeveloped camping. Recreation needs and potential impacts of construction and operation to these user groups are described under Section 3.13.6. Application of mitigation measure **REC-2** would reduce impacts to this area by eliminating roads or requiring full reclamation; however, this portion of the SRMA could still experience noise and activity from nearby ROW construction or use of construction support areas within the SRMA. This would still result in adverse impacts to non-motorized recreation users such as campers. Hunters also would be affected if construction occurs during hunting season and they could not or chose not to move to others areas of the SRMA. A very small portion (less than 1 acre) of the analysis area also falls within the Little Yampa Canyon SRMA. Application of mitigation measure **REC-2** would reduce impacts to this area by eliminating roads within this area.

*Other Federally Managed Recreation Areas*

Dinosaur National Monument. Impacts to the monument would be the same as described under Alternative I-A.

*State-managed Recreation Areas*

Red Rim-Daley WHMA. Impacts to the Red Rim-Daley WHMA would be the same as under Alternative I-A.

Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly WHMA. Within Wyoming, approximately 39 acres of the refined transmission corridor and 1,015 acres of the analysis area for Alternative I-C would fall within the 59,780-acre Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly WHMA. The WHMA is a utility ROW avoidance area and is managed to protect Colorado River fish species unique to the Muddy Creek watershed and crucial winter habitat for elk and mule deer. Recreation is primarily limited to hunting, angling, and wildlife viewing. Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and vehicle routes. Implementation of timing restrictions during both construction and operation phases (TWE-32 and TWE-33 as well as Rawlins FO restrictions) would prevent disturbance to wintering big game; however, there would still be some loss of big game habitat. Habitat loss would be minimized through application of **REC-2**, which would limit access to existing roads within the WHMA and/or require full reclamation of any roads that are constructed. Construction impacts within the WHMA would primarily affect hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers. Impacts to hunters and wildlife watchers would be similar to those described under the Red Rim-Daley WHMA under Alternative I-A. Application of **REC-4** would reduce impacts by rescheduling construction activities within key hunting locales, such as WHMAs, outside of hunting seasons. The noise and activity associated with annual maintenance could temporarily displace wildlife. Application of **REC-1** would further minimize impacts to hunting from operations. Impacts to anglers would be primarily related to maintaining watershed quality and aquatic species habitat. Construction would result in surface distance and erosion and sedimentation that has potential to affect the watershed or aquatic species for which the WHMA is managed; however, total vegetation removal within a portion of the refined transmission corridor would comprise less than 1 percent of the WHMA and the analysis area in which roads and construction support areas would be located comprises less than 1.7 percent of the WHMA. Application of **REC-2** would further minimize impacts to the resources used by anglers.

Raftopolous Hunting Lease and Other Public Access Program Areas. Impacts to the Raftopolous hunting lease area would be the same as described under Alternative I-A.

Bitter Brush SWA. Within Colorado, approximately 803 acres of the refined transmission corridor and 4,921 acres of the analysis area for Alternative I-C would fall within the 8,057-acre Bitter Brush SWA. The refined transmission corridor would be located within a designated utility corridor within the SWA near an existing transmission line. This area is primarily used for hunting and wildlife viewing; public access within the SWA is prohibited from January 15 through April 30. During construction, a portion of the approximately 10 percent of the SWA within the refined transmission corridor would be removed from use as wildlife habitat. During peak construction, it is likely that big game would be temporarily displaced from the entire 4,921-acre portion of the analysis area located within the SWA (61 percent of the SWA) due to the avoidance response of big game (see Section 3.7, Wildlife, for a full discussion of noise impacts on wildlife). Access roads and construction staging areas also could be constructed within the analysis area, further fragmenting habitat and extending the area affected by construction noise and activity. Impacts to recreation would be similar to those described for the Red Rim-Daley WHMA under Alternative I-A. Implementation of timing restrictions would prevent disturbance to wintering big game; however, vegetation removal would still occur for transmission line and road construction. Application of **REC-2** and **REC-3** would minimize this impact by limiting access to existing roads within the SWA and/or requiring full reclamation of any roads that are constructed, and limiting roads and construction support areas to designated corridors only. This would reduce habitat modification and fragmentation; however, a portion of the refined transmission corridor (803 acres, 10 percent of the SWA) would still have some level of vegetation maintenance during operations that could affect habitat. Construction would adversely affect the hunter and wildlife viewer user group through habitat removal, restricted access to areas undergoing construction, and by displacing wildlife in and near construction zones. Recreationists seeking wildlife watching experiences would be adversely affected by these activities regardless of their timing. Hunters would largely be adversely affected only if these activities were scheduled during active hunting seasons. Due to the pattern of land ownership in the area and the large area of the SWA that would be affected by construction activity, wildlife may be displaced to areas outside the SWA that are not open to public use. Application of **REC-4** would reduce impacts to hunters. Operation of the transmission line is unlikely to affect hunting or other wildlife-dependent recreation activities. Some visitors seeking a completely natural setting (such as wildlife photographers) might choose to visit areas without transmission lines; however, the majority of the SWA would be visually undisturbed. The noise and activity associated with annual maintenance could temporarily displace wildlife. Application of **REC-1** would further minimize impacts to hunting from operations.

Yampa River SWA. Approximately 199 acres (23 percent) of the 860-acre Yampa River SWA lie within the analysis area where roads and other construction facilities would be located; the refined transmission corridor would be located to the west and outside of the SWA. This SWA is managed primarily for waterfowl hunting and river-based recreation, and includes an unimproved river access site that is part of Yampa River State Park. Construction and operation impacts to river users would be similar to those discussed for Yampa River State Park under Alternative I-A; however, this access point does not offer camping. Application of **REC-2** and **REC-8** would minimize impacts to recreation opportunities within the SWA by limiting access to existing roads and locating ancillary construction areas outside the viewshed of boaters on the Yampa River; however, waterfowl in this 199-acre portion of the SWA could still be temporarily displaced by noise and activity from nearby ROW construction, adversely affecting wildlife viewers and hunters.

Yampa River State Park. Under Alternative I-C, there would be a total of three crossings of the Yampa River, one slightly downstream of the Yampa River SWA, one downstream of the South Beach (Pump Station) access point, and one downstream of the Juniper Mountain access point. As discussed above, any river crossings would adversely impact the setting of the river and would affect the recreational experiences of boaters and anglers in the area. These impacts constitute an adverse effect to the Yampa River State Park system as a whole, which offers recreation of statewide significance. The Juniper Mountain and South Beach access points are both within the analysis area in which roads and other construction support areas could be built. Both access points offer overnight camping. During construction, there would be adverse impacts to recreationists using those areas for

camping or other forms of non-mechanized recreation due to construction noise and activity. Application of **REC-2** would minimize this impact by limiting access to existing roads in areas near the access points, but would not eliminate noise and visual impacts from the construction of the transmission line. Campers seeking to avoid impacts at the South Beach access point would need to move 32 miles downstream to the Duffy Mountain access point, or get permission to camp at Loudy Simpson Park, located 5 miles upstream. Campers seeking to avoid impacts at the Juniper Mountain access point would need to camp at the Duffy Mountain campsite (12 miles upstream), or portage the diversion dam within Juniper Canyon and continue on through advanced boating areas to the Maybell Bridge access point, located 6 miles downstream. Application of **REC-5**, **REC-6**, **REC-7**, and **REC-8** would minimize impacts to all recreation user groups by prohibiting construction during weekends and other high use periods maintaining access to high use RAs, locating ancillary construction facilities away from developed RAs, and prohibiting temporary roads and ancillary construction areas from being located within the viewshed of boaters on the Yampa River.

*Local Recreation Areas*

Juniper Hot Springs. The analysis area would encompass Juniper Hot Springs, a privately owned mineral springs and camping area located south of Maybell, Colorado, and is the only known recreational hot springs location in the area. Hot springs visitors and campers would be adversely affected by construction activity and noise. Other camping areas nearby would continue to be available during construction; however, there would be no other hot springs locations for any displaced users. Application of **REC-2** would limit access to existing roads and/or require full reclamation of any new roads. Application of **REC-5**, **REC-6**, and **REC-7** would reduce impacts to campers and hot springs users by prohibiting construction during weekends and other high use periods, maintaining access to high use areas, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs. However, noise and visual impacts would be present during weekdays. Section 3.17, Social and Economic Conditions, addresses the economic impacts of construction on this facility.

*Scenic Backways and Byways*

Within the Rawlins FO, the analysis area would include 2.1 miles of the Battle Pass Scenic Byway from Baggs to Encampment (SH-70) and 44.4 miles of the Outlaw Trail Scenic Loop (SH-789) from Baggs to I-80. The Battle Pass Scenic Byway was recently designated a state scenic byway; however, the Outlaw Trail Scenic Loop is not a designated scenic byway, but is a recommended route for recreational drivers in the area. The refined transmission corridor would include one crossing of the Battle Pass Scenic Byway east of Baggs. Scenic drivers using both roads would be subject to views of road construction near the byway and also would be able to view the transmission line (see Section 3.12, Visual Resources, for more information). Viewshed impacts from development of new access roads within the analysis area would be permanent unless fully restored. Impacts would be reduced through application of **REC-2**, which would limit access to existing roads near the highways and/or require full reclamation of any roads that are constructed. During construction, portions of the highways also could experience additional traffic on portions used for employee commute, supply delivery, etc. (see Section 3.16, Transportation and Access).

Alternative I-D

Alternative I-D would cross dispersed RAs in three FOs, one specially managed RA, one national monument, and one wildlife area in Wyoming and one in Colorado. Alternative I-B also would affect one Yampa River access point and cross the river once.

*BLM Dispersed Recreation Areas*

The analysis area for Alternative I-D would encompass approximately 94,715 acres of dispersed RA in the Rawlins FO; 99,767 acres within the Little Snake FO; and 13,929 acres within the White River FO. This is 2.7 percent, 7.9 percent, and 1 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation in each FO, respectively. A portion of this area would temporarily be removed from use during

construction due to surface disturbance, increased noise, and human activity related to access roads and construction support areas. Construction impacts to dispersed recreation and suggested mitigation would be the same as described under Alternative I-A.

Operation of Alternative I-D would affect a portion of 7,344 acres of the refined transmission corridor within the Rawlins FO, 8,295 acres within the Little Snake FO, and 1,709 acres within the White River FO. This represents less than 1 percent of each FO. Impacts to dispersed recreation and suggested mitigation would be the same as described under Alternative I-A.

*BLM SRMAs or Other Specially Managed Recreation Areas*

CDNST SRMA. Impacts to the CDNST SRMA would be the same as described under Alternative I-A. No other SRMAs would be affected by Alternative I-D.

*Other Federally Managed Recreation Areas*

Dinosaur National Monument. Impacts to the monument would be the same as described under Alternative I-A.

*State-managed Recreation Areas*

Red Rim-Daley WHMA. Impacts to the Red Rim-Daley WHMA would be the same as described under Alternative I-A.

Raftopolous Hunting Lease and Other Public Access Program Areas. Impacts to the Raftopolous hunting lease area would be the same as described under Alternative I-A.

Yampa River State Park. Impacts to Yampa River State Park would be the same as those described under Alternative I-A.

*Local Recreation Areas*

There are no local RAs within Alternative I-D.

*Scenic Backways and Byways*

Impacts to the Outlaw Trail Scenic Loop Highway would be the same as described under Alternative I-A.

Alternative Ground Electrode Systems in Region I

The Eight Mile Basin and Separation Creek ground electrode system locations would have the greatest impact on recreation as they would be located near designated RAs. The Separation Flat and Bolten Ranch locations would have less impact on recreation due to smaller areas that are only partially located on public land. **Table 3.13-21** provides a comparison of alternative ground electrode system locations proposed near the Northern Terminal. All four locations could serve multiple alternative routes.

Region I Conclusion

Alternative I-C would affect the most federal and state-managed recreation sites of the four Region I alternatives. In comparison, Alternatives I-B (Agency Preferred) and I-D would affect the fewest recreation sites. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation measures **REC-1**, **REC-2**, **REC-3**, **REC-4**, **REC-5**, **REC-6, REC-7,** and **REC-8,** these alternatives would have the least impact on recreation use, activities, and setting. Alternative I-A (Applicant Proposed) is similar to Alternatives I-B and I-D, however, Alternative I-A also would affect the Adobe Town DRUA, although no additional mitigation would be required for impacts to this area.

**Table 3.13-21 Summary of Region I Alternative Ground Electrode System Location Impacts to Recreation**

| Alternative Ground Electrode System Locations | Analysis |
|---|---|
| Separation Flat – All Alternative Routes | 121 acres of disturbance from construction, 36 acres from operations. Affects undesignated BLM lands. Would affect less public recreation use because only a portion of the site is publicly owned. |
| Bolten Ranch – All Alternative Routes | 151 acres of disturbance from construction, 52 acres from operations. Affects undesignated BLM lands. Would affect less public recreation use because only a portion of the site is publicly owned. |
| Eight Mile Basin – All Alternative Routes | 89 acres of disturbance from construction, 18 acres from operations. Affects 0.4 acre of the CDNST SRMA and the Rim Lake Recreation site, as well as undesignated BLM lands. |
| Separation Creek – All Alternative Routes | 76 acres of disturbance from construction, 11 acres from operations. Affects 32 acres of the Red Rim – Daley WHMA, as well as undesignated BLM lands. |

### 3.13.6.4 Region II

**Tables 3.13-22** through **Table 3.13-26** provide a summary of Region II RAs/sites by alternative, both within the refined transmission corridor and analysis area.

Alternative II-A (Applicant Proposed)

Alternative II-A would cross dispersed RAs in 5 FOs and 2 national forests (including several developed recreation sites), 2 specially managed RAs, 1 state park, 10 WMAs/units, 2 CWMUs, 1 private campground, and 1 reservoir. Alternative II-A also would cross three scenic backways/byways.

*BLM Dispersed Recreation Areas*

Within Region II, the refined transmission corridor for Alternative II-A would affect a portion of 2,739 acres of dispersed RA in the White River FO, 10,234 acres within the Vernal FO, 411 acres within the Richfield FO, 69 acres within the Salt Lake FO, and 6,144 acres within Fillmore FO. The analysis area for Alternative II-A, in which roads and other construction support areas could be located, would encompass the following acreages of dispersed RA within each FO:

- White River FO: 22,082 acres (1.5 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Vernal FO: 37,946 acres (2.4 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Richfield FO: 1,060 acres (0.08 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Salt Lake FO: 363 acres (0.01 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Fillmore FO: 46,110 acres (1.0 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).

## Table 3.13-22 Region II BLM Recreation Areas within the Refined Transmission Corridor and Analysis Area

| Recreation Area/Site | Alternative II-A Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-B Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-C Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-D Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-E Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-F Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-G Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BLM White River FO** | | | | | | | |
| Dispersed, undesignated RAs | 2,739 (0.2)<br>22,082 (1.5) | 14,232 (1.0)<br>57,110 (3.9) | 14,232 (1.0)<br>57,110 (3.9) | 2,761 (0.2)<br>22,123 (1.5) | 2,761 (0.2)<br>22,123 (1.5) | 2,761 (0.2)<br>22,123 (1.5) | 2,761 (0.2)<br>22,123 (1.5) |
| **BLM Grand Junction FO** | | | | | | | |
| Dispersed, undesignated RAs[1] | N/A | 4,431 (0.3)<br>31,060 (2.4) | 4,431 (0.3)<br>31,060 (2.4) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **BLM Moab FO** | | | | | | | |
| Dispersed, undesignated RAs | N/A | 4,049 (0.3)<br>65,444 (5.5) | 4,049 (0.3)<br>65,444 (5.5) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Labyrinth Canyon/Gemini Bridges SRMA | N/A | 913 (0.3)<br>4,087 (1.4) | 913 (0.3)<br>4,087 (1.4) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Utah Rims SRMA | N/A | 0<br>925 (6.0) | 0<br>925 (6.0) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **BLM Vernal FO** | | | | | | | |
| Dispersed, undesignated RAs | 10,234 (0.7)<br>37,946 (2.4) | 1,305 (0.08)<br>5,179 (0.3) | 1,305 (0.08)<br>5,179 (0.3) | 29,678 (1.9)<br>85,532 (5.5) | 8,968 (0.6)<br>44,567 (2.9) | 30,818 (2.0)<br>89,148 (5.7) | 8,742 (0.6)<br>43,180 (2.8) |
| Fantasy Canyon SRMA | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0<br>54 (78.3) | N/A | 0<br>54 (78.3) | N/A |
| Nine Mile Canyon SRMA | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0<br>1,456 (3.3) | N/A | 0<br>1,453 (3.3) | N/A |
| **BLM Price FO** | | | | | | | |
| Dispersed, undesignated RAs | N/A | 4,144 (0.3)<br>68,100 (5.0) | 5,455 (0.4)<br>57,628 (4.2) | 2,474 (0.2)<br>10,385 (0.8) | 31 (0)<br>368 (0.03) | N/A | N/A |
| Labyrinth Canyon SRMA | N/A | 21 (0.06)<br>154 (0.4) | 21 (0.06)<br>154 (0.4) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| San Rafael Swell SRMA | N/A | N/A | 355 (0.04)<br>10,590 (1.1) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

## Table 3.13-22 Region II BLM Recreation Areas within the Refined Transmission Corridor and Analysis Area

| Recreation Area/Site | Alternative II-A Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-B Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-C Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-D Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-E Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-F Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-G Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BLM Richfield FO** | | | | | | | |
| Dispersed, undesignated RAs | 411 (0.03)<br>1,060 (0.08) | 946 (0.07)<br>6,105 (0.5) | 2,120 (0.2)<br>16,284 (1.3) | 445 (0.04)<br>1,291 (0.1) | 411 (0.03)<br>1,060 (0.08) | 411 (0.03)<br>1,060 (0.08) | 411 (0.03)<br>1,060 (0.08) |
| **BLM Salt Lake FO** | | | | | | | |
| Dispersed, undesignated RAs | 69 (0)<br>363 (0.01) | N/A | N/A | N/A | 196 (0)<br>1,662 (0.05) | 1,310 (0.04)<br>3,250 (0.1) | 69 (0)<br>363 (0.01) |
| **BLM Fillmore FO** | | | | | | | |
| Dispersed, undesignated RAs[1] | 6,144 (0.1)<br>46,110 (1.0) | 6,168 (0.1)<br>12,901 (0.3) | 2,681 (0.06)<br>18,006 (0.4) | 6,659 (0.2)<br>43,999 (1.0) | 6,659 (0.2)<br>43,999 (1.0) | 6,659 (0.2)<br>43,999 (1.0) | 6,659 (0.2)<br>43,999 (1.0) |
| Little Sahara RA | 592 (1.0)<br>5,975 (10) | N/A | N/A | 592 (1.0)<br>5,975 (10) | 592 (1.0)<br>5,975 (10) | 592 (1.0)<br>5,975 (10) | 592 (1.0)<br>5,975 (10) |
| Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area | 588 (0.1)<br>21,342 (5.4) | 3,389 (0.9)<br>11,178 (2.8) | 1,465 (0.4)<br>11,598 (2.9) | 588 (0.1)<br>21,342 (5.4) | 588 (0.1)<br>21,342 (5.4) | 588 (0.1)<br>21,342 (5.4) | 588 (0.1)<br>21,342 (5.4) |

[1] Discrepancies in percentages are due to rounding.

## Table 3.13-23 Region II USFS and Other Federal Recreation Areas within the Refined Transmission Corridor and Analysis Area

| Recreation Area<br>ROS | Alternative II-A<br>Refined Transmission Corridor/<br>Analysis Area<br>Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-B<br>Refined Transmission Corridor/<br>Analysis Area<br>Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-C<br>Refined Transmission Corridor/<br>Analysis Area<br>Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-D<br>Refined Transmission Corridor/<br>Analysis Area<br>Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-E<br>Refined Transmission Corridor/<br>Analysis Area<br>Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-F<br>Refined Transmission Corridor/<br>Analysis Area<br>Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-G<br>Refined Transmission Corridor/<br>Analysis Area<br>Acres (% of Total Area) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Ashley National Forest** | | | | | | | |
| Rural | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Roaded Modified | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Roaded Natural | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1 (0)<br>1 (0) | 1,449 (0.3)<br>1,449 (0.3) | 1 (0)<br>1 (0) | N/A |
| Semi-Primitive Motorized | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0<br><1 (0) | N/A | N/A |
| SPM Within IRA | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Remainder in SPM ROS | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0<br><1 (0) | N/A | N/A |
| Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0<br>1 (0) | N/A | N/A |
| SPNM Within IRA | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Remainder in SPNM ROS | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0<br>1 (0) | N/A | N/A |
| Primitive | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Unknown/Private | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | <1 (0)<br><1 (0) | N/A | N/A |
| **Total** | **N/A** | **N/A** | **N/A** | **1 acre<br>1 acre** | **1,449 acres<br>1,450 acres** | **1 acre<br>1 acre** | **N/A** |
| **Uinta National Forest Planning Area** | | | | | | | |
| Rural | 0<br>23 (1.4) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Roaded Modified | 1,796 (2.1)<br>4,395 (5.2) | N/A | N/A | 0<br>31 (0.04) | 2,621 (3.1)<br>5,018 (5.9) | 2,621 (3.1)<br>5,015 (5.9) | 1,796 (2.1)<br>4,395 (5.2) |
| Roaded Natural | 4,013 (1.5)<br>5,633 (2.1) | 0<br><1 (0) | N/A | 0<br>13 (<0.01) | 9 (<0.01)<br>644 (0.2) | 9 (<0.01)<br>644 (0.2) | 4,013 (1.5)<br>5,540 (2.0) |
| Semi-Primitive Motorized | 1,609 (0.5)<br>1,665 (0.5) | N/A | N/A | N/A | 79 (0.02)<br>1,173 (0.3) | 79 (0.02)<br>1,174 (0.3) | 1,609 (0.5)<br>1,665 (0.5) |

## Table 3.13-23 Region II USFS and Other Federal Recreation Areas within the Refined Transmission Corridor and Analysis Area

| Recreation Area<br>ROS | Alternative II-A<br>Refined Transmission Corridor/<br>Analysis Area<br>Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-B<br>Refined Transmission Corridor/<br>Analysis Area<br>Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-C<br>Refined Transmission Corridor/<br>Analysis Area<br>Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-D<br>Refined Transmission Corridor/<br>Analysis Area<br>Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-E<br>Refined Transmission Corridor/<br>Analysis Area<br>Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-F<br>Refined Transmission Corridor/<br>Analysis Area<br>Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-G<br>Refined Transmission Corridor/<br>Analysis Area<br>Acres (% of Total Area) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SPM Within IRA | 2 (0)<br>2 (0) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0<br>1 (0) | 2 (0)<br>2 (0) |
| Remainder in SPM ROS | 1,607 (0.5)<br>1,663 (0.5) | N/A | N/A | N/A | 79 (0.02)<br>1,173 (0.3) | 79 (0.02)<br>1,173 (0.3) | 1,607 (0.5)<br>1,663 (0.5) |
| Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Primitive | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Unknown/Private | 0<br>11 (<0.01) | N/A | N/A | N/A | 4 (<0.01)<br>9 (<0.01) | 4 (<0.01)<br>9 (<0.01) | 0<br>11 (<0.01) |
| **Total** | **7,418 acres<br>11,727 acres** | **0<br><1 acre** | **N/A** | **0<br>44 acres** | **2,713 acres<br>6,844 acres** | **2,712 acres<br>6,842 acres** | **7,418 acres<br>11,611 acres** |
| **Manti-La Sal National Forest** | | | | | | | |
| Rural | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0<br>16 (2.0) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Roaded Modified | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Roaded Natural | 103 (0.02)<br>443 (0.09) | 4,940 (1.0)<br>12,633 (2.5) | N/A | 2,133 (0.4)<br>6,507 (1.3) | 149 (0.03)<br>575 (0.1) | 149 (0.03)<br>575 (0.1) | 149 (0.03)<br>575 (0.1) |
| Semi-Primitive Motorized | 0<br>1,385 (0.2) | 1,799 (0.3)<br>4,365 (0.6) | N/A | 1,452 (0.2)<br>3,102 (0.4) | 0<br>1,385 (0.2) | 0<br>1,385 (0.2) | 0<br>1,385 (0.2) |
| SPM Within IRA | 0<br>1 (0) | 0<br>43 (<0.01) | N/A | N/A | 0<br>1 (0) | 0<br>1 (0) | 0<br>1 (0) |
| Remainder in SPM ROS | 0<br>1,384 (0.2) | 1,799 (0.3)<br>4,322 (0.6) | N/A | 1,452 (0.2)<br>3,102 (0.4) | 0<br>1,384 (0.2) | 0<br>1,384 (0.2) | 0<br>1,384 (0.2) |
| Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0<br>10 (0.01) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| SPNM Within IRA | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Remainder in SPNM ROS | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0<br>10 (0.01) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Primitive | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

## Table 3.13-23 Region II USFS and Other Federal Recreation Areas within the Refined Transmission Corridor and Analysis Area

| Recreation Area ROS | Alternative II-A Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-B Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-C Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-D Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-E Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-F Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-G Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unknown/Private | N/A | 375 (0.5)<br>645 (0.8) | N/A | 15 (0.02)<br>81 (0.1) | N/A | 0<br>5 (<0.01) | 0<br>5 (<0.01) |
| **Total** | **103 acres<br>1,828 acres** | **7,144 acres<br>17,643 acres** | **N/A** | **3,600 acres<br>9,700 acres** | **149 acres<br>1,960 acres** | **149 acres<br>1,965 acres** | **149 acres<br>1,965 acres** |
| **Fishlake National Forest** | | | | | | | |
| Rural | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Roaded Modified | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Roaded Natural | N/A | 163 (0.3)<br>1,435 (0.1) | 3,080 (0.6)<br>21,805 (4.2) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Semi-Primitive Motorized | N/A | 0<br>51 (<0.01) | 5,332 (0.5)<br>17,734 (1.7) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Within IRA | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Remainder in SPM ROS | N/A | 0<br>51 (<0.01) | 5,332 (0.5)<br>17,734 (1.7) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized | N/A | N/A | 0<br>22 (0.01) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| SPNM Within IRA | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Remainder in SPNM ROS | N/A | N/A | 0<br>22 (0.01) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Primitive | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Unknown/Private | N/A | N/A | 0<br><1 (<0.01) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **Total** | **N/A** | **163 acres<br>1,486 acres** | **8,412 acres<br>39,561 acres** | **N/A** | **N/A** | **N/A** | **N/A** |
| **Other Federally Managed Recreation Areas** | | | | | | | |
| Dinosaur National Monument | 0<br>3 (<0.01) | N/A | N/A | 0<br>3 (<0.01) | 0<br>3 (<0.01) | 0<br>3 (<0.01) | 0<br>3 (<0.01) |

Note: Discrepancies in percentages are due to rounding.

**Table 3.13-24 Region II State-managed Recreation Areas within the Refined Transmission Corridor and Analysis Area**

| Recreation Area | Alternative II-A Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-B Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-C Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-D Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-E Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-F Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-G Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Emery Farm Castle Dale WMA | N/A | N/A | 0<br><1 (1) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Currant Creek/Wildcat WMA | 1,799 (7.9)<br>2,284 (10.7) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1,388 (6.1)<br>1,522 (6.7) |
| Nephi WMA-Nephi Unit | 120 (78.9)<br>152 (100) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Fillmore WMA | N/A | N/A | 72 (0.5)<br>221 (1.7) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Gordon Creek WMA | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1,097 (4.8)<br>5,251 (23.1) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Indian Canyon WMA-Cottonwood Canyon Unit | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 597 (7.7)<br>1,668 (22) | N/A | N/A |
| North Nebo WMA/Fountain Green Unit | N/A | 206 (8.9)<br>1,347 (58) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| North Nebo WMA-Spencer Fork Unit | 1,568 (24.1)<br>6,265 (96.4) | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1,568 (24.1)<br>6,265 (96.4) | 1,568 (24.1)<br>6,265 (96.4) | 1,568 (24.1)<br>6,265 (96.4) |
| Northwest Manti WMA-Birdseye/ Lake Fork Unit | 1,151 (30.7)<br>2,689 (71.7) | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1,151 (30.7)<br>2,689 (71.7) | 1,151 (30.7)<br>2,689 (71.7) | 1,151 (30.7)<br>2,689 (71.7) |
| Northwest Manti WMA -Dairy Fork Unit | 503 (10.1)<br>1,164 (23.4) | N/A | N/A | N/A | 684 (13.7)<br>1,684 (33.8) | 684 (13.7)<br>1,684 (33.8) | 503 (10.1)<br>1,164 (23.4) |
| Northwest Manti WMA-Hilltop Conservation Easement | N/A | N/A | N/A | 131 (12.2)<br>696 (64.8) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Northwest Manti WMA-Lasson Draw | 0<br>16 (0.7) | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0 (0)<br>16 (0.7) | 0 (0)<br>16 (0.7) | 0<br>16 (0.7) |
| Northwest Manti WMA-Starvation Unit | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 419 (7.3)<br>976 (16.9) | 419 (7.3)<br>976 (16.9) | N/A |
| Strawberry River WMA | 35 (1.1)<br>454 (14.8) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 34 (1.1)<br>454 (14.8) |

## Table 3.13-24 Region II State-managed Recreation Areas within the Refined Transmission Corridor and Analysis Area

| Recreation Area | Alternative II-A Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-B Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-C Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-D Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-E Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-F Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-G Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Nebo WMA-Triangle Ranch Unit | 649 (13.2)<br>1,725 (35) | 656 (13.3)<br>1,060 (21.6) | N/A | 960 (19.5)<br>1,775 (36.1) | 960 (19.5)<br>1,775 (36.1) | 960 (19.5)<br>1,775 (36.1) | 960 (19.5)<br>1,775 (36.1) |
| Tabby Mountain WMA-Rabbit Gulch Unit | 776 (8.2)<br>8,088 (89.4) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 776 (8.2)<br>8,088 (89.4) |
| Tabby Mountain WMA-Tabby Mountain Unit | 508 (1.2)<br>839 (2) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Starvation State Park | 0<br>459 (6) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0<br>459 (6) |
| **CWMUs:** | | | | | | | |
| Double R Ranch | 512/2,460 (39) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 576/2,460 (39) |
| Crab Creek | 0/211 (2) | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0/211 (2) | 0/211 (2) | 0/211 (2) |
| Bear Mountain | N/A | 1,314/4,515 (56) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Castle Valley Outdoors | N/A | N/A | 2,288/6,067 (57) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Johnson Mountain Ranch | N/A | N/A | 466/2,317 (17) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Oak Ranch | N/A | N/A | 0/192 (4) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Old Woman Plateau | N/A | N/A | 0/123 (2) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Round Valley | N/A | N/A | 1,093/4,680 (59) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Minnie Maud Ridge | N/A | N/A | N/A | 4,473/10,025 (63) | 746/1,100 (7) | 0/130 (<1) | N/A |
| Emma Park | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0/227 (1) | 3,136/7,251 (32) | 3,938/8,481 (38) | N/A |
| Antelope Creek | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1,055/5,817 (18) | N/A | N/A |
| Scofield Canyons | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 39/556 (4) | N/A | N/A |
| Soldier Summit | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 3,700/9,963 (38) | 3,275/7,579 (29) | N/A |

Note: Discrepancies in percentages are due to rounding.

**Table 3.13-25 Region II Local Recreation Areas within the Refined Transmission Corridor and Analysis Area**

| Recreation Area | Alternative II-A Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-B Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-C Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-D Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-E Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-F Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative II-G Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Big Mountain Campground | 15 (100)<br>15 (100) | N/A | N/A | 15 (100)<br>15 (100) | 15 (100)<br>15 (100) | 15 (100)<br>15 (100) | 15 (100)<br>15 (100) |
| Bottle Hollow Reservoir | 0<br>101 (24) | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0<br>101 (24) | N/A | 0<br>101 (24) |
| Brough Reservoir | 0<br><1 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0<br><1 | 0<br><1 |
| Cedar Ridges Golf Course | N/A | 0<br>Entire site | 0<br>Entire site | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Bear Creek Campground | N/A | 0<br>18 (100) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Camp Timberlane | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 329 (45.7)<br>349 (48.5) | 266 (36.9)<br>321 (44.6) | N/A |
| Crescent Regional Recreational Camp | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 48 (8)<br>219 (36.5) | N/A |

## Table 3.13-26 Region II Scenic Backway and Byway Crossings within the Refined Transmission Corridor and Analysis Area

| Recreation Area | Alternative II-A Refined Transmission Corridor (crossings) Analysis Area (miles) | Alternative II-B Refined Transmission Corridor (crossings) Analysis Area (miles) | Alternative II-C Refined Transmission Corridor (crossings) Analysis Area (miles) | Alternative II-D Refined Transmission Corridor (crossings) Analysis Area (miles) | Alternative II-E Refined Transmission Corridor (crossings) Analysis Area (miles) | Alternative II-F Refined Transmission Corridor (crossings) Analysis Area (miles) | Alternative II-G Refined Transmission Corridor (crossings) Analysis Area (miles) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway | 2 crossings<br>5 miles | 3 crossings<br>88 miles | 3 crossings<br>77 miles | 2 crossings<br>13 miles[1] | 4 crossings<br>10 miles[1] | 2 crossings<br>5 miles | 2 crossings<br>5 miles |
| White River/Strawberry Road Scenic Backway | 1 crossing<br>3 miles | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1 crossing<br>3 miles |
| Nebo Loop Scenic Byway | 0 crossings<br><1 mile | N/A | N/A | 0 crossings<br><1 mile | 0 crossings<br><1 mile | 0 crossings<br><1 mile | 0 crossings<br><1 mile |
| Energy Loop: Huntington/Eccles Canyons NSB | N/A | 1 crossing<br>4 miles | N/A | 7 crossings<br>17 miles | 1 crossing<br><2 miles | N/A | N/A |
| Skyline Drive Scenic Backway | N/A | 1 crossing<br>3 miles | N/A | 1 crossing<br>4 miles | 0 crossings<br><1 mile | 0 crossings<br><1 mile | N/A |
| Wedge Overlook/Buckhorn Drive Scenic Backway | N/A | N/A | 5 crossings<br>9 miles | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Gooseberry/Fremont Road Scenic Backway | N/A | N/A | 1 crossing<br>2 miles | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Indian Canyon Scenic Byway | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0 crossings<br>7 miles[1] | 1 crossing<br><2 miles[1] | 1 crossing<br>3 miles[1] | N/A |
| Nine Mile Canyon Scenic Backway | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1 crossing<br>2 miles | N/A | 1 crossing<br>2 miles | N/A |
| Reservation Ridge Scenic Backway | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0 crossings<br><1 mile | N/A |

[1] Indian Canyon Scenic Byway shares the same route with Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway in this portion of the Byway, therefore the acreage identified under the Indian Canyon route also is included in the Dinosaur Diamond route.

Construction activities associated with Alternative II-A could temporarily affect the ability of visitors to participate in non-motorized recreation such as hiking or camping by displacing visitors due to noise or visual presence of construction, or making the area inhospitable for wildlife (i.e., would affect wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing, see Section 3.13.6). Construction is assumed to affect motorized recreation to a lesser degree unless access is restricted to trails. There are no identified high use areas within the analysis area for the White River, Fillmore, Richfield, and Salt Lake FOs. Construction would affect recreation use, particularly on the weekends (Saturdays; there will be no construction on Sundays) and during the summer at higher elevation areas, and during the spring and fall at lower elevations. In general, there are other nearby locations that visitors could temporarily go during construction activities that offer the same recreation opportunities in a similar environment as are provided in Alternative II-A RAs. Operation of the transmission line could affect the visual setting of dispersed recreational opportunities, although in general, the line follows existing transmission lines. Maintenance activities could displace wildlife, affecting hunting or wildlife viewing activities.

Within the Vernal FO, the portion of the transmission line between Starvation State Park and Fort Duchesne would be located near the edge of two deer hunting units (9A and 11). During construction, wildlife may be displaced to areas that are not within the unit. Application of **REC-5**, which would limit construction during the opening of big game seasons in areas near developed recreation sites, would assist in limiting impacts, but would not fully eliminate this risk along the entire portion of the route.

The proposed Project traverses large expanses of western Utah known for Open OHV opportunities, specifically the BLM Fillmore and Salt Lake FOs. Area managers have expressed concerns over public safety risks from potential collisions with guyed structures, due to their low-visibility to users traveling at higher speeds as well as the spread between the guy and the more visible transmission structure. The 2013 Report on ATV-Related and Death and Injuries Compiled by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (February 2015) reports 13,043 reported ATV-related fatalities in the U S, between 1982 and 2011, 218 of which were in Utah. Causes of injury or death were not identified, but report indicated the majority of the 2011 emergency-department treated injuries were contusions/abrasions or fractures and most commonly of the arm, or head/neck. A survey of available state incident reports (which did not include Utah) between 2008 and 2014 period indicated that rollovers, machine-machine collisions, and fixed object collisions (trees) were the major causes of death; no transmission tower or guy wire collisions were noted in any annual report (WDNR 2015, MDNR 2015). However, guy wires are typically identified as a potential work hazard at sites where ATV/OHVs are used, and it is a recommended practice to eliminate or identify and mark such hazards (NIOSH 2012). To further address this concern, the following mitigation is proposed to reduce the potential public safety risk concerning OHV users in dispersed RAs that also are Open OHV areas:

***REC-9**: The applicant shall use self-supporting structures in place of guyed-lattice structures in the Salt Lake and Fillmore FOs. Where the use of guyed structures are approved, the applicant shall use orange, visibility-enhancing guy-wire sleeves with reflective tape in areas where guy-wire visibility is a safety concern. These measures would be implemented on a site-specific basis and in coordination with the BLM and Western.*

Application of this mitigation would reduce would reduce potential public safety risks for OHV users in the RA.

*BLM SRMAs or Other Specially Managed Recreation Areas*

Little Sahara RA. Within the Fillmore FO, the refined transmission corridor would affect a portion of 592 acres of the 60,000-acre Little Sahara RA. The analysis area, in which roads and other construction support areas could be located, would encompass 5,975 acres of the RA. These acreages comprise 1.0 percent and 10 percent of the RA, respectively. The analysis area is well away from designated camping areas. As discussed in Section 3.13.6, while recognizing that recreation resource users have uniquely personal expectations for recreation, the motorized (off-highway) driver user group is generally assumed to rely upon a somewhat natural-appearing environment with some

evidence of human sights, sounds, and disturbances to remote, natural-appearing environments (similar to the roaded natural or roaded modified ROS class designation used by the USFS). While the presence of construction activity and some presence of human-constructed structures may be acceptable, road or trail closures during construction or operation would adversely affect this user group. Impacts from construction would generally be limited to construction noise and activity, and restricted access or closures within portions of the RA in which construction would be located, but impacts would be temporary. Operation impacts would largely comprise visual impacts; however, a somewhat natural-appearing environment would be retained through most of the RA. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility and compliance with visual objectives for the RA. Application of **REC-9** would reduce potential public safety risks for OHV users in this RA.

Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area. Within the Fillmore FO, the refined transmission corridor would affect a portion of 588 acres of the 394,472 acre Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area, which is located just west of the Little Sahara RA. The analysis area, in which roads and other construction support areas could be located, would encompass 21,342 acres of the area. These acreages comprise 0.1 percent and 5.4 percent of the Sheeprock/Tinitic ORV Area, respectively. It is assumed that impacts from noise or visual disturbances would not substantively affect motorized drivers; however, restricted access to the area or race routes during competitive events would be an adverse impact for recreational users in this area. Application of **REC-6**, and **REC-12** would reduce impacts to recreation by keeping trails open or directing users to comparable trails and scheduling construction outside of specially permitted events. As discussed in Section 3.13.6, some presence of human-constructed structures would be acceptable to the motorized driver user group. Application of **REC-9** would reduce potential public safety risks for OHV users in this ORV Area.

Construction of Alternative II-A would adversely affect the hunter and wildlife viewer user group through habitat removal, restricted access to areas undergoing construction (including hunting camps and staging areas), and by displacing wildlife in and near construction zones. Access roads and construction staging areas also could be constructed within the analysis area, further fragmenting habitat and extending the area affected by construction noise and activity. Application of **REC-2** and **REC-3** would minimize impacts by limiting access to existing roads within the SRMA and/or requiring full reclamation of any roads that are constructed and limiting new roads and ancillary construction areas to designated utility corridors. This would reduce habitat fragmentation; however, habitat within a portion of the 588-acre refined transmission corridor (0.1 percent of the SRMA) would still have some level of vegetation maintenance during operations that could affect hunting and wildlife viewing. Application of **REC-1** (scheduling vegetation maintenance outside of big game hunting seasons where practicable) would further minimize impacts to hunting during operations.

*USFS Recreation Areas*

Within Region II, the refined transmission corridor for Alternative II-A would affect 7,418 acres of dispersed RA in the Uinta National Forest Planning Area and 103 acres within the Manti-La Sal National Forest.

Uinta National Forest Planning Area. Within the Uinta National Forest Planning Area, almost 80 percent of the refined transmission corridor would fall primarily within the roaded modified and roaded natural ROS classes. These types of areas are managed for recreation in ways that allow for readily evident to moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of human activity. The sights and sounds of construction would be in conformance with area management, although they would cause temporary adverse impacts to scenic drivers, hikers, campers and other non-motorized user groups identified in Section 3.13.6.

Areas classified as semi-primitive motorized, while having some evidence of other users and motorized use, have a low concentration of users, and a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment. Approximately 1,665 acres of the analysis area would be in areas classified as semi-

primitive motorized. This is 14 percent of the total acreage of the analysis area (11,727 acres) and 0.5 percent of all semi-primitive motorized ROS acreage within the Uinta National Forest Planning Area. A portion of the analysis area would temporarily be removed from use during construction due to surface disturbance, increased noise, and human activity related to access roads and construction support areas. The sights and sounds of construction and presence of large construction crews and construction traffic would not be consistent with all setting indicator characteristics for the semi-primitive motorized areas. Less than one percent of this acreage (or 2 acres) would be located within one or more IRAs. Construction within IRAs would use roadless construction methods identified in **Appendix D**, including helicopter construction, overland travel, selective vegetation management, etc. This would reduce some impacts to semi-primitive motorized areas by eliminating road construction; however, helicopter construction and/or overland travel itself also likely would be a temporary adverse impact to recreationists in these areas. Please see Section 3.15, Special Designation Areas, for additional impacts to IRAs. The remaining 1,663 acres of semi-primitive motorized areas would not have roadless construction restrictions. This area comprises approximately 0.5 percent of all semi-primitive motorized acreage within the Uinta National Forest Planning Area.

As discussed in Section 3.13.6, construction would adversely affect the hunter and wildlife viewer user group through habitat removal, restricted access to areas undergoing construction, and by displacing wildlife in and near construction zones. Recreationists seeking wildlife watching experiences or natural settings would be adversely affected by these activities regardless of their timing. Hunters would be adversely affected only if these activities were scheduled during active hunting seasons. Additionally, the analysis area would be partially located in areas where adjacent deer hunting units abut (units 17A and 17V and units 16A and 12/16B/16C).

High use/developed areas within the Uinta National Forest Planning Area identified within the analysis area include Long Hollow Trail, Teats Mountain Trail, Strawberry River Day Use Area, Aspen Grove Campground and Marina near Strawberry Reservoir, Soldier Creek Dam parking area at Strawberry Reservoir, Sheep Creek Snowmobile Area, and Forest Service Road 090 (Sheep Creek Road) that largely parallels the transmission line, is a part of the Strawberry ATV System, and provides access to the Great Western Trail. A portion of the Aspen Grove Campground also would be located within the refined transmission corridor. Construction would adversely affect the non-mechanized user group (hikers, campers, and equestrians) that recreate on the trails listed above through construction activity and noise. Campers, day use area users, and boaters also would be adversely affected by construction activity and noise. Motorized drivers also would be adversely affected by construction if access to the trails listed above was altered. Use of the trails and facilities may be altered if recreationists choose to visit other locations due to construction activities nearby.

During construction, wildlife may be displaced to areas that are not within the unit for which hunters are licensed. Construction would affect recreation use at these sites particularly on the weekends (Saturdays; there will be no construction on Sundays) and during the summer at higher elevation areas, and during the spring and fall at lower elevations. With the exception of hunters, who may not be able to follow wildlife to adjoining units, there are other nearby locations that visitors could temporarily go during construction activities that offer the same recreation opportunities in a similar environment. Application of **REC-5, REC-6**, and **REC-7** would reduce impacts to campers and day use area users by limiting construction on weekends and prohibiting activities on holidays or other key use times (such as the opening of big game seasons) near developed recreation sites, maintaining access to high use areas and trails, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs.

Operation of the transmission line would affect the visual setting of recreational opportunities around the Aspen Grove Campground, the Strawberry River Day Use Area, and the trails listed above, as well as the access roads to these facilities. Non-motorized user groups such as hikers, campers, and picnickers may be affected by the presence of the transmission line; however, OHV user groups are not expected to be adversely affected by the presence of a transmission line (see Section 3.13.6). Project roads near the high use/developed areas listed above could result in unauthorized OHV use

(and associated resource damage, noise, etc.) as well as permanent visual impacts. Please see Section 3.13.6.8 regarding potential impacts from Project access roads. Implementation of **REC-2** would limit impacts from new access roads. Maintenance activities could displace wildlife, thus affecting hunting or wildlife viewing activities. Application of **REC-1** would reduce this impact by scheduling maintenance activities outside of hunting seasons. Presence of the transmission line would conflict with recreation setting indicator characteristics for semi-primitive areas. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility from the Uinta National Forest Planning Area, as well as from the boat launch and campground areas, which are a KOP (V-34) used for visual analysis. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, also describes mitigation for permanent visual impacts related to the various ROS classes. The Strawberry IRA Micro-siting options would not substantially affect the impact analysis for recreation.

Manti-La Sal National Forest. Within the Manti-La Sal National Forest, 1,385 acres (76 percent) of the analysis area would be located in areas classified as semi-primitive motorized; no acreage within the refined transmission corridor would be located within this ROS class. This acreage comprises 0.2 percent of all semi-primitive motorized areas within the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The sights and sounds of construction and presence of large construction crews and construction traffic would not be consistent with all setting indicator characteristics for these areas. Construction would adversely affect recreationists in these areas as described above. Approximately 1 acre of the semi-primitive motorized area within the road corridor would be located in IRAs. The use of roadless construction methods would reduce some impacts to semi-primitive motorized areas by eliminating road construction; however, helicopter construction and/or overland travel itself also would result in a temporary adverse impact to recreationists in these areas. The remaining 1,384 acres of semi-primitive motorized area within the analysis area would be outside IRAs and comprise 0.2 percent of all areas classified as semi-primitive motorized within the Manti-La Sal National Forest.

Additionally, the route for the proposed analysis area would be partially located near the border of deer hunting units 16A and 12/16B/16C. During construction, wildlife may be displaced to areas that are not within the unit for which hunters are licensed. Construction would affect recreation use particularly on the weekends (Saturdays; there will be no construction on Sundays). Application of **REC-5** would reduce impacts to campers and hunters by prohibiting construction on weekends and on holidays or other key use times, such as opening days of hunting seasons, near developed recreation sites. Operation of the transmission line is not expected to affect recreational opportunities because, in general, the proposed transmission line would follow existing transmission lines. However, presence of the transmission line would conflict with recreation setting indicator characteristics for semi-primitive areas. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, describes mitigation for permanent visual impacts related to the various ROS classes. Maintenance activities could displace wildlife, affecting hunting or wildlife viewing activities. Application of **REC-1** would reduce this impact by scheduling maintenance activities outside of hunting seasons.

*Other Federally Managed Recreation Areas*

Dinosaur National Monument. The analysis area for Alternative II-A encompasses 3 acres of the Dinosaur National Monument on the south side of US-40 across from Harpers Corner Road, which is the main entrance to the monument. The monument's visitor center and other facilities are located on the north side of US-40 on Harpers Corner Road, outside of the analysis area. Given that park facilities are located across the highway and up Harpers Corner Road, and the majority of the monument is located much further north, it is unlikely that any recreation use occurs south of US-40 and, therefore, impacts to recreation within the monument are unlikely.

*State-managed Recreation Areas*

WMAs. The refined transmission corridor for Alternative II-A would cross nine WMAs/units; the analysis area also would include acreage in one additional WMA. All 10 WMAs primarily are managed

for big game and protection of big game winter habitat. Substantial portions of six WMAs would be within the analysis area:

- Tabby Mountain WMA—Rabbit Gulch Unit: 8,088 acres (89 percent) of the WMA;
- North Nebo WMA—Spencer Fork Unit: 6,265 acres (96 percent) of the WMA;
- Northwest Manti WMA—Birdseye/Lake Fork Unit: 2,689 acres (72 percent) of the WMA;
- Northwest Manti WMA—Dairy Fork Unit: 1,164 acres (23 percent) of the WMA;
- South Nebo WMA—Triangle Ranch Unit: 1,725 acres (35 percent) of the WMA; and
- Nephi WMA—Nephi Unit: 152 acres (100 percent) of the WMA.

Ten to 15 percent of the Currant Creek/Wildcat WMA and Strawberry River WMA would be within the analysis area. The Fruitland Micro-siting Option 2 would reduce impacts to the Currant Creek/Wildcat WMA due to reduced acreage within the Currant Creek portion of the WMA, resulting in less than 7 percent of the WMA within the analysis area. Micro-siting Option 3 would greatly reduce acreage within the Currant Creek portion of the WMA, resulting in 6 percent of the WMA within the analysis area.

Two percent or less of the remaining two WMAs (Tabby Mountain WMA – Tabby Mountain Unit and Northwest Manti WMA – Lasson Draw) would be within the analysis area. Fruitland Micro-siting Option 1 would reduce impacts to the Tabby Mountain WMA – Tabby Mountain Unit compared to Alternative II-A due to reduced analysis area acreage within the unit, while Micro-siting Options 2 and 3 would eliminate impacts to the Tabby Mountain Unit. Near the Tabby Mountain Unit, at the intersection of US-40 and SR-208 is a new Duchesne County visitor center with parking, environmental information, pet exercise area, and short loop trails. Construction of Alternative II-A could affect visitor's recreation experiences at the visitor center due to noise and traffic delays. Fruitland Micro-siting Options 1 and 2 also would result in similar impacts.

Surface disturbance, increased noise, and human activity, could occur within the analysis area due to road construction and presence of construction support areas. The analysis area would encompass substantial portions of six WMAs. With the exception of the Currant Creek/Wildcat, Nephi, and Strawberry River WMAs, all of these units are closed to public access in winter and spring to protect wintering wildlife. Adherence to timing restrictions during both construction and operation phases would prevent disturbance to wintering big game; however, there would still be some loss of big game habitat through vegetation removal, noise and human activity. These impacts within the WMAs primarily would affect hunting and wildlife watching recreation opportunities.

Construction activities also may affect fishing opportunities on Currant Creek within the WMA as the WMA provides public access to the creek and most of Currant Creek in the general area is located within private property, though some fishing on private property does occur north of US-40 (Marsh 2014; Utah Outdoors 2014). The transmission line would cross Currant Creek at US-40, an access point to Currant Creek for anglers. Fishing opportunities would be temporarily disrupted by construction activities that may make the area inhospitable for fish thus reducing angler success. Fruitland Micro-siting Option 1 would result in impacts to fishing similar to Alternative II-A, however, Options 2 and 3 would likely reduce impacts to fishing on Currant Creek as the transmission line would cross Currant Creek on private property south of US-40, which is generally posted as "no fishing" (Marsh 2014; Utah Outdoors 2014). Currant Creek also is used for boating and is listed as Class I-II from Dry Hollow to Strawberry River (American Whitewater 2002). Construction noise and activities under Alternative II-A would temporarily affect the recreation experience for boaters on the creek. All three Fruitland Micro-siting options also would result in similar impacts to boating.

Agreements for four of the WMAs within the analysis area contain language that could prohibit development of a transmission line and/or access roads if impacts are not sufficiently mitigated. The

conservation agreement language for the North Nebo WMA—Spencer Fork Unit specifically precludes industrial, commercial, or other development that is not consistent with the conservation values and purpose of the WMA. The South Nebo WMA—Triangle Ranch Unit contains a reversionary clause on some parcels if land use changes from "big game management." As CUP mitigation properties, the Currant Creek/Wildcat and Strawberry River WMAs, also have reversionary clauses that require them to manage the properties for the purposes for which they were acquired. Additionally, the Tabby Mountain WMA is adjoined by a private conservation easement area (Sand Wash/Sink Draw) that prohibits development of overhead transmission lines (see Section 3.14, Land Use). Development of a transmission line or access roads within these WMAs would, therefore, not be in conformance with area management.

Habitat loss would be minimized through application of **REC-2**, which would limit access to existing roads within the WMA and/or require full reclamation of any roads that are constructed. Application of **REC-4** would reduce recreation impacts by rescheduling construction activities within key hunting locales, such as WMAs, outside of hunting seasons. During operations, the transmission line ROW would still have some level of vegetation maintenance that could affect wildlife habitat, and maintenance-related noise could temporarily affect adjacent hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities by making the area less hospitable for wildlife. Application of **REC-1** (scheduling vegetation maintenance outside of big game hunting seasons where practicable) would further minimize impacts to hunting and wildlife viewing.

CWMUs. The refined transmission corridor for Alternative II-A also would cross the 6,390-acre Double R Ranch CWMU. Approximately 512 acres would be within the refined transmission corridor; the analysis area would encompass 2,460 acres (40 percent) of the CWMU. Approximately 211 acres of the analysis area also would be within the 10,409-acre Crab Creek CWMU. Impacts to hunting within the analysis area would be similar to those described above. Decisions regarding road construction and timing of construction would be up to the private landowner.

Starvation State Park. The analysis area crosses approximately 459 acres of the 7,324-acre Starvation State Park. This park offers boating and other water sports at Starvation Reservoir and features a developed camping area as well as undeveloped camping areas. The analysis area would be located on the reservoir side that is opposite of the developed camping areas, but would be near the Rabbit Gulch primitive camping area. Campers in this area would be most disturbed by the sights and sounds of construction. There are other primitive camping areas located around the reservoir that could be used by any displaced campers from Rabbit Gulch. Scenic views would not be anticipated to be highly affected as the area is already disturbed by oil and gas wells and the existing steel lattice structures of an existing transmission line. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility.

*Local Recreation Areas*

Big Mountain Campground. The refined transmission corridor and analysis area would encompass approximately 15 acres of the Big Mountain Campground (the entire site), a private campground off SR-132 in Nephi. Construction would affect camping in this area through noise and visual disturbances. There would be many other camping areas on nearby NFS lands that would not be affected and would continue to be available for use during construction. In addition, operation of the transmission line would permanently affect the visual setting of recreation opportunities within the campground area. Maintenance operations could temporarily affect access to campground facilities and disrupt campground visitors. Section 3.17, Social and Economic Resources, addresses the economic impacts of construction on this facility. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility from a KOP F-2, which is located near the campground.

Application of **REC-2** would limit access to existing roads and/or require full reclamation of any new roads. Application of **REC-5, REC-6**, and **REC-7** would reduce impacts to campers by prohibiting

construction during weekends and other high use periods, maintaining access to high use areas, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs.

Bottle Hollow and Brough Reservoirs. The analysis area also would cross Brough Reservoir, a blue ribbon trout fishing area, and Bottle Hollow Reservoir, a reservoir managed by the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation. Construction would not be expected to impact fishing in these areas; however, restricted access would be an adverse impact to recreational users.

Application of **REC-6** would be effective in reducing impacts to the users of these areas by ensuring continued access, although there could be some traffic delays accessing recreational areas. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility from KOP V-21, which is located near Bottle Hollow Reservoir.

*Scenic Backways and Byways*

Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway. Under Alternative II-A, the refined transmission corridor would cross the 480-mile Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway (US-40/US-191) south of Roosevelt, Utah, and again near Dinosaur, Colorado. Approximately 5 miles of the Byway would be located within the analysis area in which roads and other construction facilities would be located. During construction, scenic drivers would be adversely affected by construction activities near the highway. Other impacts would include temporary traffic delays due to construction during key construction times (such as stringing of the lines). No impacts from operation would be expected because the area near Roosevelt, in which the transmission line would be visible from the Byway, is a rural area where transmission lines and other manmade structures are already visible; and the portion of the analysis area near Dinosaur, Colorado, would follow an existing transmission line. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility along the Byway.

White River/Strawberry Road Scenic Backway. Within the Uinta National Forest Planning Area, the refined transmission corridor would cross the 28-mile White River/Strawberry Road Scenic Backway near Strawberry Reservoir. Approximately three miles of the Backway would be within the analysis area in which roads and other construction facilities would be located. The visual disturbances created by the transmission line itself would permanently alter the recreation setting for scenic driving on portions of the Scenic Backway nearest to the refined transmission corridor; scenic drivers using the Backway also could be subject to views of road construction within the road corridor (see Section 3.12, Visual Resources, for more information). Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility along the backway.

Nebo Loop Scenic Byway. East of Nephi, the transmission line would be located on the south side of SR-132, opposite the turnoff for the 37-mile Nebo Loop Scenic Byway (Salt Creek Canyon Road). Less than 1 mile of the Byway would be within the analysis area; scenic drivers would see construction areas as they enter/leave the Byway. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility along the Byway and conformance with visual objectives in this area. East of the Byway, the transmission line would cross SR-132, potentially causing some traffic delays for those accessing the Byway during key construction periods.

Alternative II-B

Alternative II-B would cross dispersed RAs in seven FOs and two national forests (including several developed recreation sites), four specially managed RAs, two WMAs, one CWMU, one private campground, and one private golf course. Alternative II-B also would affect three scenic backways/byways.

*BLM Dispersed Recreation Areas*

Within Region II, the refined transmission corridor for Alternative II-B would impact seven FOs. The analysis area for Alternative II-B, in which roads and other construction support areas could be located, would encompass the following acreages of dispersed area within each FO:

- White River FO: 57,110 acres (3.9 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Grand Junction: 31,060 acres (2.4 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Vernal FO: 5,179 acres (0.3 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Moab FO: 65,444 acres (5.5 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Price FO: 68,100 acres (5.0 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Richfield FO: 6,105 acres (0.5 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Fillmore FO: 12,901 acres (0.3 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).

Construction impacts within the White River, Vernal, Richfield, and Fillmore FOs would be similar to those identified under Alternative II-A, but would vary in intensity based on acreage and would affect different portions of the FO. There are no areas of high use identified within the dispersed RAs for these FOs and there are public lands adjacent to the affected areas that can accommodate any displaced dispersed recreation activities. Within the Grand Junction and Price FOs, recreation use within the analysis area is likely to include OHV use, hunting, recreational shooting, and other dispersed recreation activities. There are no identified high use areas within these portions of the FOs. Application of **REC-9** would reduce potential public safety risks for OHV users near the proposed transmission line.

Within the Moab FO, acreage within the analysis area primarily would be along the I-70/US-6/US-50 corridor. With the exception of scenic driving, this is not a high use RA, and there are public lands adjacent to affected areas that can accommodate any displaced recreation activities. The refined transmission corridor would be partially in a designated utility corridor and partially within ROW avoidance areas, and would cross the highway once. Construction of the transmission line (and accompanying roads or construction support areas) would alter the scenic quality and recreation setting for scenic drivers on the highway. Wire installation across the highway would cause temporary delays in traffic. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility from I-70.

*BLM SRMAs or Other Specially Managed Recreation Areas*

<u>Labyrinth Canyon/Gemini Bridges SRMA</u>. Within the Moab FO, approximately 913 acres of the refined transmission corridor and 4,807 acres of the analysis area would fall within the 300,600-acre Labyrinth Canyon/Gemini Bridges SRMA. These acreages comprise 0.3 percent and 1.4 percent of the SRMA, respectively. This SRMA is managed to provide destination recreation including river running, camping, mountain biking and other recreation opportunities. Within the SRMA, the transmission line would be within a designated utility corridor and in conformance with area management. The portion of the SRMA impacted by the transmission line is the far northern end, near US-6/US-50, and would not be expected to be a high use area for hiking, camping, and other non-motorized activities. However, any construction activity would be an adverse impact to river users entering the SRMA in this area.

Application of **REC-3** would limit new roads and ancillary construction areas to the designated utility corridor.

Labyrinth Canyon SRMA. Within the Price FO, approximately 154 acres of the Labyrinth Canyon SRMA (less than 0.5 percent of the SRMA) would be within the analysis area. Impacts to recreation within this area would be similar to those described for the Labyrinth Canyon/Gemini Bridges SRMA due to its location along the Green River.

Utah Rims SRMA. Approximately 925 acres of the analysis area would fall within the 15,424-acre Utah Rims SRMA. This acreage comprises 6.0 percent of the SRMA. The SRMA is managed to provide a variety of community-based dispersed, motorized recreation opportunities (primarily OHV use). It is assumed that the aesthetic impacts from construction or operation of the transmission line would not substantively affect recreational use of the OHV trails, due to the noise of the motorized vehicles used on the trail system; however, other user groups such as campers located within the analysis area would be adversely affected by the construction noise and activity. Restricted access to the trail system during construction would be an adverse impact for recreational users in this area. Application of **REC-6** would reduce impacts to recreational users in this area by allowing users continued access to all or part of the trail system.

Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area. Within the Fillmore FO, impacts to the Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area would be similar to those described under Alternative II-A, though under Alternative II-B, more acreage would be included within the refined transmission corridor and less acreage would be included within the analysis area.

*USFS Recreation Areas*

Within Region II, Alternative II-B would affect dispersed RAs in the Manti-La Sal National Forest and the Fishlake National Forest. Alternative II-B would affect less than 1 acre within the Uinta National Forest Planning Area.

Manti-La Sal National Forest. Approximately 7,144 acres of the refined transmission corridor and 17,643 acres of the analysis area would fall within the Manti-La Sal National Forest. About 70 percent of the acreage within the refined transmission corridor would fall exclusively within areas classified as roaded natural. These types of areas are managed for recreation in ways that allow for readily evident to moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of human activity. The sights and sounds of construction would be in conformance with area management, although they would cause temporary adverse impacts to scenic viewers, hikers, campers and other non-motorized user groups identified in Section 3.13.6. Areas classified as semi-primitive motorized, while having some evidence of other users and motorized use, have a low concentration of users and a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment. Approximately 4,365 acres within the road corridor would be classified as semi-primitive motorized. This is 25 percent of the total acreage of the analysis area located within the Manti-La Sal National Forest (17,643 acres) and 0.6 percent of all semi-primitive motorized acreage within the Manti-La Sal National Forest. A portion of the analysis area would temporarily be removed from use during construction due to surface disturbance, increased noise, and human activity related to access roads and construction support areas. The sights and sounds of construction and presence of large construction crews and construction traffic would not be consistent with all setting indicator characteristics for these areas. Less than 1 percent of acreage within the analysis area in areas classified as semi-primitive motorized (or 43 acres) would be located within IRAs. Construction within IRAs would use roadless construction methods identified in **Appendix D**. This would reduce some impacts to semi-primitive motorized areas by eliminating road construction; however, helicopter construction and/or overland travel itself also would be a temporary adverse impact to recreationists in these areas. The remaining 4,322 acres of semi-primitive motorized area within the analysis area would be outside IRAs and comprise 0.6 percent of all areas classified as semi-primitive motorized within the Manti-La Sal National Forest.

As discussed in Section 3.13.6, construction would adversely affect the hunter and wildlife viewer user group through habitat removal, restricted access to areas undergoing construction, and by displacing wildlife in and near construction zones. Construction also would adversely affect the non-mechanized user group (hikers, campers, and equestrians) through construction activity and noise. During construction, wildlife may be displaced to areas that are not within the unit for which hunters are licensed. Hunters would be adversely affected only if these activities were scheduled during active hunting seasons. The majority of this route is well within Hunt Unit 12 and, therefore, not likely to affect hunters' ability to track displaced game. Recreationists seeking wildlife watching experiences or natural settings would be adversely impacted by construction activities regardless of their timing.

Within the Manti-La Sal National Forest, Alternative II-B would cross several high use/developed areas, including the Arapeen ATV Trail System area, Indian Creek Group Campground, and Potters Pond Campground. Alternative II-B would cross almost all of the OHV routes within the northern part of the Arapeen ATV Trail System, including the Great Western Trail. The Great Western Trail is one of the few long distance north/south trails in this area. Restricted access to the trail during the summer would be a substantial, but temporary adverse impact to both motorized and non-motorized user groups. Application of **REC-6** would allow access to the trail to continue, although there could be delays in use during key construction times. Use of other OHV routes also would be affected from construction activities potentially altering the ability of users to drive on the route through construction areas. However, use of mainly small loop routes would be affected; routes of similar difficulty and length would be available for use in the southern part of the trail system (USFS 2010a). Construction activities related to Alternative II-B also would affect use of the Indian Creek Group Campground and Potter's Pond Campground as campers may choose alternate locations to avoid construction activities and noise. Other nearby dispersed campsites on Miller Flat Road would continue to be available for use during construction activities. Application of **REC-5**, **REC-6**, and **REC-7** would reduce impacts to campers by limiting construction on weekends and prohibiting activities on holidays or other key use times near developed recreation sites, ensuring continued access to high use areas, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs.

Operation of the transmission line also would affect the visual setting of recreation opportunities and access roads, although in general, the line follows an existing high voltage wooden H-frame transmission line. Non-motorized users such as hikers may be affected by presence of the transmission line; however, OHV users would not be expected to be adversely affected by the presence of the transmission line (see Section 3.13.6). Project roads near the high use/developed areas listed above could result in unauthorized OHV use (and associated resource damage, noise, etc.) as well as permanent visual impacts. Please see Section 3.13.6.8 regarding potential impacts from Project access roads. Implementation of **REC-2** would limit impacts from new access roads. Maintenance activities could displace wildlife, thus affecting hunting or wildlife viewing activities. Application of **REC-1** would reduce this impact by scheduling maintenance activities outside of hunting seasons. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility from KOPs P-16 and P-17, which are located at the Indian Creek and Potter's Pond campgrounds. Operation and maintenance noise and activities could displace wildlife, affecting hunting or wildlife viewing activities. Application of **REC-1** would reduce this impact, by scheduling maintenance activities outside of hunting seasons. Presence of the transmission line would conflict with recreation setting indicator characteristics for semi-primitive areas. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, describes mitigation for permanent visual impacts related to the various ROS classes.

<u>Fishlake National Forest</u>. Approximately 163 acres of the refined transmission corridor would fall within areas classified as roaded natural within the Fishlake National Forest. The analysis area for Alternative II-B, in which roads and other construction support areas could be located, would encompass 1,486 acres of the Fishlake National Forest. Three percent of this acreage (51 acres) would be within areas classified as semi-primitive motorized. This acreage, which comprises less than 0.01 percent of all semi-primitive motorized acreage within the Fishlake National Forest, would not be in conformance with all setting indicator characteristics for this ROS classification. None of this

acreage would be within IRAs. Impacts to recreation within the Fishlake National Forest from construction would be similar to those discussed for national forests under Alternative II-A, and above. There are no identified high use areas within this portion of the Fishlake National Forest; however, the proposed analysis area would be partially located near the northern edge of a UDWR limited entry Hunt Unit (16A). Construction during hunting season within or near this unit would adversely affect hunters through habitat removal, restricted access to areas undergoing construction, and by displacing wildlife in and near construction zones. Hunters may not be able to easily move to other areas to follow wildlife movement, and wildlife may be displaced to areas that are not within the unit. Additionally, the limited entry nature of this unit is such that it would be difficult to find a substitute hunting opportunity. Application of mitigation measures **REC-1**, **REC-2**, **REC-4**, and **REC-5** would assist in reducing impacts within the hunting unit during both construction and operation. Operation of the transmission line also would affect the visual setting of dispersed recreational opportunities although in general, the line follows existing transmission lines. Presence of the transmission line would conflict with recreation setting indicator characteristics for semi-primitive areas. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, describes mitigation for permanent visual impacts related to the various ROS classes.

*State-managed Recreation Areas*

WMAs. The refined transmission corridor for Alternative II-B would cross the South Nebo WMA – Triangle Ranch Unit and the Moroni subunit of the North Nebo WMA – Fountain Green Unit. Both WMAs are managed to protect big game winter range. Impacts to the South Nebo WMA – Triangle Ranch Unit would be similar to those identified under Alternative II-A, but would affect a smaller portion of the WMA (the analysis area would encompass approximately 1,060 acres or 22 percent of the WMA). Approximately 206 acres of the refined transmission corridor and 1,347 acres of the analysis area would fall within the North Nebo – Fountain Green Unit. This comprises 9 percent and 58 percent of the WMA, respectively. The unit is closed to public access in winter and spring to protect wintering wildlife. Adherence to timing restrictions during both construction and operation phases would prevent disturbance to wintering big game; however, there would still be some loss of big game habitat through vegetation removal, noise, and human activity that would affect hunting and wildlife watching recreation opportunities.

The South Nebo WMA – Triangle Ranch Unit contains reversionary clauses on some parcels if land use changes from “big game management.” Development of a transmission line or access roads within these parcels would not be in conformance with area management. Habitat loss would be minimized through application of **REC-2**, which would limit access to existing roads within the WMA and/or require full reclamation of any roads that are constructed. Application of **REC-4** would reduce recreational impacts by rescheduling construction activities within key hunting locales, such as WMAs, outside of hunting seasons. During operations, the transmission line ROW would still have some level of vegetation maintenance that could affect wildlife habitat, and maintenance-related noise could temporarily affect adjacent hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities by making the area less hospitable for wildlife. Application of **REC-1** (scheduling vegetation maintenance outside of big game hunting seasons where practicable) would further minimize impacts to hunting and wildlife viewing.

CWMUs. The refined transmission corridor for Alternative II-B also would cross the 8,037-acre Bear Mountain CWMU. Approximately 1,314 acres would be within the refined transmission corridor; the analysis area would encompass 4,515 acres (56 percent) of the CWMU. Impacts to hunting within the analysis area would be similar to those described above. Decisions regarding road construction and timing of construction would be up to the private landowner.

*Local Recreation Areas*

Bear Creek Campground. Approximately 18 acres of Emery County’s Bear Creek Campground (the entire site) would be located within the analysis area; the campground would not be located within the refined transmission corridor. Construction within the analysis area would adversely affect campers, particularly during summer weekends, due to construction activity and noise. Recreation use of the

campground also may be affected if campers are displaced to nearby campgrounds in the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Application of **REC-2** would limit access to existing roads and/or require full reclamation of any new roads. Application of **REC-5, REC-6**, and **REC-7** would reduce impacts to campers by prohibiting construction during weekends and other high use periods, maintaining access to high use RAs, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility from KOP P-32, which is located near the campground.

Cedar Ridges Golf Course. The entire Cedar Ridges Golf Course near Rangely, Colorado would be located within the analysis area; however, the golf course would not be located within the refined transmission corridor. Construction activity and noise within the analysis area would adversely affect golfers, as well as use of the golf course, particularly during the summer, if golfers are displaced to another location. Application of **REC-2** would limit access to existing roads and/or require full reclamation of any new roads. Application of **REC-5, REC-6**, and **REC-7** would reduce impacts to campers by prohibiting construction during weekends and other high use periods, maintaining access to high use RAs, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs.

*Scenic Backways and Byways*

Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway. Under Alternative II-B, the refined transmission corridor for Alternative II-B would largely parallel the 480-mile Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway along the I-70/US-6/US-50 corridor between the McInnis NCA and Green River, Utah and along US-6 between Green River and Price. Over 88 miles of the Byway would fall within the analysis area in which roads and other construction facilities would be located. Impacts would include temporary traffic delays due to construction during key construction times (such as stringing of the lines), and alteration of the recreation setting for scenic drivers along these portions of the Byway. However, both affected portions of the Byway have existing transmission lines adjacent to the highway. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility along the Byway.

Energy Loop: Huntington/Eccles Canyons Scenic Byway. West of Huntington, the refined transmission corridor would cross the 83-mile Energy Loop: Huntington/Eccles Canyons Scenic Byway (SR-31), and generally would parallel the Byway for about 4 miles, although the refined transmission corridor would be located about 1.5 miles to the south of SR-31. Approximately 4 miles of the Byway would fall within the analysis area; less than 0.5 mile of the Byway would fall within the refined transmission corridor. Construction activity at the crossing or road construction within the portion of the analysis area adjoining the Byway would adversely affect the scenic view of the Byway. Visual disturbances from construction of new roads would be permanent unless fully restored. During construction, portions of the Byway also could experience additional traffic on segments used for employee commute, supply delivery, etc. (see Section 3.16, Transportation and Access). Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility along the Byway.

Skyline Drive Scenic Backway. Southwest of Mt. Pleasant, the refined transmission corridor would cross Skyline Drive Scenic Backway; approximately 3 miles of the Backway would be within the analysis area. There are existing transmission lines in this area. Scenic drivers using the Backway could be subject to views of road construction within the analysis area (see Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** for more information on visual impacts to the Backway). Visual disturbances from construction of new roads would be permanent unless fully restored. During construction, portions of the Backway also could experience additional traffic on segments used for employee commute, supply delivery, etc. (see Section 3.16, Transportation and Access).

Alternative II-C

Alternative II-C would cross dispersed RAs in seven FOs and one national forest (including several developed recreation sites), five specially managed RAs, two WMAs, five CWMUs, and one private golf course. Alternative II-C also would affect three scenic backways/byways.

*BLM Dispersed Recreation Areas*

Under Alternative II-C, impacts to the White River, Grand Junction, Moab, and Vernal FOs would be the same as under Alternative II-B. Within the Price and Fillmore FOs, Alternative II-C would affect similar amounts of dispersed RA as Alternative II-B, although in different locations. There are no high use areas identified within the analysis area for this alternative. Application of **REC-9** would reduce potential public safety risks for OHV users near the proposed transmission line.

The Richfield FO would have 2,120 acres (0.2 percent) of dispersed RA within the refined transmission corridor and 16,284 acres (1.3 percent) within the analysis area. There are no identified high use areas within this acreage.

*BLM SRMAs or Other Specially Managed Recreation Areas*

Within the Moab FO, impacts to the Utah Rims and Labyrinth/Gemini Bridges SRMAs would be the same as under Alternative II-B. Within the Price FO, impacts to the Labyrinth SRMA would be the same as under Alternative II-B.

San Rafael Swell SRMA. Within the Price FO, approximately 355 acres of the refined transmission corridor and 10,590 acres of the analysis area would fall within the 938,500-acre San Rafael Swell SRMA. These acreages comprise 0.04 percent and 1.1 percent of the SRMA, respectively. This SRMA is managed to provide sightseeing, OHV use, mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, wildlife viewing, visiting cultural sites, camping, picnicking, photography, rock hounding, snowmobiling, and hunting opportunities. Most of the SRMA, including the more popular areas to the south, would not be affected and other day use sites and OHV routes would continue to be available during construction activities (BLM 2011e,f).

Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area. Within the Fillmore FO, impacts to the Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area would be similar to those described under Alternative II-A, though under Alternative II-C, more acreage would be included within the refined transmission corridor and less acreage would be included within the analysis area.

*USFS Recreation Areas*

Fishlake National Forest. Under Alternative II-C, 3,080 acres of the refined transmission corridor would fall within areas classified as roaded natural within the Fishlake National Forest. The sights and sounds of construction would be in conformance with area management, although it would cause temporary adverse impacts to scenic viewers, hikers, campers and other non-motorized users identified in Section 3.13.6. Areas classified as semi-primitive motorized, while having some evidence of other users and motorized use, have a low concentration of users, and a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment. Approximately 5,332 acres of the refined transmission corridor and 17,734 acres of the analysis area would be located in areas classified as semi-primitive motorized. This is 45 percent of the total acreage of analysis area located within the Fishlake National Forest (39,561 acres) and 1.7 percent of all areas classified as semi-primitive motorized within the Fishlake National Forest. A portion of the analysis area would temporarily be removed from use during construction due to surface disturbance, increased noise, and human activity related to access roads and construction support areas. Approximately 22 acres of the analysis area would be within areas classified as semi-primitive non-motorized. This is 0.01 percent of all semi-primitive non-motorized acreage within the Fishlake National Forest. The sights and sounds of construction and presence of large construction crews and construction traffic would not be consistent with all setting indicator characteristics for this ROS classification. No semi-primitive motorized or non-motorized acreage would be located within IRAs.

Impacts to recreation in national forests from construction would be similar to those discussed under Alternative II-A. Identified high use areas within the Fishlake National Forest in Alternative II-C include the Great Western Trail, Gooseberry ATV Trail, Gooseberry-Fishlake Trail, and Great Western/Paiute

ATV Trail, which is rated one of the top OHV trails in the country (Utah.com 2011b). The Great Western Trail is one of the few long distance north/south trails in this area. Temporary closure of the Great Western/Paiute ATV Trail during the summer would cause significant, inconvenient bypassing of the closures and would limit north/south travel on two of the long distance north/south trails in this area during the recreation season. Restricted access to the trail during the summer would be a substantial, but temporary adverse impact to both motorized and non-motorized user groups. Although other OHV routes would be affected in the three sections of the National Forest, there are many other similar routes that would continue to be available for use in the National Forest during construction (USFS 2010b). Application of **REC-6** would allow access to the Great Western/Paiute Trail to continue, although there could be delays in use during key construction times.

Construction activities related to Alternative II-C would affect use of the Maple Grove picnic area and campground, which are located near the analysis area; the analysis area would cross the access road to the campground. Application of **REC-6** would allow access to the Maple Grove sites to continue, although picnickers and campers may experience some delays in accessing the Maple Grove sites during key construction times. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** identify visual impacts to the area that can be viewed from the campground (KOP F-23). Application of **REC-5** and **REC-7** would reduce impacts to campers by limiting construction on weekends and prohibiting activities on holidays or other key use times near developed recreation sites and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs.

Project roads near the high use/developed areas listed above could result in unauthorized OHV use (and associated resource damage, noise, etc.) as well as permanent visual impacts. Please see Section 3.13.6.8 regarding potential impacts from Project access roads. Implementation of **REC-2** would limit impacts from new access roads. Operations and maintenance activities could displace wildlife, thus affecting hunting or wildlife viewing activities. Application of **REC-1** would reduce this impact by scheduling maintenance activities outside of hunting seasons. Operation of the transmission line also would affect the visual setting of recreation opportunities, although in general the line follows existing transmission lines. However, presence of the transmission line would conflict with recreation setting indicator characteristics for semi-primitive areas. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, describes mitigation for permanent visual impacts related to the various ROS classes.

*State-managed Recreation Areas*

WMAs. Under Alternative II-C, approximately 72 acres of the refined transmission corridor and 221 acres of the analysis area would fall within the Fillmore WMA. This comprises 0.5 and 1.7 percent of the WMA, respectively. The Fillmore WMA is composed of several fenced parcels managed to provide protection to big game winter range. The area is closed in winter and spring to protect wintering big game habitat. Impacts would be similar to those identified under other WMAs and would be minimized through application of **REC-2**, which would limit access to existing roads within the WMA and/or require full reclamation of any roads that are constructed. Application of **REC-4** would reduce recreation impacts by rescheduling construction activities within key hunting locales, such as WMAs, to be outside of hunting seasons. Operations and maintenance activities could displace wildlife, thus affecting hunting or wildlife viewing activities. Application of **REC-1** would reduce this impact by scheduling maintenance activities outside of hunting seasons.

Additionally, there is a very small portion (less than 1 acre) of the analysis area that is located within the 80-acre Emery Farm Castle Dale WMA. Impacts would be fully eliminated or minimized through avoidance of the WMA for road construction and support area placement (**REC-2**).

CWMUs. The refined transmission corridor for Alternative II-C also would cross five CWMUs. The analysis area would encompass over 50 percent of the 10,558-acre Castle Valley Outdoors CWMU and the 7,975-acre Round Valley CWMU and approximately 17 percent of the 13,330-acre Johnson Mountain Ranch CWMU. Between 2 and 4 percent of the 4,670-acre Oak Ranch CWMU and the 8,165-acre Old Woman Plateau CWMU also would be within the analysis area. Impacts to hunting

within the analysis area would be similar to those described above. Decisions regarding road construction and timing of construction would be up to the private landowner.

*Local Recreation Areas*

Cedar Ridges Golf Course. Impacts for Alternative II-C would be the same as those described under Alternative II-B for the Cedar Ridges Golf Course.

*Scenic Backways and Byways*

Wedge Overlook/Buckhorn Drive Scenic Backway. The refined transmission corridor for Alternative II-C would parallel several portions of the Wedge Overlook/Buckhorn Drive Scenic Backway, crossing the Backway five times. Approximately 9 miles of the Backway would be within the analysis area. The visual disturbances created by the transmission line itself would permanently alter the recreation setting for scenic driving on portions of the Backway. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility along the Backway (KOP P-9 and KOP P-10). During construction, scenic drivers using the Backway would be subject to views of transmission line and access road construction and could experience traffic delays on portions of the Backway used for employee commute. Wire installation across the road would cause temporary delays in traffic.

Gooseberry-Fremont Road Scenic Backway. The refined transmission corridor for Alternative II-C also would cross the Gooseberry-Fremont Road Scenic Backway about 3 miles south of its terminus at I-70/US-6 and would parallel an existing transmission line. Approximately 2 miles of the Backway would be within the analysis area. During construction, scenic drivers using the Backway would be subject to views of transmission line and access road construction. Drivers also could experience additional traffic on portions of the Backway used for employee commute. Wire installation across the road would cause temporary delays in traffic. Operation of the transmission line could affect the visual setting for scenic drivers, although there is an existing transmission line along this portion of the Backway. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility along the Backway (KOP Rich-14 and KOP Rich-15).

Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway. Impacts to the Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway would be similar to those described under Alternative II-B because the two alternatives largely share the same route.

Section 3.12, Visual Resources, contains additional information regarding impacts to Scenic Byways and Backways.

Alternative II-D

Alternative II-D would cross dispersed RAs in five FOs and two national forests (including several developed recreation sites), four specially managed RAs, three WMAs, two CWMUs, and a private campground. Alternative II-D also would affect four scenic byways and two backways.

*BLM Dispersed Recreation Areas*

Within the White River and Fillmore FOs, the route for Alternative II-D largely shares the same corridor as Alternative II-A. Impacts to dispersed recreation within these two FOs would be similar to those described under Alternative II-A. Acreages are shown in **Table 3.13-23**.

Within the Vernal FO, the refined transmission corridor for Alternative II-D would affect 29,678 acres of dispersed RA. The analysis area, in which roads and other construction support areas could be located, would encompass 85,532 acres of dispersed RA. These figures comprise 1.9 percent and 5.5 percent of acreage available for dispersed recreation in the FO, respectively. Within the Price FO, the refined transmission corridor for Alternative II-D would affect 2,474 acres of dispersed RA and the

analysis area would encompass 10,385 acres of dispersed RA. These figures comprise 0.2 percent and 0.8 percent of acreage available for dispersed recreation in the FO, respectively. Alternative II-D would cross the lower Green River at a location that has been identified as suitable for inclusion as "scenic" into the WSR system (see Section 3.15, Special Designation Areas, for more information about compatibility with this designation). However, the more popular area for river recreation is the Desolation Canyon area, located downstream. Other high use recreational areas include Nine Mile Canyon and vacation home areas near Argyle Canyon. Within the Richfield FO, the refined transmission corridor for Alternative II-D would affect 445 acres of dispersed RA and the analysis area would encompass 1,291 acres of dispersed recreation activities (0.1 percent of the dispersed RA within the FO). Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility along the access road to Sand Wash, the boating put-in for Desolation Canyon (KOP V-44), Nine Mile Canyon (KOP V-45), and Argyle Canyon (KOP V-46).

*BLM SRMAs or Other Specially Managed Recreation Areas*

Fantasy Canyon and Nine Mile Canyon SRMAs. Within the Vernal FO, the analysis area would cross approximately 54 acres of the 69-acre Fantasy Canyon SRMA. This area, which comprises 78 percent of the SRMA, could be the location for roads and other construction support areas, which would result in surface disturbance, increased noise, and human activity. Construction would adversely affect self-guided tours and hiking areas within the SRMA. The analysis area would cross approximately 1,456 acres of the 44,168-acre Nine Mile Canyon SRMA. This area, which comprises 3 percent of the SRMA, is managed to protect high-value cultural tourism and high scenic quality for user groups such as recreational drivers and hikers. The analysis area would be located up above the rim, within oil and gas development areas and away from highly scenic areas and cultural resources; however, hikers and sightseers travelling through this area or recreating in this area would still be temporarily adversely affected by noise from construction activity within the refined transmission corridor. Application of **REC-2** within these SRMAs would minimize this impact by limiting access to existing roads within the SRMA and/or requiring full reclamation of any roads that are constructed.

Little Sahara RA and Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area. Within the Fillmore FO, impacts to the Little Sahara RA and Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area would be the same as described under Alternative II-A.

*USFS Recreation Areas*

Ashley National Forest. Under Alternative II-D, approximately 1 acre of the refined transmission corridor and analysis area would be located within the Ashley National Forest in an area classified as roaded natural. This type of area is managed for recreation in ways that allow for readily evident to moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of human activity. The sights and sounds of construction would be in conformance with area management, although construction would cause temporary adverse impacts to scenic viewers, hikers, campers and other non-motorized users identified in Section 3.13.6.

Manti-La Sal National Forest. Under Alternative II-D, approximately 2,133 acres of the refined transmission corridor would fall within areas classified as roaded natural within the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The sights and sounds of construction would be in conformance with management goals of these areas, although construction would cause temporary adverse impacts to scenic viewers, hikers, campers and other non-motorized users identified in Section 3.13.6. Approximately 1,452 acres of the refined transmission corridor would be located in areas classified as semi-primitive motorized. The analysis area for Alternative II-D, in which roads and other construction support areas could be located, would encompass 9,700 acres within the Manti-La Sal National Forest, 32 percent of which (3,102 acres) would be located in areas classified as semi-primitive motorized. This acreage comprises 0.4 percent of all semi-primitive motorized acreage within the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Approximately 10 acres of the analysis area would be located within areas classified as semi-primitive non-motorized, which comprises 0.01 percent of all semi-primitive non-motorized acreage within the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The sights and sounds of construction and presence of large

construction crews and construction traffic would not be consistent with all setting indicator characteristics for these areas. No semi-primitive motorized or non-motorized acreage would be located within IRAs.

Impacts to recreation from construction would be similar to those discussed under Alternative II-A. Identified high use areas within the Manti-La Sal National Forest include the North Skyline Winter Staging Area, the Gooseberry Campground, Flat Canyon Campground, Boulger Reservoir, Electric Lake Reservoir, and Wasatch Academy. The North Skyline Winter Staging Area, Gooseberry Campground, and Wasatch Academy would be located within the analysis area and less than 0.5 mile from the refined transmission corridor. Small portions of Flat Canyon Campground, Boulger Reservoir, and Electric Lake Reservoir areas would be within the analysis area. Use of all of these sites would be affected by construction noise and activities as visitors may choose to visit other locations or different portions of the reservoirs to avoid construction activities. Non-motorized users, including campers and hikers would be affected by construction noise and activities. Wasatch Academy is used year-round, but is most heavily used in the spring and fall when students participate in activities such as hiking, biking, skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and other activities. Academy students and use of the Academy facilities would adversely be affected by construction noise and activities and Academy students would not have a substitute building location to use for Academy activities.

Operation of the transmission line would affect the visual setting of dispersed recreation opportunities. Presence of the transmission line would conflict with recreation setting indicator characteristics for semi-primitive areas. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, describes mitigation for permanent visual impacts related to the various ROS classes. Project roads near the high use/developed areas listed above could result in unauthorized OHV use (and associated resource damage, noise, etc.) as well as permanent visual impacts. Please see Section 3.13.6.8 regarding potential impacts from Project access roads. Application of **REC-2**, **REC-5**, **REC-6**, and **REC-7** would assist in reducing impacts to use of these high use areas and impacts to non-motorized users from construction and operation by limiting access to existing roads, closing or rehabilitating new access roads, limiting construction times, ensuring access to high use areas and trails is not impeded, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs. Operations and maintenance activities could displace wildlife, thus affecting hunting or wildlife viewing activities. Application of **REC-1** would reduce this impact by scheduling maintenance activities outside of hunting seasons. Application of **REC-10** would reduce impacts to the Academy by scheduling construction to minimize disturbance to students:

***REC-10****: Construction shall be scheduled to occur when the fewest students are at Wasatch Academy in the Manti-La Sal National Forest.*

Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility in this area (KOP Rich-22 through KOP Rich-26, KOP P-49, and KOP P-50).

<u>Uinta National Forest Planning Area</u>. Approximately 44 acres of the analysis area would fall exclusively within areas classified as roaded modified and roaded natural within the Uinta National Forest Planning Area. These types of areas are managed for recreation in ways that allow for readily evident to moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of human activity. The sights and sounds of construction would be in conformance with area management, although construction would cause temporary adverse impacts to scenic viewers, hikers, campers and other non-motorized users identified in Section 3.13.6. In general, there are other nearby locations that visitors could temporarily go during construction activities that offer the same recreation opportunities in a similar environment. Operation of the transmission line could affect the visual setting of dispersed recreational opportunities, but in general the line follows existing transmission lines. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, describes mitigation for permanent visual impacts related to the various ROS classes. Maintenance activities could displace wildlife, affecting hunting or wildlife viewing activities. Outside of scenic byways (discussed separately, below), there are no identified high use areas identified within the analysis area in Uinta National Forest Planning Area.

*Other Federally Managed Recreation Areas*

Impacts to the Dinosaur National Monument from Alternative II-D would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A.

*State-managed Recreation Areas*

WMAs. The refined transmission corridor for Alternative II-D would cross the Gordon Creek WMA, Northwest Manti WMA – Hilltop Unit and the South Nebo WMA – Triangle Ranch Unit, affecting a portion of 1,097 acres, 131 acres and 960 acres in these WMAs, respectively. These acreages vary between 5 and 20 percent of the WMAs total acreages. These WMAs are managed for the protection of critical big game winter range. The Northwest Manti WMA – Hilltop Unit and South Nebo WMA – Triangle Ranch Unit are closed to public access in winter and spring to protect wintering wildlife. Adherence to timing restrictions during both construction and operation phases would prevent disturbance to wintering big game; however, there would still be some loss of big game habitat through vegetation removal, noise and human activity. Alternative II-D within the WMAs primarily would affect hunting and wildlife watching recreation opportunities. The analysis area, in which roads and other construction support areas could be located, would encompass substantial portions of the WMAs:

- Gordon Creek WMA: 5,251 acres (23.1 percent of total WMA acreage);
- Northwest Manti WMA – Hilltop Unit: 696 acres (64.8 percent of total WMA acreage); and
- South Nebo WMA – Triangle Ranch Unit: 1,775 acres (36.1 percent of total WMA acreage).

Agreements for the Gordon Creek WMA and South Nebo WMA – Triangle Ranch Unit contain reversionary clauses on some parcels if land use changes from “big game management.” The Northwest Manti WMA – Hilltop Unit prohibits utilities, unless such structures or systems are necessary for permitted ranching operations or residential use. Development of a transmission line or access roads within these WMAs would not be in conformance with area management. Due to the conservation easement, application of mitigation measure **REC-11** would eliminate ground disturbance within the Hilltop Unit.

***REC-11**: Due to the conservation easement, there should be no ground disturbance within the Northwest Manti WMA-Hilltop Unit.*

Habitat loss would be minimized through application of **REC-2**, which would limit access to existing roads within the WMA and/or require full reclamation of any roads that are constructed. Application of **REC-4** would reduce recreation impacts by rescheduling construction activities within key hunting locales, such as WMAs, to be outside of hunting seasons. During operations, the transmission line ROW would still have some level of vegetation maintenance that could affect wildlife habitat, and maintenance-related noise could temporarily affect adjacent hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities by making the area less hospitable to wildlife. Application of **REC-1** (scheduling vegetation maintenance outside of big game hunting seasons where practicable) would further minimize impacts to hunting and wildlife viewing.

CWMUs. The analysis area for Alternative II-D also would cross 63 percent (10,025 acres) of the 16,030-acre Minnie Maud Ridge CWMU and 1 percent (227 acres) of the 22,471-acre Emma Park CWMU. Impacts to hunting within the analysis area would be similar to those described above. Decisions regarding road construction and timing of construction would be up to the private landowner.

*Local Recreation Areas*

Big Mountain Campground. Impacts for Alternative II-D would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A for the Big Mountain Campground.

*Scenic Backways and Byways*

Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway and Indian Canyon Scenic Byway. The refined transmission corridor for Alternative II-D would cross the Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway near Helper, Utah and again near Dinosaur, Colorado. Impacts to the Byway from the 5-mile portion of the transmission line route near Dinosaur would be the same as under Alternative II-A because the routes are the same. The route of the transmission line near Helper would largely parallel the Byway (US-191) north of Helper; approximately 13 miles of the Byway would fall within the analysis area. This includes the portion of the area where the Bamberger roadside monument and Castle Gate Park are located. During construction, scenic drivers using the Byway would be subject to views of transmission line and access road construction. Drivers also could experience additional traffic on portions of the Byway used for employee commute; wire installation across the road would cause temporary delays in traffic. Operation of the line would not be expected to adversely affect scenic drivers as there are already existing transmission lines along this portion of the Byway. This portion of US-191 also is part of the Indian Canyon Scenic Byway. Impacts to the Indian Canyon Scenic Byway would be the same as described above. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visual impacts to the Byway.

Nine Mile Canyon Scenic Backway. The refined transmission corridor for Alternative II-D would cross the Nine Mile Canyon Scenic Backway. Approximately 2 miles of the Backway would be within the analysis area. The crossing would be above the rim of the canyon, away from the scenic views and petroglyphs located within the canyon. There are currently no existing transmission lines in the area. Visual disturbances created by the transmission line itself would permanently alter the recreation setting for scenic driving on portions of the Backway nearest to the refined transmission corridor; however, the proposed transmission line crossing would be located in an area of considerable oil and gas development (see Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** for more information).

Energy Loop: Huntington/Eccles Canyons Scenic Byway. West of Fairview, the refined transmission corridor would cross the 83-mile Energy Loop: Huntington/Eccles Canyons Scenic Byway (SR-31) several times. The route of the transmission line would largely parallel the Byway in the portion between these crossings. Approximately 17 miles of Byway would fall within the analysis area. Less than 8 miles of the Byway would fall within the refined transmission corridor. There are no existing transmission lines in these areas and the refined transmission corridor would not be located within any designated utility corridors. The visual disturbances created by the transmission line itself would permanently alter the recreation setting for scenic driving on portions of the Scenic Byway nearest to the refined transmission corridor. Scenic drivers using the Byway also could be subject to views of road construction within the analysis area (see Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** for more information). Visual disturbances from construction of new roads would be permanent unless fully restored. During construction, portions of the Byway also could experience additional traffic on segments used for employee commute, supply delivery, etc. (see Section 3.16, Transportation and Access).

Skyline Drive Scenic Backway. The refined transmission corridor for Alternative II-D would cross the 86-mile Skyline Drive Scenic Backway in the same area where it crosses the Energy Loop: Huntington/Eccles Canyons Scenic Byway. About 4 miles of the Backway would fall within the analysis area. Impacts would be similar to those described above. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility in this area.

Nebo Loop Scenic Byway. Impacts to the Nebo Loop Scenic Byway would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A.

Alternative II-E

Alternative II-E would cross dispersed RAs in six FOs and three national forests (including several developed recreation sites), two specially managed RAs, seven WMAs, six CWMUs, two private

campgrounds, and one reservoir. Alternative II-E also would affect small portions of several scenic byways and backways.

*BLM Dispersed Recreation Areas*

The route for Alternative II-E largely shares the same corridor as Alternative II-A, with the exception of the middle portion of Region II, where Alternative II-E crosses the Ashley National Forest and Manti La-Sal National Forest. On BLM lands, impacts would be similar to those described under Alternative II-A, except that the Salt Lake FO would have more acreage within the refined transmission corridor and analysis area under Alternative II-E, and Alternative II-E would cross a small portion of the Price FO. There are no identified high use areas within these portions of the FOs. Acreages are shown in **Table 3.13-23**.

*BLM SRMAs or Other Specially Managed Recreation Areas*

Little Sahara RA and Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area. Within the Fillmore FO, impacts to the Little Sahara RA and Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A.

*USFS Recreation Areas*

Ashley National Forest. Under Alternative II-E, most of the refined transmission corridor and analysis area (1,449 acres) within the Ashley National Forest would fall within areas classified as roaded natural. These types of areas are managed for recreation in ways that allow for readily evident to moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of human activity. The sights and sounds of construction would be in conformance with area management, although construction would cause temporary adverse impacts to scenic viewers, hikers, campers and other non-motorized users identified in Section 3.13.6. Less than 1 acre of the analysis area would be located in areas classified as semi-primitive motorized and 1 acre would be located within semi-primitive non-motorized areas. The sights and sounds of construction and presence of large construction crews and construction traffic would not be consistent with all setting indicator characteristics for these areas. No acreage would be located within IRAs.

As discussed in Section 3.13.6, construction would adversely affect the hunter and wildlife viewer user group through habitat removal, restricted access to areas undergoing construction, and by displacing wildlife in and near construction zones. Construction also would adversely affect the non-mechanized users (hikers, campers, and equestrians) that recreate in this area through construction activity and noise. Recreationists seeking wildlife watching experiences or natural settings would be adversely affected by construction activities regardless of their timing. Hunters would be adversely affected only if these activities were scheduled during active hunting seasons. The majority of this route is well within the Hunt Unit 11 and therefore hunters' ability to track displaced game should not be affected. There are no identified high use recreational areas within the analysis area in the Ashley National Forest and, in general, there are other nearby locations that visitors could temporarily go during construction activities that offer the same recreation opportunities in a similar environment. Operation of the transmission line would affect the visual setting of dispersed recreational opportunities, although in general, the line follows an existing transmission line. Operation and maintenance activities could displace wildlife, affecting hunting or wildlife viewing activities. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, describes mitigation for permanent visual impacts related to the various ROS classes.

Uinta National Forest Planning Area. Under Alternative II-E, approximately 2,630 acres of the refined transmission corridor would fall within areas classified as roaded modified and roaded natural within the Uinta National Forest Planning Area. The sights and sounds of construction would be in conformance with area management. The analysis area for Alternative II-E, in which roads and other construction support areas could be located, would encompass 6,844 acres within the Uinta National Forest Planning Area. Seventeen percent of this acreage (1,173 acres) would be located in areas classified as semi-primitive motorized; this is 0.3 percent of all semi-primitive motorized acreage within the Uinta National Forest Planning Area. Construction in these areas would not be in conformance

with all setting indicator characteristics. No acreage would be located within IRAs. Impacts to dispersed recreation and high use areas from construction and operation would be similar to those discussed under Alternative II-A, as the route through the Uinta National Forest Planning Area would be largely the same for both alternatives. The Strawberry IRA Micro-siting adjustments would not substantially affect the impact analysis for recreation.

Manti-La Sal National Forest. Under Alternative II-E, approximately 149 acres of the refined transmission corridor would fall within areas classified as roaded natural within the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The analysis area for Alternative II-E, in which roads and other construction support areas could be located, would encompass 1,960 acres within the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Of the total acreage within the analysis area, 71 percent (1,385 acres) would be located in areas classified as semi-primitive motorized, which comprises 0.2 percent of all semi-primitive motorized acreage within the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The sights and sounds of construction and presence of large construction crews and construction traffic would not be consistent with all setting indicator characteristics for these areas. Only 1 acre of the semi-primitive motorized acreage in the analysis area would be located within IRAs. Roadless construction methods (see **Appendix D**) would reduce some impacts to semi-primitive motorized areas by eliminating road construction, but could cause a temporary adverse impact to recreationists through additional noise and disturbance. The remaining 1,384 acres of semi-primitive motorized area within the analysis area would not be located in IRAs and would comprise approximately 0.2 percent of all semi-primitive motorized area within the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Impacts to dispersed recreation and high use areas from construction and operation would be similar to those discussed under Alternative II-A, as the route through the Manti-La Sal National Forest would be largely the same for both alternatives.

*Other Federally Managed Recreation Areas*

Impacts to the Dinosaur National Monument from Alternative II-E would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A.

*State-managed Recreation Areas*

WMAs. Alternative II-E would cross seven WMAs. Impacts to the North Nebo WMA – Spencer Fork Unit, Northwest Manti WMA – Birdseye/Lake Fork Unit, and Northwest Manti WMA – Lasson Draw Unit would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A. Impacts to the South Nebo WMA – Triangle Ranch Unit would be the same as those described under Alternative II-D. Additionally, the analysis area would encompass portions of the following WMAs:

- Indian Canyon WMA – Cottonwood Canyon Unit: 1,668 acres (22 percent of total WMA acreage);
- Northwest Manti WMA – Starvation Unit: 976 acres (16.9 percent of total WMA acreage); and
- Northwest Manti WMA – Dairy Fork Unit: 1,684 acres (33.8 percent of total WMA acreage).

The Indian Canyon WMA and Northwest Manti – Dairy Fork Unit are managed for big game. Hunting is a popular activity in the Indian Canyon WMA in winter, although winter vehicular use in the WMA is not encouraged. The Northwest Manti WMA – Starvation Unit is used for big game hunting and fishing and both the Starvation and Dairy Fork units are closed to public access in winter and spring to protect wintering wildlife.

Adherence to timing restrictions during both construction and operation phases would prevent disturbance to wintering big game; however, there still would be some loss of big game habitat through vegetation removal, noise and human activity. Habitat loss would be minimized through application of **REC-2**, which would limit access to existing roads within the WMA and/or require full reclamation of any roads that are constructed. Application of **REC-4** would reduce recreational impacts by rescheduling construction activities within key hunting locales, such as WMAs, to be outside of hunting

seasons. During operations, the transmission line ROW would still have some level of vegetation maintenance that could affect wildlife habitat, and maintenance-related noise could temporarily affect adjacent hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing opportunities by making the area less hospitable. Application of **REC-1** (scheduling vegetation maintenance outside of big game hunting seasons where practicable) would further minimize impacts to hunting and wildlife viewing.

CWMUs. The analysis area for Alternative II-E also would cross six CWMUs. Impacts to the Crab Creek CWMU would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A. The analysis area would encompass approximately 7 percent of the 16,030-acre Minnie Maud Ridge CWMU; 32 percent of the 22,471-acre Emma Park CWMU; 38 percent of the 26,127-acre Soldier Summit CWMU; 18 percent of the 3,853-acre Antelope Creek CWMU; and less than 5 percent of the Scofield Canyons CWMU. Impacts to hunting within the CWMUs in the analysis area would be similar to those described above. Decisions regarding road construction and timing of construction would be up to the private landowner.

*Local Recreation Areas*

Big Mountain Campground and Bottle Hollow Reservoir. Impacts for Alternative II-E would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A for the Big Mountain Campground and Bottle Hollow Reservoir.

Camp Timberlane. The refined transmission corridor would encompass 329 acres of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints' Camp Timberlane, while the analysis area would encompass 349 acres or 49 percent of the site. Construction noise, activities, and visual disturbances would affect camping at this site during the summer when the camp is available. Groups, families, and individuals that use the camp may be displaced to either other campgrounds in the area or other facilities owned by the church. The camp can hold over 1,000 people and large groups may have difficulty finding a suitable substitute facility nearby. Application of **REC-2** would limit access to existing roads and/or require full reclamation of any new roads. Application of **REC-5, REC-6**, and **REC-7** would reduce impacts to campers by prohibiting construction during weekends and other high use periods, maintaining access to high use RAs, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs. However, construction noise and visual impacts would be present during weekdays. In addition, operation of the transmission line would permanently affect the visual setting of recreation opportunities within the camp area and maintenance operations could temporarily affect access to camp facilities and disrupt camp visitors. Section 3.17, Social and Economic Conditions, addresses the economic impacts of construction on this facility.

*Scenic Backways and Byways*

Under Alternative II-E, the proposed transmission line would parallel US-6 and existing transmission lines between Helper, Utah and Thistle, Utah. In this area, the refined transmission corridor would cross the entrance to the Huntington/Eccles Canyons Scenic Byway, but would be located across the highway from the entrance to the Skyline Drive Scenic Backway and the Reservation Ridge Scenic Backway. Construction activities could cause temporary adverse effects for scenic drivers; however, byway users would quickly leave the construction area and head away from the US-6 corridor. Alternative II-E also would cross the Indian Canyon Scenic Byway (US-191) within the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation; less than 2 miles of the Byway would be within the analysis area. The route would not parallel an existing transmission line in this area. Construction and operation activities would cause adverse impacts to the viewshed of the area. Impacts to the Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway would be the same as those described above for the Indian Canyon Scenic Byway portion plus those described for the 5-mile section described under Alternative II-A. Impacts to the Nebo Loop Scenic Byway would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A.

Alternative II-F

Alternative II-F would cross dispersed RAs in five FOs and two national forests (including several developed recreation sites), four specially managed RAs, six WMAs, four CWMUs, and three private campgrounds. Alternative II-F also would affect portions of several scenic backways/byways.

*BLM Dispersed Recreation Areas*

Impacts for Alternative II-F would be the same as those discussed under Alternative II-E for the White River, Fillmore, and Richfield FOs. Impacts for Alternative II-F would be similar to those described under Alternative II-D for the Vernal FO, although slightly more acreage would be included within the refined transmission corridor and analysis area under Alternative II-F. Impacts to dispersed recreation within the Salt Lake FO would be similar to those described for Alternative II-E; however, Alternative II-F would include more acreage within the refined transmission corridor and analysis area. There are no high use areas identified within the analysis area for the Salt Lake FO.

*BLM SRMAs or Other Specially Managed Recreation Areas*

Fantasy Canyon and Nine Mile Canyon SRMAs. Impacts for Alternative II-F would be the same as those discussed under Alternative II-D for the Fantasy Canyon and Nine Mile Canyon SRMAs.

Little Sahara RA and Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area. Within the Fillmore FO, impacts to the Little Sahara RA and Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A.

*USFS Recreation Areas*

Impacts for Alternative II-F would be the same as those discussed under Alternative II-E for the Manti-La Sal and Uinta National Forests. Only 1 acre would be located within the Ashley National Forest, similar to Alternative II-D.

*Other Federally Managed Recreation Areas*

Impacts to the Dinosaur National Monument from Alternative II-F would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A.

*State-Managed Recreation Areas*

WMAs. Impacts for Alternative II-F would be the same as those described under Alternative II-E for the following WMAs:

- North Nebo WMA—Spencer Fork Unit (96.4 percent of total WMA acreage);
- Northwest Manti WMA—Birdseye/Lake Fork Unit (71.7 percent of total WMA acreage);
- Northwest Manti WMA—Dairy Fork Unit (33.8 percent of total WMA acreage);
- Northwest Manti WMA—Lasson Draw Unit (0.7 percent of total WMA acreage);
- Northwest Manti WMA—Starvation Unit (16.9 percent of total WMA acreage); and
- South Nebo WMA—Triangle Ranch Unit (36 percent of total WMA acreage).

CWMUs. The analysis area for Alternative II-F also would cross four CWMUs. Impacts to the Crab Creek CWMU would be the same as those described under Alternative II-E. The analysis area would encompass approximately less than 1 percent of the 16,030-acre Minnie Maud Ridge CWMU, 38 percent of the 22,471-acre Emma Park CWMU, and 29 percent of the 26,127-acre Solider Summit CWMU. Impacts to hunting within the CWMUs in the analysis area would be similar to those described above. Decisions regarding road construction and timing of construction would be up to the private landowner.

*Local Recreation Areas*

Big Mountain Campground, Brough Reservoir, and Camp Timberlane. Impacts for Alternative II-F would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A for the Big Mountain Campground and Brough Reservoir, and Alternative II-E for Camp Timberlane, although slightly less acreage would be within the refined transmission corridor and analysis area under Alternative II-F for Camp Timberlane.

Crescent Regional Recreational Camp. The refined transmission corridor would encompass 48 acres of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints' Crescent Regional Recreational Camp, while the analysis area would encompass 219 acres or 37 percent of the site. The southern one-half of the camp would be located within the analysis area. The refined transmission corridor would encompass the very southwestern edge of the camp parcel where there are no existing or planned recreation facilities. Construction noise, activities, and visual disturbances would affect camping at this site, especially during the summer when camp use is likely highest. Groups, families, and individuals that use the camp may be displaced to either other campgrounds in the area or other facilities owned by the church. The camp can hold approximately 605 people and large groups may have difficulty finding a suitable substitute facility nearby, particularly if construction is concurrently occurring at Camp Timberlane. Application of **REC-2** would limit access to existing roads and/or require full reclamation of any new roads. Application of **REC-5, REC-6**, and **REC-7** would reduce impacts to campers by prohibiting construction during weekends and other high use periods, maintaining access to high use RAs, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs. However, construction noise and visual impacts would be present during weekdays. In addition, operation of the transmission line would permanently affect the visual setting of recreation opportunities within the camp area and maintenance operations could temporarily affect access to camp facilities and disrupt camp visitors. Section 3.17, Social and Economic Conditions, addresses the economic impacts of construction on this facility.

*Scenic Backways and Byways*

Impacts for Alternative II-F would be the same as those described under Alternative II-E for the Indian Canyon Scenic Byway, Nebo Loop Scenic Byway, and Skyline Drive Scenic Backway, although Alternative II-F would cross the Indian Canyon Scenic Byway once at US-191. Impacts for Alternative II-F also would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A for the Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway and the same as those described under Alternative II-D for the Nine Mile Canyon Scenic Backway.

Reservation Ridge Scenic Backway. The analysis area for Alternative II-F would encompass less than 1 mile of the Reservation Ridge Scenic Backway near the junction with the White River/Strawberry Road Scenic Backway. During construction, scenic drivers using the Backway would be subject to views of transmission line and access road construction. The visual disturbances created by the transmission line itself would permanently alter the recreation setting for scenic driving on a small portion of the Backway. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility along the Backway.

Alternative II-G (Agency Preferred)

Alternative II-G would cross dispersed RAs in five FOs and two national forests (including several developed recreation sites), two specially managed RAs, one state park, eight WMAs, two CWMUs, one private campground, and one reservoir. Alternative II-G also would affect portions of three scenic backways/byways.

*BLM Dispersed Recreation Areas*

Impacts for Alternative II-G would be the same as those discussed under Alternative II-A for the Richfield and Salt Lake FOs. Impacts for Alternative II-G would be similar to those described under Alternative II-E for the Vernal FO, although slightly less acreage would be included within the refined

transmission corridor and analysis area under Alternative II-G. Impacts to dispersed recreation within the White River and Fillmore FOs would be the same as those described for Alternative II-F.

*BLM SRMAs or Other Specially Managed Recreation Areas*

Little Sahara RA and Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area. Within the Fillmore FO, impacts to the Little Sahara RA and Sheeprock/Tintic ORV Area would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A.

*USFS Recreation Areas*

Impacts for Alternative II-G would be the same as those discussed under Alternative II-E for the Manti-La Sal National Forest and the same as those discussed under Alternative II-A for the Uinta National Forest Planning Area.

*Other Federally Managed Recreation Areas*

Impacts to the Dinosaur National Monument from Alternative II-G would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A.

*State-Managed Recreation Areas*

WMAs. Impacts for Alternative II-G would be the similar to those described under Alternative II-A for the following WMAs:

- Currant Creek/Wildcat WMA (6 percent of total WMA acreage);
- North Nebo WMA—Spencer Fork Unit (96 percent of total WMA acreage);
- Northwest Manti WMA—Birdseye/Lake Fork Unit (72 percent of total WMA acreage);
- Northwest Manti WMA—Dairy Fork Unit (23 percent of total WMA acreage);
- Northwest Manti WMA—Lasson Draw (<1 percent of total WMA acreage);
- Strawberry River WMA (15 percent of total WMA acreage); and
- Tabby Mountain WMA—Rabbit Gulch Unit (89 percent of total WMA acreage).

Impacts for Alternative II-G would be the same as those described under Alternative II-F for the South Nebo WMA—Triangle Ranch Unit (36 percent of total WMA acreage).

Fruitland Micro-siting Option 1 would increase impacts to the Currant Creek/Wildcat WMA compared to Alternative II-G due to additional acreage located within the Currant Creek portion of the WMA (7 percent of total WMA acreage) and crossing Currant Creek at an angler access point (US-40); Alternative II-G would cross Currant Creek on private property south of US-40 where public fishing access is generally not allowed (Marsh 2014; Utah Outdoors 2014). Option 1 also would impact the Tabby Mountain WMA—Tabby Mountain unit (1 percent of total WMA acreage). Fruitland Micro-siting Option 2 would result in the same impact to the Currant Creek/Wildcat WMA as Alternative II-G; however, Option 3 would reduce impacts to the WMA due to very little acreage affected within the Currant Creek portion of the WMA. All three Fruitland Micro-siting options and Alternative II-G would result in similar impacts to boating on Currant Creek as described under Alternative II-A.

Near the Tabby Mountain WMA—Tabby Mountain Unit, at the intersection of US-40 and SR 208 is a new Duchesne County visitor center. Construction of Alternative II-G could affect visitor's recreation experiences at the visitor center due to noise and traffic delays. Fruitland Micro-siting Options 1 and 2 also would result in similar impacts.

CWMUs. The analysis area for Alternative II-G also would cross two CWMUs. Impacts to the Crab Creek and Double R Ranch CWMUs would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A, though slightly more acreage would be affected within the Double R Ranch CWMU.

Starvation State Park. Impacts to Starvation State Park from Alternative II-G would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A.

*Local Recreation Areas*

Big Mountain Campground, Bottle Hollow Reservoir, and Brough Reservoir. Impacts for Alternative II-G would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A for the Big Mountain Campground, Bottle Hollow Reservoir, and Brough Reservoir.

*Scenic Backways and Byways*

Impacts for Alternative II-G would be the same as those described under Alternative II-A for the Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway, White River/Strawberry Road Scenic Backway, and Nebo Loop Scenic Byway.

Alternative Variations

**Table 3.13-27** summarizes impacts associated with the use of the Reservation Ridge Alternative Variation in Region II.

**Table 3.13-27 Summary of Region II Alternative Variation Impacts to Recreation**

| Alternative Variation | Analysis |
|---|---|
| Reservation Ridge Alternative Variation | The analysis area would affect 392 acres within the Ashley National Forest and 698 acres within the Uinta National Forest Planning Area. The analysis area would affect 2,375 acres of undesignated BLM lands within the Salt Lake FO. The analysis area would encompass 2,712 acres (12 percent) of the Emma Park CWMU and 1,591 acres (6 percent) of the Soldier Summit CWMU. The analysis area would include 2.5 miles of the Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway and Indian Canyon Scenic Byway. Approximately 7.6 miles of the Reservation Ridge Scenic Backway would be located within the analysis area and the refined transmission corridor would cross the Backway six times. The analysis area would encompass 49 acres of Camp Timberlane and 380 acres of the Crescent Regional Recreational Camp. Application of **REC-2** would limit access to existing roads and/or require full reclamation of any new roads. Application of **REC-5, REC-6**, and **REC-7** would reduce impacts to campers by prohibiting construction during weekends and other high use periods, maintaining access to high use RAs, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs. |

Alternative Connectors in Region II

**Table 3.13-28** summarizes the impacts associated with the alternative connectors in Region II. The IPP East connector would impact the fewest acres of BLM lands and no special RAs, NFS lands, wildlife areas or scenic byways/backways.

**Table 3.13-28 Summary of Region II Alternative Connector Impacts to Recreation**

| Alternative Connector | Analysis |
|---|---|
| Lynndyl Alternative Connector | Affects recreation on 11,325 acres of undesignated BLM lands within the Fillmore FO. This is 0.3 percent of BLM-managed lands within the FO available for dispersed recreation. No SRMAs are located within this connector. Also would affect 1,037 acres within the Fishlake National Forest within the Semi-primitive Motorized ROS class (0.1 percent of total acres within this class). Would affect several very short out-and-back OHV routes in the Fishlake National Forest. |
| IPP East Alternative Connector | Affects recreation on 2,307 acres of undesignated BLM lands within the Fillmore FO. This is 0.06 percent of BLM-managed lands within the FO available for dispersed recreation. No special recreation management areas are located within this connector. |
| Castle Dale Alternative Connector | Affects recreation on 2,299 acres of undesignated BLM lands within the Price FO. This is 0.2 percent of BLM-managed lands within the FO available for dispersed recreation. No special recreation management areas are located within this connector. Also would affect 1 mile of the Wedge Overlook/Buckhorn Drive Scenic Backway. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Price Alternative Connector | Affects recreation on 6,378 acres of undesignated BLM lands within the Price FO. This is 0.5 percent of BLM-managed lands within the FO available for dispersed recreation. No SRMAs are located within this connector. Would affect 659 acres of the 15,355-acre Hiawatha CWMU and 3,080 acres within the Gordon Creek WMA. |
| Roan Cliffs Alternative Connector | Affects less than 1 mile of the Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway and Indian Canyon Scenic Byway. The connector would cross the byways once (are on the same route). |

Region II Series Compensation Stations (Design Option 3)

If Design Option 3 were implemented, a series compensation station would be necessary along the alternative routes of Region II during the first-phase (AC operation). There are three potential sites, each corresponding to specific alternative routes. Upon completion of Phase 2 of Design Option 2, when there was no utility for the station, it would be deconstructed and reclaimed to the original condition. These series compensation station alternatives are depicted in **Figure 2-3**.

Series Compensation Station 1 – Design Option 3 corresponds to Alternatives II-A and II-E. The station would affect mostly private property south of Bottle Hollow Reservoir. No impacts to recreation would be anticipated from construction and operation of the station at this location because there is no public use or known recreation use occurring at the site.

Series Compensation Station 2 – Design Option 3 corresponds to Alternatives II-B and II-C. The station would affect dispersed RAs within the Moab FO (45 acres within the site and 337 acres within the siting area) north of the Utah Rims SRMA. General construction impacts to dispersed recreation activities are described in Section 3.13.6.8 and would affect recreationists by displacing visitors due to area closures, noise or visual presence of construction, or making the area inhospitable for wildlife. Construction of the station also would alter the scenic quality and recreation setting for scenic drivers on US-6. Operation of the station would result in permanent visual impacts to the area around the station, which is used for dispersed recreation. While these impacts would not appreciably affect the availability of the recreation resource used while engaging in dispersed recreational activities (i.e., wildlife habitat), the setting in which they occur would be affected visually and some users may choose to recreate elsewhere. In general, suitable substitute locations would exist nearby for the same dispersed recreational activities. The scenic quality and recreation setting for scenic drivers on US-6 nearest the station would be altered until the station was decommissioned. Impacts from decommissioning would be similar to the impacts from construction described above.

Series Compensation Station 3 – Design Option 3 corresponds to Alternatives II-D and II-F. The station would affect dispersed RAs within the Vernal FO (45 acres within the site and 627 acres within the siting area) north of the Nine Mile SRMA. Construction and operation impacts would be similar to those described above for Station 2.

Region II Conclusion

In Region II, Alternatives II-A (Applicant Proposed) and II-G (Agency Preferred) would affect the fewest BLM RAs, the fewest miles of scenic byways/backways, and the least amount of acreage within CWMUs; however, both alternatives would affect a state park and Alternative II-A would affect the most WMAs. All alternatives would affect some developed recreation sites within at least one national forest; Alternative II-F affects the least amount of acreage within national forests. Alternative II-C affects the least amount of acreage within WMAs and fewest local recreation areas.

### 3.13.6.5 Region III

**Table 3.13-29** provides a summary of Region III RAs/sites by alternative, both within the refined transmission corridor and analysis area.

## Table 3.13-29 Region III Recreation Areas within the Refined Transmission Corridor and Analysis Area

| Recreation Area/Site | Alternative III-A Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative III-B Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative III-C Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative III-D Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BLM Fillmore FO** | | | | |
| Dispersed, undesignated RAs | 8,509 (0.2)<br>60,400 (1.4) | 8,509 (0.2)<br>60,400 (1.4) | 7,707 (0.2)<br>68,057 (1.5) | 7,707 (0.2)<br>68,057 (1.5) |
| **BLM Cedar City FO** | | | | |
| Dispersed, undesignated RAs | 4,955 (0.2)<br>34,627 (1.6) | 4,418 (0.2)<br>22,300 (1.1) | 4,418 (0.2)<br>22,269 (1.1) | 4,418 (0.2)<br>22,300 (1.1) |
| **BLM St. George FO** | | | | |
| Dispersed, undesignated RAs | 5,585 (1.1)<br>32,440 (6.4) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **BLM Caliente FO** | | | | |
| Dispersed, undesignated RAs | 2,836 (0.08)<br>19,366 (0.5) | 15,553 (0.4)<br>74,505 (2.1) | 11,111 (0.3)<br>88,456 (2.5) | 15,553 (0.4)<br>74,505 (2.1) |
| Chief Mountain SRMA | N/A | N/A | 2,699 (2.4)<br>18,618 (16.7) | N/A |
| North Delamar SRMA | N/A | N/A | 0<br><1 | N/A |
| Caliente Motorcycle SRP Area | N/A | 2,363 (0.6)<br>11,516 (2.7) | 5,699 (1.3)<br>47,027 (11) | 2,363 (0.6)<br>11,516 (2.7) |
| **BLM Las Vegas FO** | | | | |
| Dispersed, undesignated RAs | 9,218 (0.5)<br>53,009 (2.9) | 3,437 (0.2)<br>37,057 (2.0) | 7,718 (0.4)<br>43,462 (2.4) | 3,437 (0.2)<br>37,057 (2.0) |
| Muddy Mountains SRMA | 144 (0.1)<br>4,202 (3.4) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Nellis Dunes SRMA[1] | N/A | N/A | 0<br>142 (1) | N/A |
| **USFS Dixie National Forest** | | | | |
| Rural | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Roaded Modified | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Roaded Natural | 2,509 (4.6)<br>4,098 (7.3) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Semi-Primitive Motorized | 4,293 (3.7)<br>5,195 (4.5) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| SPM Within IRA | 462 (0.4)<br>462 (0.4) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Remainder in SPM ROS | 3,831 (3.3)<br>4,733 (4.1) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized | 127 (0.06)<br>552 (0.2) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| SPNM Within IRA | 28 (0.01)<br>28 (0.01) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Remainder in SPNM ROS | 99 (0.04)<br>524 (0.2) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **Total** | **6,929 acres**<br>**9,845 acres** | **N/A** | **N/A** | **N/A** |

**Table 3.13-29 Region III Recreation Areas within the Refined Transmission Corridor and Analysis Area**

| Recreation Area/Site | Alternative III-A Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative III-B Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative III-C Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative III-D Refined Transmission Corridor/ Analysis Area Acres (% of Total Area) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **State Recreation Areas** | | | | |
| Zane CWMU | N/A | 1,433/3,487 (36) | 1,433/3,487 (36) | 1,433/3,487 (36) |
| **Scenic Backways and Byways** | | | | |
| Rainbow Canyon Backcountry Byway | N/A | 2 crossings/5 miles | 3 crossings/5 miles | 2 crossings/5 miles |
| US-93 Scenic Byway | N/A | N/A | 2 crossings/15 miles | N/A |
| Bitter Springs Backcountry Byway | 1 crossing/2 miles | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **Local Recreation Areas** | | | | |
| Newcastle Reservoir | 0<br>52 (34) | N/A | N/A | N/A |

[1] Nellis Dunes SRMA is located in both Region III and Region IV. Within Region IV, there are 183 acres of this SRMA within the refined transmission corridor under all alternatives. See Region IV analysis for more information.

Alternative III-A (Applicant Proposed)

Under Alternative III-A, the refined transmission corridor and analysis area would cross dispersed RAs within five FOs, one national forest, and one SRMA. A portion of the analysis area also would cross one privately managed public RA. Areas affected by Alternative III-A include a popular ATV area, a nationwide hiking trail, and one backcountry byway.

*BLM Dispersed Recreation Areas*

General construction impacts to dispersed recreation activities are described in Section 3.13.6 and include displacing visitors due to area closures, noise, or visual presence of construction, or making the area inhospitable for wildlife. Within Region III, the refined transmission corridor for Alternative III-A would affect a portion of 8,509 acres of dispersed RA in the Fillmore FO; 4,955 acres in the Cedar City FO; 5,585 acres in the St. George FO; 2,836 acres in the Caliente FO; and 9,218 acres in the Las Vegas FO.

The analysis area for Alternative III-A, in which roads and other construction support areas could be located, would encompass the following acreages of dispersed RA within each FO:

- Fillmore FO: 60,400 acres (1.4 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Cedar City FO: 34,627 (1.6 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- St. George FO: 32,440 (6.4 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Caliente FO: 19,366 (0.5 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Las Vegas FO: 53,009 (2.9 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).

As discussed in Section 3.13.6, construction impacts would have temporary adverse impacts to the hunter and wildlife viewer user group and to non-mechanized users such as hikers or backpackers due to the direct loss of habitat from vegetation removal within a portion of the refined transmission corridor and aesthetic impacts within the analysis area that would make recreation experiences in those areas undesirable or cause wildlife to leave the area. Construction would affect recreation use particularly on Saturdays (there will be no construction on Sundays), during the spring and fall when general recreation use peaks in this area, during hunting seasons, and during competitive OHV events. However, the areas affected comprise a small percentage of the FO areas and there are public lands adjacent to affected areas that can accommodate these recreation activities; except for competitive OHV events.

Within the Fillmore FO, the refined transmission corridor would cross three of the four Cricket Mountain ATV trail system access roads, as well as several of the trails within the trail system. Within the Cedar City FO, Alternative III-A also would cross the American Discovery Trail (ADT) just west of Milford. The refined transmission corridor would largely be within a designated utility corridor and would parallel an existing transmission line in these areas. Restricted access to the Cricket Mountain ATV trail system or the ADT during construction would be an adverse impact for recreational users of these trails. Per the POD (see **Appendix D**), guard structures or other safety measures would be used in areas where power lines cross railroads, roads or other public access ways during wire installation; fencing also may be used to restrict public access to work areas. Application of **REC-6** would reduce impacts to recreational users by allowing users continued access to all or part of the Cricket Mountain ATV trail system and the ADT; however, the noise and visual impacts from construction activities would still constitute an adverse effect to the recreational experience of those using the ADT. It is assumed that these construction activities would not substantively affect motorized drivers in the Cricket Mountain ATV trail system due to the noise of the motorized vehicles used on the trail system. Application of **REC-9** would reduce potential public safety risks for OHV users near the proposed transmission line.

Alternative III-A would cross popular OHV routes near and within the Beaver Dam Wash NCA and would affect two trailheads (BLM 2011g). However, other trailheads would be available and most of the NCA would not be affected, likewise for the Beaver Dam Slope and Mormon Mesa ACECs (see Section 3.15, Special Designation Areas). Alternative III-A also would cross the Old Spanish Trail once east of Moapa and cross and parallel the trail near SR-18 in Dixie National Forest, in addition to crossing the trail at the end of Region III (see Section 3.11, Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns, and Section 3.15, Special Designation Areas).

Within the Las Vegas FO, Alternative III-A would cross lands used for competitive OHV events on BLM land east of Nellis Dunes and southwest of the Muddy Mountains SRMA. It is assumed that impacts from noise or visual disturbances would not substantively affect recreational use of these areas or motorized drivers; however, restricted access to these areas during competitive events would be an adverse impact for recreational users in this area. The following mitigation is recommended to reduce impacts to specially permitted events:

***REC-12**: The applicant shall plan construction activities to occur outside of specially permitted event areas or times; or work with organizers to ensure adequate access and use if feasible given notice of permit timing.*

Application of this measure would successfully reduce conflicts with special events and also could result in some benefits to both parties (shared bathroom facilities, parking areas, etc.).

*BLM SRMAs or Other Specially Managed Recreation Areas*

Muddy Mountains SRMA. Within the Las Vegas FO, approximately 2.4 miles of Alternative III-A would cross the Muddy Mountains SRMA. Approximately 144 acres of the refined transmission corridor and 4,202 acres of the road corridor would fall within the 123,400-acre Muddy Mountains SRMA. These

acreages comprise 0.1 percent and 3.4 percent of the SRMA, respectively. This SRMA is managed to provide integrated management of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and other recreational uses and contains both semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized (wilderness) areas. Placement of the transmission line would be within the designated utility corridor and, therefore, consistent with recreational management goals; however, portions of the analysis area, which would contain roads and other construction facilities, would extend slightly beyond the designated utility corridor. Construction and operation of the transmission line would remove wildlife habitat and permanently alter the semi-primitive recreational setting within nearby portions of the SRMA, adversely impacting those user groups seeking a natural-appearing environment with little evidence of disturbance. Additionally, during peak construction, construction activity and noise would affect recreationists within the entire analysis area, extending the area affected to about 3.4 percent of the SRMA. Application of **REC-2** and **REC-3** would minimize impacts by limiting access to existing roads within the SRMA and/or requiring full reclamation of any roads that are constructed and limiting new roads and ancillary construction areas to designated utility corridors. This would reduce habitat modification and fragmentation; however, habitat within a portion of the 144-acre refined transmission corridor (0.1 percent of the SRMA) would still have some level of vegetation maintenance during operations that could affect hunting and wildlife viewing and result in visual impacts despite mitigation. Application of **REC-1** (scheduling vegetation maintenance outside of big game hunting seasons where practicable) would further minimize impacts to hunting during operations.

*USFS Recreation Areas*

Dixie National Forest. Under Alternative III-A, approximately 2,509 acres of the refined transmission corridor would fall within areas classified as roaded natural within the Dixie National Forest. These types of areas are managed for recreation in ways that allow for readily evident to moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of human activity. The sights and sounds of construction would be in conformance with area management, although construction would cause temporary adverse impacts to scenic viewers, hikers, campers and other non-motorized users identified in Section 3.13.6. Areas classified as semi-primitive motorized, while having some evidence of other users and motorized use, have a low concentration of users, and a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment. Approximately 5,195 acres within the analysis area would be located in areas classified as semi-primitive motorized. This is 53 percent of the total acreage of the analysis area within the Dixie National Forest (9,845 acres) and 4.5 percent of all semi-primitive motorized acreage within the Dixie National Forest. A portion of the analysis area would temporarily be removed from use during construction due to surface disturbance, increased noise, and human activity related to access roads and construction support areas. Approximately 552 acres of the analysis area would be within areas classified as semi-primitive non-motorized, which comprises 0.2 percent of all semi-primitive non-motorized acreage within the Dixie National Forest. The sights and sounds of construction and presence of large construction crews and construction traffic would not be consistent with all setting indicator characteristics for the two semi-primitive ROS classes. Nine percent of semi-primitive motorized areas (or 462 acres) and 5 percent (28 acres) of the semi-primitive non motorized areas within the analysis area would be located within IRAs. Construction within IRAs would use roadless construction methods identified in **Appendix D**. This would reduce some impacts to semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized areas by eliminating road construction; however, helicopter construction and/or overland travel itself also would be a temporary adverse impact to recreationists in these areas. The remaining 4,733 acres of semi-primitive motorized area within the analysis area would not be within IRAs and comprises approximately 4.1 percent of all semi-primitive motorized area within the Dixie National Forest. The remaining 524 acres of semi-primitive non motorized area within the analysis area would comprise approximately 0.2 percent of all semi primitive non-motorized area within the Dixie National Forest. Impacts to IRAs are discussed in more detail in Section 3.15, Special Designation Areas.

As discussed in Section 3.13.6, construction would adversely affect the hunter and wildlife viewer user group through habitat removal, restricted access to areas undergoing construction, and by displacing wildlife in and near construction zones. Construction would adversely affect the non-mechanized user

group (hikers, campers, and equestrians) that recreate in this area due to construction activity and noise. During construction, wildlife may be displaced to areas that are not within the unit for which hunters are licensed. Hunters would be adversely impacted only if these activities were scheduled during active hunting seasons; recreationists seeking wildlife watching experiences or natural settings would be adversely impacted by construction activities regardless of their timing. Impacts would be greatest during summer and during hunting seasons. Application of **REC-1** and **REC-2** would assist in reducing impacts to hunters and wildlife watchers, as well as reduce scenic impacts from access road construction.

High use areas within the Dixie National Forest include the area along SR-18 near the Mountain Meadows NHL and Site. Construction activities for Alternative III-A would adversely impact scenic driving along this segment of SR-18 and visitors at this historic site would experience construction noise and visual disturbances. These impacts plus vegetation removal within the transmission line ROW would not meet the partial retention visual objectives for this area without mitigation (see Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** for a discussion of impacts and suggested mitigation). Application of **REC-5** and **REC-7** would minimize impacts to recreational drivers and visitors to these sites by prohibiting construction during weekends and other high use periods in areas that are adjacent to developed recreation sites, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs. Presence of the transmission line would detract from the sense of remoteness and isolation for visitors to semi-primitive non-motorized areas, thus conflicting with some of the indicator characteristics for this ROS class. Operation of the transmission line would have less adverse impacts to recreation users because the line would be located parallel to an existing transmission line and because most of the transmission line ROW would receive Level 3 vegetation treatment within the Dixie National Forest, which would provide less visual setting disruption (see mitigation measures identified in Section 3.12, Visual Resources). Outside of this area, the area affected in the Dixie National Forest comprises a small percentage of the Dixie National Forest and there are public lands directly adjacent to affected areas that would be able accommodate the same recreation activities. Project roads could result in unauthorized OHV use (and associated resource damage, noise, etc.) as well as permanent visual impacts within dispersed RAs. Please see Section 3.13.6.8 regarding potential impacts from Project access roads.

*State-managed Recreation Areas*

There are no state-managed RAs within Alternative III-A.

*Local Recreation Areas*

Newcastle Reservoir. The refined transmission corridor would cross E. Pinto Canyon Road, which is used to access Newcastle Reservoir, a popular area for fishing. TransWest's guard structures and other safety measures would allow continued use of this road and access to this recreational area, although there could be some delays in traffic during peak construction times. Operation of the line is not expected to substantively affect recreational use of the reservoir because the refined transmission corridor would parallel an existing transmission line in this area, resulting in minimal visual impacts to recreation users. Additionally, BMPs and other stipulations would be used to reduce erosion and resulting sedimentation that could affect water quality (and therefore fishing success) within the reservoir. A monument to the Jefferson Hunt party of 1849, located on Bench Road, would be within the analysis area.

*Scenic Backways and Byways*

Bitter Springs Backcountry Byway. The refined transmission corridor for Alternative III-A would cross the Bitter Springs Backcountry Byway in the Muddy Mountains SRMA. Approximately 2 miles of the Byway would be within the analysis area. There are currently no existing transmission lines in the area; however, the transmission line would be located within a designated utility corridor. Visual disturbances created by the transmission line itself would permanently alter the recreation setting for scenic driving for a portion of the Byway nearest to the refined transmission corridor. In addition,

scenic drivers using the Byway also would be subject to views of construction within the analysis area. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility in this area.

Alternative III-B

Under Alternative III-B, the refined transmission corridor and analysis area would cross dispersed RAs within four BLM FOs and one SRP area. One backcountry byway also would be affected by Alternative III-B.

*BLM Dispersed Recreation Areas*

Within Region III, the refined transmission corridor for Alternative III-B would impact a portion of 8,509 acres of dispersed RA in the Fillmore FO, 4,418 acres within the Cedar City FO, 15,553 acres within the Caliente FO, and 3,437 acres within the Las Vegas FO. Alternative III-B would not enter the St. George FO or the Dixie National Forest.

The analysis area for Alternative III-B, in which roads and other construction support areas could be located, would encompass the following acreages of dispersed RA within each FO:

- Fillmore FO: 60,400 acres (1.4 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Cedar City FO: 22,300 acres (1.1 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Caliente FO: 74,505 acres (2.1 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Las Vegas FO: 37,057 acres (2.0 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).

Impacts to dispersed recreation in the Fillmore, Cedar City, and Las Vegas FOs would be the similar to those described under Alternative III-A.

Within the Caliente FO, Alternative III-B would pass through dispersed RAs currently containing no existing utility lines, although the route would be partially within an existing designated corridor. Construction and operation of the transmission line would be an adverse impact to those seeking primitive recreation experiences in these portions of the FO, which includes the Clover Mountain Wilderness Area (see Section 3.15, Special Designation Areas).

*BLM SRMAs or Other Specially Managed Recreation Areas*

Caliente Motorcycle SRP Area. Approximately 2,363 acres of the 426,980-acre Caliente Motorcycle SRP Area would fall within the refined transmission corridor for Alternative III-B; approximately 11,516 acres of the SRP Area would be located within the analysis area. This SRP Area is managed to provide opportunities for competitive motorcycle special events on designated routes. It is assumed that impacts from noise or visual disturbances would not substantively affect recreational use of the SRP Area or motorized drivers; however, restricted access to the SRP Area or designated routes during competitive events would be an adverse impact for recreational users in the SRP Area. Application of **REC-6**, and **REC-12** would reduce impacts to recreation by keeping trails open or directing users to comparable trails and scheduling construction outside of specially permitted events. As discussed in Section 3.13.6, some presence of human-constructed structures would be acceptable to the motorized driver user group, the key user group for the SRP area.

*USFS Recreation Areas*

There are no NFS lands within the analysis area for Alternative III-B.

*State-managed Recreation Areas*

Zane CWMU. The refined transmission corridor for Alternative III-B would affect a portion of 1,433 acres (15 percent) of the 9,779-acre Zane CWMU. Impacts to hunting in these areas would be the same as discussed for WMAs and CWMUs within Region II. Impacts to hunting within the analysis area would be similar to those described in Region II and would encompass over 50 percent of the CWMU. Decisions regarding road construction and timing of construction would be up to the private landowner.

*Local Recreation Areas*

There are no local RAs within Alternative III-B.

*Scenic Backways and Byways*

Rainbow Canyon Backcountry Byway. The refined transmission corridor for Alternative III-B would cross the Rainbow Canyon Backcountry Byway twice, once on the eastern portion of the loop and once on the southern portion of the loop. Approximately 5 miles of the Byway would be within the analysis area. There currently are no existing transmission lines in the area; however, the transmission line would be located within a designated utility corridor at the farthest west Byway crossing. Visual disturbances created by the transmission line itself would permanently alter the recreation setting for scenic driving for a portion of the Byway nearest to the refined transmission corridor. In addition, scenic drivers using the Byway also would be subject to views of construction within the analysis area. Wire installation across the road would cause temporary delays in traffic. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility in this area.

Alternative III-C

Under Alternative III-C, the refined transmission corridor and analysis area would cross dispersed RAs within four FOs, one SRMA, and one SRP area. Portions of the analysis area also would cross two additional SRMAs. Alternative III-C also would affect one scenic byway and one backcountry byway.

*BLM Dispersed Recreation Areas*

Within Region III, the refined transmission corridor for Alternative III-C would affect a portion of 7,707 acres of dispersed RA in the Fillmore FO; 4,418 acres within the Cedar City FO; 11,111 acres within the Caliente FO; and 7,718 acres within the Las Vegas FO. Alternative III-C would not enter the St. George FO or the Dixie National Forest.

The analysis area for Alternative III-C, in which roads and other construction support areas could be located, would encompass the following acreages of dispersed RA within each FO:

- Fillmore FO: 68,057 acres (1.5 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Cedar City FO: 22,269 acres (1.1 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Caliente FO: 88,456 acres (2.5 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).
- Las Vegas FO: 43,462 acres (2.4 percent of total available acreage for dispersed recreation within the FO).

Impacts to dispersed recreation in the Fillmore, Cedar City, and Las Vegas FOs would be the same as those described under Alternative III-A.

Alternative III-C would pass through dispersed RAs within the Caliente FO near Caliente and south along US-93 and the Delamar Mountains wilderness area. Much of the affected area contains an existing transmission line. Construction and operation of the transmission line would have an adverse impact to those seeking primitive recreation experiences in these portions of the FO; especially near the Delamar Mountains wilderness area (see Section 3.15, Special Designation Areas).

*BLM SRMAs or Other Specially Managed Recreation Areas*

Chief Mountain SRMA. Within the Caliente FO, approximately 14.5 miles of Alternative III-C would cross the 111,181-acre Chief Mountain SRMA. The SRMA is managed for a variety of recreation opportunities, including rock hounding, trilobite collecting, camping, hunting, and both event-organized and casual OHV riding. The SRMA contains 413 miles of roads, OHV routes, and trails, including 39 miles of the Silver State Trail. During construction, a portion of the 2,699-acre refined transmission corridor (2.4 percent of the SRMA) would be subject to vegetation removal and other surface disturbing activities associated with transmission line construction. The transmission line would not be located within a designated utility corridor within the SRMA, nor co-located with existing transmission lines and would cross several existing OHV trails, including a portion of the Silver State Trail. Restricted access to the trail system or the Silver State Trail during construction would be an adverse impact to recreational use of the trails and to motorized drivers in this area. Other access points in the SRMA and to the Silver State Trail would remain unaffected by construction (BLM 2011h). Application of **REC-6** would reduce impacts to recreational use of the trails and to motorized drivers in this area by allowing users continued access to all or part of the trail system. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility along the Silver State Trail, trailhead, and parking area. Application of **REC-12** would reduce impacts to event-organized OHV riding by scheduling construction outside of specially permitted events.

A total of 18,618 acres (16.7 percent of the SRMA) would be located within the analysis area; this area would include road construction and construction support areas. It is assumed that aesthetic impacts from construction or operation of the transmission line would not substantively affect recreational use of the OHV trails or motorized drivers, due to the noise of the motorized vehicles used on the trail system; however, other user groups such as rock hounders or trilobite collectors would be adversely affected by construction noise and activity. The Oak Springs trilobite site would be less than 1 mile from the corridor; recreationists using the picnic facilities in this area would be temporarily adversely affected by the sights and sounds of construction. Development of additional access roads within the analysis area would be an adverse impact if they restricted access to the recreational roads and trails already present in the area and also could lead to unauthorized OHV use in the area if not fully reclaimed. Application of **REC-2** would reduce the impact from road construction by limiting access within the SRMA to existing roads or requiring closure or reclamation in consultation with the BLM; however, it also is important to note that use of existing roads would be an adverse impact to recreation if construction use of the roads conflicted with recreational use of the area. Operation of the transmission line would permanently affect the visual setting of recreation opportunities within portions of the SRMA and maintenance operations could temporarily affect access and trail use within the SRMA.

North Delamar SRMA. Less than 1 acre of the analysis area, in which roads and construction support areas could be constructed, would be located within the North Delamar SRMA. The corridor would cross near the western border of the SRMA where the route follows a designated utility corridor and existing transmission line. Application of **REC-2** and **REC-3** would eliminate impacts to this area by limiting any access within the SRMA to existing roads or requiring any new roads to be located within the exiting corridor.

Nellis Dunes SRMA. Within the Las Vegas FO, approximately 142 acres of the analysis area would be located within the Nellis Dunes SRMA. As an area of intensive OHV use, construction and operation of a transmission line would not be expected to impact recreational use in this area unless access for recreation or recreational events was restricted. Application of **REC-6** and **REC-12** would reduce

impacts to recreation by keeping trails open or directing users to comparable trails and scheduling construction outside of specially permitted events.

Impacts to NWRs are discussed in Section 3.15, Special Designation Areas.

Caliente Motorcycle SRP Area. Approximately 5,699 acres of the 426,980-acre Caliente Motorcycle SRP Area would fall within the refined transmission corridor for Alternative III-C; approximately 47,027 acres of the SRP Area would be located within the analysis area. Impacts would be the same as those described under Alternative III-B. Application of **REC-6** and **REC-12** would reduce impacts to recreation by keeping trails open or directing users to comparable trails and scheduling construction outside of specially permitted events.

*USFS Recreation Areas*

There are no NFS lands within the analysis area for Alternative III-C.

*State-managed Recreation Areas*

Impacts to CWMUs would be the same as those described under Alternative III-B.

*Local Recreation Areas*

There are no local RAs within Alternative III-C.

*Scenic Backways and Byways*

Rainbow Canyon Backcountry Byway. The refined transmission corridor for Alternative III-C would cross the Rainbow Canyon Backcountry Byway three times near Caliente, Nevada. Approximately 5 miles of the Byway would be within the analysis area. There currently are no existing transmission lines in the area. Visual disturbances created by the transmission line itself would permanently alter the recreation setting for scenic driving for a portion of the Byway nearest to the refined transmission corridor. In addition, scenic drivers using the Byway also would be subject to views of construction within the analysis area. Wire installation across the road would cause temporary delays in traffic. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility in this area.

US-93 Scenic Byway. The refined transmission corridor would cross the US-93 Scenic Byway twice west of Caliente, Nevada, within the Chief Mountain SRMA. Approximately 15 miles of the Byway would be within the analysis area. There currently are no existing transmission lines in the area. Visual disturbances created by the transmission line itself would permanently alter the recreation setting for scenic driving for a portion of the Byway nearest to the refined transmission corridor. In addition, scenic drivers using the Byway also would be subject to views of construction within the analysis area. Wire installation across the road would cause temporary delays in traffic. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility in this area.

West of Caliente, the refined transmission corridor would cross the Silver State Backcountry Byway within the Chief Mountain SRMA. Impacts to this Byway (the Silver State Trail) are included in the Chief Mountain SRMA analysis.

Alternative III-D (Agency Preferred)

Under Alternative III-D, the refined transmission corridor and analysis area would cross dispersed RAs within four BLM FOs and one SRP area. One backcountry byway also would be affected by Alternative III-D.

*BLM Dispersed Recreation Areas*

Impacts to dispersed recreation within the Cedar City, Caliente and Las Vegas FOs would be the same as those described under Alternative III-B. Impacts to dispersed recreation within the Fillmore FO would be the same as those described under Alternative III-C.

*BLM SRMAs or Other Specially Managed Recreation Areas*

Impacts to the Caliente Motorcycle SRP Area would be the same as those described under Alternative III-B.

*USFS Recreation Areas*

There are no NFS lands within the analysis area for Alternative III-D.

*State-managed Recreation Areas*

Impacts to CWMUs would be the same as those described under Alternative III-B.

*Local Recreation Areas*

There are no local RAs within Alternative III-D.

*Scenic Backways and Byways*

Impacts to the Rainbow Canyon Backcountry Byway would be the same as those described under Alternative III-B.

Alternative Variations in Region III

**Table 3.13-30** provides a comparison of impacts associated with the alternative variations in Region III.

Alternative Connectors in Region III

**Table 3.13-31** provides a comparison of impacts associated with alternative connectors in Region III. Both connectors would affect recreation on undesignated BLM lands, primarily OHV use.

Alternative Ground Electrode Systems in Region III

All seven alternative ground electrode system locations would affect undesignated BLM lands adjacent to the Mormon Mesa ACEC. The Mormon Mesa-Carp Elgin Road, Halfway Wash-Virgin River, and Halfway Wash East alternatives would affect dispersed recreation uses, including very popular OHV trails, and would reduce OHV trail mileage available for use by the public during construction and operation. The Mormon Mesa-Carp Elgin Road (Alternative III-B) and Halfway Wash East (Alternatives III-A and III-B) sites would have the greatest impact on dispersed recreation opportunities such as hunting, camping, and OHV use because they have the largest permanent footprints in a popular dispersed RA. **Table 3.13-32** provides a comparison of impacts to recreation for each alternative electrode facility location proposed near the southern terminal.

### Table 3.13-30 Summary of Region III Alternative Variation Impacts to Recreation

| Alternative Variation | Analysis |
|---|---|
| Ox Valley East Alternative Variation (Alternative III-A) | Refined transmission corridor would affect a portion of 3,314 acres of NFS lands; analysis area would cross 7,444 acres of NFS lands. Avoids Alternative III-A impacts to scenic driving and viewing the Mountain Meadows NHL and Site along SR-18 in Dixie National Forest and would reduce crossings of the Old Spanish Trail; however, this variation would cross several trails within the Ox Valley ATV Trail system and would largely parallel route FS-007. Restricted access to the trail system would be an adverse impact to motorized drivers in this area and would affect use of the trail; application of **REC-6** would reduce this impact. |
| Ox Valley West Alternative Variation (Alternative III-A) | Refined transmission corridor would affect a portion of 29 acres of BLM lands, 3,120 acres of NFS lands; analysis area would cross 29 acres of BLM lands and 5,581 acres of NFS lands. Avoids Alternative III-A impacts to scenic driving and viewing the Mountain Meadows NHL and Site along SR-18 in Dixie National Forest and would reduce crossings of the Old Spanish Trail; however, this variation would cross several trails within the Ox Valley ATV Trail system and would largely parallel route FS 007. Restricted access to the trail system would be an adverse impact to motorized drivers in this area and would affect use of the trail; application of **REC-6** would reduce this impact. |
| Pinto Variation (Alternative III-A) | Refined transmission corridor would affect a portion of 3,668 acres of NFS lands and 530 acres of BLM land; analysis area would cross 17,859 acres of NFS lands and 4,809 acres of BLM land. Avoids impacts to scenic driving and viewing the Mountain Meadows NHL and Site along SR-18 in Dixie National Forest and would reduce crossings of the Old Spanish Trail. Avoids crossing the access road to Newcastle Reservoir, but the analysis area would encompass 100 acres near the southern and western portions of the reservoir. The route would cross FS-009 and/or parallel FS-011 along Pinto Creek, with permanent adverse impacts to the scenic viewshed of visitors driving recreationally on this route, recreating near the community of Pinto or those that have vacation or second homes in the area. The Pinto Variation also would impact fishing use of and anglers at the Baker Dam (BLM) and Santa Clara River (USFS) Fishing Access recreation sites. Application of **REC-5, REC-6,** and **REC-7** would minimize impacts to the community of Pinto and anglers at the two fishing access sites by prohibiting construction during weekends and other high use periods, ensuring access to these recreation sites is not impeded, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs. |

### Table 3.13-31 Summary of Region III Alternative Connector Impacts to Recreation

| Alternative Connector | Analysis |
|---|---|
| Avon Alternative Connector | Affects recreation on 4,269 acres of undesignated BLM lands within the Cedar City FO. This is 0.2 percent of BLM-managed lands within the FO available for dispersed recreation. No special recreation management areas are located within this connector. |
| Arrowhead Alternative Connector | Affects recreation on 1,192 acres of undesignated BLM lands within the Las Vegas FO. This is 0.06 percent of BLM-managed lands within the FO available for dispersed recreation. No special recreation management areas are located within this connector. The analysis area would affect the Moapa Community and Recreation Center. Application of **REC-6** and **REC-7** would minimize impacts to the center by ensuring access to the center continues and ancillary construction areas would be located away from the center. |
| Moapa Alternative Connector | Affects recreation on 11,908 acres of undesignated BLM lands within the Las Vegas FO. This is 0.6 percent of BLM-managed lands within the FO available for dispersed recreation. No special recreation management areas are located within this connector. |

**Table 3.13-32 Summary of Region III Alternative Ground Electrode System Location Impacts to Recreation**

| Alternative Ground Electrode System Location | Analysis |
|---|---|
| Mormon Mesa-Carp Elgin Road (Alternative III-A) | 90 acres of disturbance from construction, 18 acres from operations. Affects undesignated BLM lands adjacent to the Las Vegas FO Mormon Mesa ACEC, including very popular OHV trails. |
| Mormon Mesa-Carp Elgin Road (Alternative III-B) | 102 acres of disturbance from construction, 24 acres from operations. Affects undesignated BLM lands adjacent to the Las Vegas FO Mormon Mesa ACEC, including very popular OHV trails. |
| Halfway Wash-Virgin River (Alternative III-A) | 83 acres of disturbance from construction, 15 acres from operations. Affects undesignated BLM lands adjacent to the Las Vegas FO Mormon Mesa ACEC, including very popular OHV trails. |
| Halfway Wash-Virgin River (Alternative III-B) | 92 acres of disturbance from construction, 19 acres from operations. Affects undesignated BLM lands adjacent to the Las Vegas FO Mormon Mesa ACEC, including very popular OHV trails. |
| Halfway Wash East (Alternative III-A) | 101 acres of disturbance from construction, 24 acres from operations. Affects undesignated BLM lands adjacent to the Las Vegas FO Mormon Mesa ACEC, including very popular OHV trails. |
| Halfway Wash East (Alternative III-B) | 111 acres of disturbance from construction, 29 acres from operations. Affects undesignated BLM lands adjacent to the Las Vegas FO Mormon Mesa ACEC, including very popular OHV trails. |
| Meadow Valley 2 (Alternative III-C) | 170 acres of disturbance from construction, 61 acres from operations. Affects undesignated BLM lands adjacent to the Mormon Mesa ACEC as well as <1 acre within the ACEC. Impacts OHV use. |

Region III Series Compensation Stations (Design Option 2)

If Design Option 2 were implemented, a series compensation station would be necessary along the AC-configured alternative routes of Region III. There are three potential sites, each corresponding to a specific alternative route. These series compensation station alternatives are depicted in **Figure 2-2**.

Series Compensation Station 1 – Design Option 2 corresponds to Alternative III-A. The station would affect dispersed RAs within the Cedar City FO (45 acres within the site and 1,166 acres within the siting area). General construction impacts to dispersed recreation activities are described in Section 3.13.6.8 and would affect recreationists by displacing visitors due to area closures, noise or visual presence of construction, or making the area inhospitable for wildlife. Operation of the station would result in permanent visual impacts to the area around the station, which is used for dispersed recreation. While these impacts would not appreciably affect the availability of the recreation resource used while engaging in dispersed recreational activities (i.e., wildlife habitat), the setting in which they occur would be affected visually and some users may choose to recreate elsewhere. In general, suitable substitute locations would exist nearby for the same dispersed recreational activities.

Series Compensation Station 2 – Design Option 2 corresponds to Alternative III-C. The station would affect dispersed RAs within the Caliente FO (45 acres within the site and 1,666 acres within the siting area) south of the Chief Mountain SRMA and west of the North Delamar SRMA. Construction and operation impacts would be similar to those described above for Station 1.

Series Compensation Station 3 – Design Option 2 corresponds to Alternative II-B. The station would affect private property west of the Zane CWMU. No impacts to recreation are anticipated from construction and operation of the station at this location because there is no public use or known recreation use occurring at the site.

Region III Conclusion

Within Region III, Alternative III-C would affect the most RAs and scenic byways/backways. Alternatives III-B and III-D (Agency Preferred) would affect the fewest RAs. However, Alternatives III-B and III-D could affect competitive events near Nellis Dunes SRMA, access to the Cricket Mountains ATV trail system and ADT, and recreation within the Caliente Motorcycle SRP Area; implementation of mitigation measures **REC-6** and **REC-12** would reduce impacts by maintaining access to trails and

scheduling construction around specially permitted event areas or times. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation measures **REC-6** and **REC-12**, these alternatives would have the least impact on recreation use, activities, and settings. In comparison, Alternative III-A (Applicant Proposed) would affect additional RAs, including Dixie National Forest, and would affect recreation within a popular OHV area in the St. George FO.

#### 3.13.6.6 Region IV

**Table 3.13-33** provides a summary of Region IV RAs/sites by alternative, both within the refined transmission corridor and analysis area.

Alternative IV-A (Applicant Proposed and Agency Preferred)

Alternative IV-A would cross dispersed RAs within the Las Vegas FO, four SRMAs, the Clark County Wetlands Park, the Lake Mead NRA, River Mountains Loop Trail, and two new parks and several trails in Henderson.

*BLM Dispersed Recreation Areas*

General construction impacts to dispersed recreation activities are described in Section 3.13.6 and would affect recreationists by displacing visitors due to area closures, noise or visual presence of construction, or making the area inhospitable for wildlife. Within Region IV, the refined transmission corridor for Alternative IV-A would affect 1,235 acres of dispersed recreation acreage in the Las Vegas FO. The analysis area, in which roads and construction support areas could be built, would encompass 6,977 acres of dispersed RAs within the Las Vegas FO. These figures represent 0.07 percent and 0.4 percent of the acreage available for dispersed recreation in the FO, respectively. Construction would affect recreation use particularly on the weekends (Saturdays; there will be no construction on Sundays) and during the spring and fall when the weather is cooler and recreation use generally is higher in this area.

Key recreation opportunities within these dispersed RAs include equestrian trails in the area west of River Mountains ACEC (on city trails and the western portion of the River Mountains Loop Trail), which would be subject to noise and visual disturbances during construction and could have restricted access during peak construction times. Application of **REC-5, REC-6**, and **REC-7** would minimize impacts to trail users by prohibiting construction during weekends and other high use periods, allowing users continued access to all or part of the trail system during construction, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs. More information on impacts to City of Henderson trails is provided below. Operation of the line would be expected to have little impact to recreation users because the line would be located parallel to an existing transmission line and, therefore, compatible with the existing viewshed. In general, within undesignated areas of the FO, there are other nearby locations that visitors could temporarily go during construction activities that offer the same recreation opportunities in a similar environment as are provided in dispersed RAs affected by Alternative IV-A.

**Table 3.13-33 Region IV Recreation Areas within the Refined Transmission Corridor and Analysis Area**

| Recreation Area/Site | Alternative IV-A<br>Refined transmission corridor<br>Analysis area<br>Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative IV-B<br>Refined transmission corridor<br>Analysis area<br>Acres (% of Total Area) | Alternative IV-C<br>Refined transmission corridor<br>Analysis area<br>Acres (% of Total Area) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **BLM Las Vegas FO** | | | |
| Dispersed, undesignated RAs | 1,235 (0.07)<br>6,977 (0.4) | 922 (0.05)<br>6,765 (0.4) | 922 (0.05)<br>6,765 (0.4) |
| Nellis Dunes SRMA | 0<br>183 (1.2) | 0<br>183 (1.2) | 0<br>183 (1.2) |
| Sunrise Mountain SRMA | 1,407 (3.7)<br>11,809 (31.4) | 132 (0.4)<br>1,603 (4.3) | 132 (0.4)<br>1,603(4.3) |
| Las Vegas Valley SRMA | 1,385 (0.7)<br>7,196 (3.6) | 24 (0.01)<br>498 (0.3) | N/A |
| Nelson/Eldorado SRMA | 1,123 (1.4)<br>7,584 (9.3) | 1,385 (1.7)<br>1,643 (2.0) | 0<br>623 (0.8) |
| **Other Federally Managed Recreation Areas** | | | |
| Sloan Canyon NCA | 0<br>0 (0) | N/A | N/A |
| Lake Mead NRA (NPS) | 0<br>27 (<0.01) | 1,280 (0.09)<br>12,794 (0.9) | 1,193 (0.08)<br>13,483 (0.9) |
| **Local Recreation Areas** | | | |
| Clark County Wetlands Park | 90 (3.1)<br>376 (13) | N/A | N/A |
| Cascata Golf Course | N/A | 0<br>220 (51) | N/A |
| Bootleg Canyon | N/A | 777 (34)<br>1,627 (70) | N/A |
| River Mountains Loop Trail | 4 crossings/8.1 miles | 10 crossings/12.2 miles | 6 crossings/11 miles |
| Boulder City Conservation Easement | N/A | 24 (0.03)<br>844 (1.0) | 937 (1.1)<br>18,214 (21.1) |
| Mountain Lake Park | 3.4 (68)<br>5 (100) | N/A | N/A |
| Terrazza Park | 0<br>1.1 (22) | N/A | N/A |
| City of Henderson trails (Lake Mead Parkway, Burkholder, Equestrian and UPRR trails) | 1.8 miles (6.4)<br>4.1 miles (14.5) | N/A | N/A |

*BLM SRMAs or Other Specially Managed Recreation Areas*

Both the refined transmission corridor and analysis area for Alternative IV-A would cross three SRMAs, the analysis area would encompass 11,809 acres within the 37,620-acre Sunrise Mountain SRMA (31.4 percent of the SRMA), 7,196 acres within the 197,300-acre Las Vegas Valley SRMA (3.6 percent of the SRMA) and 7,584 acres within the 91,600-acre Nelson/Eldorado SRMA (9.3 percent of the SRMA). The analysis area also would encompass 183 acres (1.2 percent) of the 10,000-acre Nellis Dunes SRMA. There are no identified high use areas in the analysis area within the Las Vegas Valley and Sunrise Mountain SRMAs; impacts would be similar to those described for dispersed recreation above. The Nellis Dunes and Nelson/Eldorado SRMAs offer high use OHV areas and specially permitted competitive OHV events. As areas of mostly motorized recreation, construction, and operation of a transmission line would not be expected to affect recreational use in these areas unless access to trails or use areas is restricted during key use times or specially permitted events. Application of **REC-2** would reduce the impact from road construction by limiting access within the SRMAs to existing roads or requiring closure or reclamation in consultation with the BLM. Application of **REC-5**, **REC-6**, and **REC-12** would reduce impacts to recreation by prohibiting construction during high use times, keeping trails open or directing users to comparable trails, and scheduling construction outside of specially permitted events. Operation of the line is expected to have little impact to recreation users because there are already several existing transmission lines through affected portions of these SRMAs.

*Other Federally Managed Recreation Areas*

Lake Mead NRA. Approximately 27 acres of the analysis area for Alternative IV-A would be within the Lake Mead NRA. The Lake Mead NRA offers year-round recreational opportunities for boating, fishing, hiking, photography, picnicking and sightseeing. The portion within the road corridor is in the far northwest corner of the NRA well away from these recreational opportunities and would not affect recreational experiences within the NRA. Section 3.15.4.6 provides additional information on impacts to the NRA.

Sloan Canyon NCA. Impacts to the 48,000-acre Sloan Canyon NCA are discussed in Section 3.15, Special Designation Areas; however, the refined transmission corridor and analysis area no longer encompasses the Sloan Canyon NCA. However, the NCA would be adjacent to the refined transmission corridor, adjacent to existing overhead transmission. Adjacent areas of the NCA are managed for semi-primitive, non-motorized recreation and are classified as VRM Class II. Recreation uses and users in the area closest to the refined transmission corridor would still be temporarily affected by construction noise and activity. Application of **REC-5, REC-6**, and **REC-7** would minimize impacts to recreational drivers and visitors to the site by prohibiting construction during weekends and other high use periods and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs.

*Local Recreation Areas*

Clark County Wetlands Park. The refined transmission corridor for Alternative IV-A would cross the Las Vegas Wash and affect a portion of 90 acres within the far-eastern portion of Clark County Wetlands Park, a nature and wildlife habitat viewing area. Projects in the west end of the wetlands park for erosion control and park development funded by Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund would not be affected by the proposed Project. The analysis area also would encompass a total of 376 acres, or about 13 percent of the 2,900-acre park. Construction noise and visual disturbances would adversely affect wildlife watchers or other user groups seeking a natural environment and could affect use of trails in this affected portion of the park. Application of **REC-2**, **REC-5**, **REC-6**, and **REC-7** would assist in reducing impacts to trails and impacts to non-motorized users from construction and operation by limiting access to existing roads, closing or rehabilitating new access roads, limiting construction times, ensuring access to the trails is not impeded, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs. Operation of the line would be expected to have little impact to recreation users because an existing transmission line is located in the affected portion of the park.

River Mountains Loop Trail. Alternative IV-A would cross the River Mountains Loop Trail 4 times; 3 times near Lake Mead Parkway and once at US-93 southeast of Henderson. Eight miles of this National Recreation Trail would be located within the analysis area. Trail users (hikers, bikers, and equestrians) would be adversely affected by construction noise and activity along the trail, particularly in the spring and fall when the weather is cooler and recreation use is typically higher in this area. Use of the western portion of the trail may be affected if visitors choose to use other trails during construction. Operation of the transmission line would affect the visual setting for this National Millennium Trail. There currently are existing transmission lines at the Lake Mead Parkway crossing and the US-93 crossing, as well as along the base of the River Mountains on the western portion of the trail loop. Application of **REC-2**, **REC-5**, **REC-6**, and **REC-7** would assist in reducing impacts to the trail and impacts to non-motorized users from construction and operation by limiting access to existing roads, closing or rehabilitating new access roads, limiting construction times, ensuring access to the trail is not impeded, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs.

Mountain Lake Park. The refined transmission corridor for Alternative IV-A would include 3.4 acres of the newly constructed Mountain Lake Park; the analysis area would encompass 100 percent of the 5-acre park. Construction noise, visual disturbances, and access delays would adversely affect park users. During construction, other city parks, such as Heritage Park Senior Facility, Tuscany Park, and River Mountain Park would continue to be available for recreation use and provide similar recreation opportunities to Mountain Lake Park (City of Henderson 2014). Application of **REC-2**, **REC-5**, **REC-6**, and **REC-7** would assist in reducing impacts to park users from construction and operation by limiting access to existing roads, closing or rehabilitating new access roads, limiting construction times, ensuring access to the park is not impeded, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs. Operation of the line is expected to have little impact to recreation users because existing transmission lines are located adjacent to the park.

Terrazza Park. The analysis area for Alternative IV-A would include 1.1 acres of the newly constructed 5-acre Terrazza Park. Construction activities within the analysis area or adjacent refined transmission corridor would adversely affect park users due to noise and visual disturbances and access delays. Application of **REC-2**, **REC-5**, **REC-6**, and **REC-7** would assist in reducing impacts to park users from construction by limiting access to existing roads, closing or rehabilitating new access roads, limiting construction times, ensuring access to the park is not impeded, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs. Operation of the line adjacent to the park is expected to have little impact to recreation users because existing transmission lines are located adjacent to the park.

City of Henderson Trails. The refined transmission corridor for Alternative IV-A would include 1.8 miles of City of Henderson trails, composed of 0.3 mile of the Lake Mead Parkway Trail and 1.5 miles of the Wetlands Connector Trail. The analysis area for Alternative IV-A would encompass 4.1 miles of City of Henderson trails, consisting of 0.8 mile of the Burkholder Trail, 0.3 mile of the Equestrian North Trail, 0.1 mile of the Equestrian Trail, 0.6 mile of the Lake Mead Parkway Trail, 0.4 mile of the UPRR Trail, and 1.9 miles of the Wetlands Connector Trail. Trail users (hikers, bikers, and equestrians) would be adversely affected by construction noise and activity along the trails, particularly in the spring and fall when the weather is cooler and recreation use is typically higher in this area. Use of the trails may be affected if visitors choose to use other trails during construction. Use of and access to the River Mountains Loop Trail also may be affected as many of the City's trails provide access to the River Mountains Loop Trail for Henderson residents and visitors. Operation of the transmission line would affect the visual setting for the trails; however, several existing transmission lines already exist adjacent to the refined transmission corridor in this area. Application of **REC-2**, **REC-5**, **REC-6**, and **REC-7** would assist in reducing impacts to the trails and non-motorized users from construction and operation by limiting access to existing roads, closing or rehabilitating new access roads, limiting construction times, ensuring access to the trails is not impeded, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs.

Alternative IV-B

Alternative IV-B would cross dispersed RAs within the Las Vegas FO, four SRMAs, the Lake Mead NRA, a private golf course, Bootleg Canyon RA, River Mountains Loop Trail, and the Boulder City Conservation Easement.

*BLM Dispersed Recreation Areas*

The refined transmission corridor for Alternative IV-B would encompass 922 acres of dispersed RA in the Las Vegas FO. The analysis area, in which roads and other construction support areas could be located, would encompass 6,765 acres of dispersed RA within the Las Vegas FO. These figures represent 0.05 percent and 0.4 percent of the area available for dispersed recreation within the FO, respectively. Impacts to general dispersed recreation would be similar to those described under Alternative IV-A, but Alternative IV-B would affect only about three-quarters of the acreage.

*BLM SRMAs or Other Specially Managed Recreation Areas*

Both the refined transmission corridor and analysis area for Alternative IV-B would cross three SRMAs, the analysis area would encompass 1,603 acres within the 37,620-acre Sunrise Mountain SRMA (4.3 percent of the SRMA), 498 acres within the 197,300-acre Las Vegas Valley SRMA (0.3 percent of the SRMA) and 1,643 acres within the 91,600-acre Nelson/Eldorado SRMA (2 percent of the SRMA). The analysis area also would encompass 183 acres (1.2 percent) of the 10,000-acre Nellis Dunes SRMA. Impacts would be similar to those described under Alternative IV-A, but would affect less acreage (less than 5 percent of the Las Vegas Valley and Sunrise Mountain SRMAs and about a quarter of the acreage within the Nelson/Eldorado SRMA affected by Alternative IV-A).

*Other Federally Managed Recreation Areas*

Lake Mead NRA. Under Alternative IV-B, approximately 1,280 acres (14.2 miles) of the refined transmission corridor and 12,794 acres of the analysis area would fall within the Lake Mead NRA. These acreages comprise less than 1 percent of the federally managed lands within the NRA, but would include developed RAs and scenic driving corridors within the Boulder Basin Zone offering year-round recreational opportunities for boating, fishing, hiking, photography, picnicking and sightseeing; primarily for day use recreation. During construction, noise and construction activities would adversely impact recreational non-motorized users in this area, such as campers, picnickers, and hikers using the Bluffs Trail, Wetlands Trail, the Historic Railroad Trail, or the River Mountains Loop Trail. The campground at Las Vegas Bay and the RV park at the Boulder Harbour/Beach would both be located within the analysis area and within sight and earshot of construction activities within the refined transmission corridor. The nearest campground would be located approximately 12 miles further east, on the northern shore of the Boulder “arm.” However, camping sites are limited and this location does not have any RV hookups. Additionally, the refined transmission corridor would cross the access road for the boat launch and day use parking area. Restricted access to this area also would result in adverse impacts to motorized or non-motorized water-based user groups. Construction activities and noise also may affect use of the trails, campgrounds, boat launch, and day use area if visitors are displaced from these facilities. The refined transmission corridor also largely parallels Lakeshore Drive within the Boulder Basin Zone. The refined transmission corridor would be located primarily on the west side of the road, away from the shoreline; however, construction would affect the aesthetic quality of the drive and also would cause delays in traffic in this area. Construction would affect recreation use particularly on Saturdays (there will be no construction on Sundays). Application of **REC-2** would reduce the impact from road construction by limiting access within the Boulder Basin Zone to existing roads or requiring closure or reclamation in consultation with the NPS. Application of **REC-5, REC-6**, and **REC-7** would minimize impacts to recreational drivers and visitors to the site by prohibiting construction during weekends and other high use periods in areas that are adjacent to developed recreation sites, allowing users continued access to all or part of the trail system during construction, and locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs. However, the visual impacts to the Class A scenery of the area would not comply with Lake Mead NRA management

objectives and would result in permanent adverse impacts to the recreation setting in the area. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility along the Lake Mead Boulevard Recreation Area. Section 3.15.4.6 provides additional information on impacts to the NRA.

*Local Recreation Areas*

Cascata Golf Course. Approximately 220 acres of the 431-acre Cascata Golf Course would fall within the analysis area in which roads or construction support areas could be located. This comprises about 51 percent of the property and includes almost all of the greens as well as the club house. During construction, noise and construction activities would adversely impact the recreational setting of the golf course. There are other golf courses in nearby Boulder City that would be available for use during the construction phase (see Section 3.17, Social and Economic Conditions, for potential economic impacts of construction to the Cascata Golf Course). Application of **REC-2** would reduce the impact from road construction by limiting construction access near the golf course to existing roads or requiring closure or reclamation in consultation with the land manager. **REC-5, REC-6**, and **REC-7** would minimize impacts to recreational users in the area by prohibiting construction during weekends and other high use periods, ensuring access to the course is not impeded, and siting ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs. However, these measures would not mitigate the long term adverse visual impacts resulting from placement of the transmission line within the area viewshed.

Bootleg Canyon. Alternative IV-B also would affect the mountain biking trails and zipline recreation opportunities in the 2,312-acre Bootleg Canyon RA. The refined transmission corridor would affect a portion of 777 acres within this recreational area; while approximately 1,627 acres of this recreational area (about 70 percent) would fall within the analysis in which roads or construction support areas could be located. The refined transmission corridor would cross several mountain bike trails and would be located less than a few hundred feet from one of the zipline platforms. There are other mountain biking trails in the general area, but not another area dedicated to mountain biking where there are so many high quality biking trails. There is a zipline in the City of Las Vegas across Fremont Street, but no known other “natural environment” ziplining opportunities in the Las Vegas/Boulder City area. Construction activities that prevent or restrict visitor’s access to ziplining or mountain biking opportunities or degrade the experience through noise and other activities in Bootleg Canyon would cause a temporary adverse impact to recreation. Application of **REC-2** would reduce impacts from the development of new roads in this area; however, it also is important to note that use of existing roads would be an adverse impact to recreation if that use conflicted with the current mountain biking recreational use of the area. Application of **REC-5, REC-6**, and **REC-7** would minimize impacts to recreational users in the area by prohibiting construction during weekends and other high use periods, ensuring access to trails and the ziplines is not impeded, and placement of ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs.

During operation, the transmission line would be viewed by zipliners and those using certain mountain biking trails. Operations are assumed to have few adverse impacts for mountain bikers because they have a variety of trails to choose from and their recreational experience is based as much on the quality of the trails as it is the naturalness of the environment. However, ziplining relies heavily upon spectacular aerial views for user satisfaction; visual impacts to the areas nearest to the zipline would result in a permanent adverse impact to this user group. Section 3.12, Visual Resources, and **Appendix I** provide additional detail regarding visibility in Bootleg Canyon. The following mitigation is recommended to reduce impacts to the ziplining and mountain biking recreational experience:

***REC-13**: The Applicant shall consider the view from key recreational areas in its placement of the transmission line ROW to locate the line where it best blends in with the surrounding environment, and/or is co-located with other existing transmission lines.*

Moving the alignment to minimize the number of trails affected and avoiding the zipline activity area would reduce the impact to recreation at the site, particularly if the transmission line ROW were to be located closer to the existing transmission line, which is located further down the mountain.

River Mountains Loop Trail. Alterative IV-B would cross the River Mountains Loop Trail 10 times, mostly within the Lake Mead NRA on the eastern half of the trail. Portions of the transmission line would parallel the trail in two areas. Over 12 miles of this National Recreation Trail would be located within the analysis area. Trail users (hikers, bikers, and equestrians) would be adversely affected by construction noise and activity along the trail, particularly in the spring and fall when the weather is cooler and recreation use is typically higher in this area. Use of the eastern portion of the trail may be affected if visitors choose to use other trails during construction. Operation of the transmission line would affect the visual setting for this National Millennium Trail; currently, there are only existing transmission lines in the southeastern portion of the trail loop and along US-93 around Boulder City. Application of **REC-2**, **REC-5**, **REC-6**, and **REC-7** would assist in reducing impacts to the trail and impacts to non-motorized users from construction and operation by limiting access to existing roads, closing or rehabilitating new access roads, limiting construction times, ensuring access to the trail is not impeded, and placement of ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs.

Boulder City Conservation Easement. Approximately 24 acres of the 86,423-acre BCCE would fall within the refined transmission corridor; approximately 844 acres of the BCCE would be located within the analysis area. During construction, noise and construction activities would adversely impact recreationists participating in passive recreation uses (hiking, bird watching, bicycling, horseback riding, photography, sightseeing, picnicking, and bird hunting). Restricted access to designated open roads would be an adverse impact to both OHV users and other recreationists within the BCCE participating or trying to reach areas to participate in passive recreation uses. Application of **REC-2** and **REC-6** would reduce impacts to recreational use within the BCCE by allowing users continued access to all or part of the trail system, which in this case is the system of designated open roads, and limiting construction access to existing roads and/or closing or rehabilitating new access roads. In addition, nearby BLM lands would continue to be available for OHV use and passive recreation uses. Operation of the transmission line would be unlikely to greatly affect OHV and other trail uses, as well as picnicking and sightseeing as other trails or areas would be available for these uses. The noise and activity associated with annual maintenance could temporarily displace wildlife and thus affect hunting or other wildlife-dependent recreation activities.

*Scenic Backways and Byways*

Although there are no designated NSBs or BLM-designated Scenic Byways or Backways within Region IV, the Nevada Commission on Tourism is currently facilitating the nomination of Lakeshore and Northshore Roads within Lake Mead NRA for State Scenic Byway status. The nomination is primarily honoring the scenic, cultural, and natural features found along these roads. Alternative IV-B would be located along Lakeshore Road within the Lake Mead NRA. Construction and operation (presence) of the transmission line would affect the scenic quality of the road and thus could affect the nomination as a Nevada Scenic Byway.

Alternative IV-C

Alternative IV-C would cross dispersed RAs within the Las Vegas FO, three SRMAs, the Lake Mead NRA, River Mountains Loop Trail, and the Boulder City Conservation Easement.

*BLM Dispersed Recreation Areas*

The refined transmission corridor for Alternative IV-C would encompass 922 acres of dispersed RA in the 2.4 million-acre Las Vegas FO. The analysis area, in which roads and other construction support areas could be located, would encompass 6,765 acres of dispersed RA within the Las Vegas FO. These figures represent 0.05 percent and 0.4 percent of the area available for dispersed recreation in the FO, respectively. Impacts to general dispersed recreation would be similar to those described

under Alternative IV-A, but Alternative IV-C would only impact about three-quarters of the acreage of Alternative IV-A.

*BLM SRMAs or Other Specially Managed Recreation Areas*

Both the refined transmission corridor and analysis area for Alternative IV-C would cross the Sunrise Mountain SRMA. Impacts would be the same as those described under Alternative IV-B. The analysis area also would encompass 183 acres of the Nellis Dunes SRMA. Impacts would be the same as those described under Alternative IV-A. The analysis area also would encompass approximately 623 acres of the Nelson/Eldorado SRMA. This would have minimal impact on recreation in this area, due to the small amount of acreage that would be subject to noise and construction activity.

*Other Federally Managed Recreation Areas*

Lake Mead NRA. Under Alternative IV-C, approximately 1,193 acres (13.7 miles) of the refined transmission corridor and 13,483 acres of the analysis area would fall within the Lake Mead NRA. Impacts would be similar in context and intensity those described under Alternative IV-B.

*Local Recreation Areas*

River Mountains Loop Trail. Alterative IV-C would cross the River Mountains Loop Trail 6 times, entirely within the Lake Mead NRA on the eastern half of the trail. Portions of the transmission line would parallel the trail in two areas. Over 11 miles of this National Recreation Trail would be located within the analysis area. Trail users (hikers, bikers, and equestrians) would be adversely affected by construction noise and activity along the trail, particularly in the spring and fall when the weather is cooler and recreation use is typically higher in this area. Use of the eastern portion of the trail may be affected if visitors choose to use other trails during construction. Operation of the transmission line would affect the visual setting for this National Millennium Trail; currently, there are only existing transmission lines in the southeastern portion of the trail loop. Application of **REC-2**, **REC-5**, **REC-6,** and **REC-7** would assist in reducing impacts to the trail and impacts to non-motorized users from construction and operation by limiting access to existing roads, closing or rehabilitating new access roads, limiting construction times, ensuring access to the trail is not impeded, and placement of ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs.

Boulder City Conservation Easement. Approximately 937 acres of the 86,423-acre BCCE would fall within the refined transmission corridor of Alternative IV-C; approximately 18,214 acres of the BCCE would be located within the analysis area. The transmission line would generally follow an existing transmission line through the easement area. Impacts would be similar to those described under Alternative IV-B.

*Scenic Backways and Byways*

Impacts to Lakeshore Road would be the same as those described under Alternative IV-B.

Alternative Variations in Region IV

**Table 3.13-34** summarizes impacts associated with the use of the Marketplace Alternative Variation in Region IV.

**Table 3.13-34 Summary of Region IV Alternative Variation Impacts to Recreation**

| Alternative Variation | Analysis |
|---|---|
| Marketplace Alternative Variation (Alternative IV-B) | Under this variation, 180 acres of the refined transmission corridor and 3,805 acres of the analysis area would fall within the Nelson/Eldorado SRMA. This variation would have more acreage within the SRMA than Alternative IV-B: 180 acres more of the refined transmission corridor, and 3,805 acres more of analysis area, with correspondingly larger impacts to recreation within the SRMA through surface disturbance and temporary access restrictions. Impacts would be greatest to OHV users and other motorized user groups. |

Alternative Connectors in Region IV

**Table 3.13-35** summarizes impacts associated with the use of the alternative connectors in Region IV. All alternative connectors, except the Railroad Pass Alternative Connector, would affect one SRMA and the Lake Mead NRA. The Sunrise Mountain Alternative Connector is the only connector that would not affect the River Mountains Loop Trail. The Lake Las Vegas Alternative Connector also would affect two City of Henderson trails. The River Mountains Alternative Connector also would affect Bootleg Canyon and backcountry road use in the Lake Mead NRA. The Railroad Pass Alternative Connector would affect two BLM SRMAs as well as a private golf course.

**Table 3.13-35 Summary of Region IV Alternative Connector Impacts to Recreation**

| Alternative Connector | Analysis |
|---|---|
| Sunrise Mountain Alternative Connector | **Refined transmission corridor:**<br>Sunrise Mountain SRMA: 112 acres<br>Lake Mead NRA: 29 acres<br>**Road Corridor:**<br>Sunrise Mountain SRMA: 1,010 acres<br>Lake Mead NRA: 794 acres |
| Lake Las Vegas Alternative Connector | **Refined transmission corridor:**<br>Las Vegas Valley SRMA: 161 acres<br>Lake Mead NRA: 82 acres<br>**Analysis area:**<br>Las Vegas Valley SRMA: 1.336 acres<br>Lake Mead NRA: 370 acres<br>Would affect the River Mountains Loop Trail, Lake Mead Parkway Trail, Wetlands Connector Trail |
| Three Kids Mine Alternative Connector | **Refined transmission corridor:**<br>Las Vegas Valley SRMA: 1,185 acres<br>Lake Mead NRA: 69 acres<br>**Analysis area:**<br>Las Vegas Valley SRMA: 1,554 acres<br>Lake Mead NRA: 537 acres<br>Would affect the River Mountains Loop Trail |
| River Mountains Alternative Connector | **Refined transmission corridor:**<br>Las Vegas Valley SRMA: 1,448 acres<br>Lake Mead NRA: 1,742 acres<br>**Analysis area**:<br>Las Vegas Valley SRMA: 2,834 acres<br>Lake Mead NRA: 3,298 acres<br>Bootleg Canyon: 290 acres<br>Would affect backcountry road use in the Lake Mead NRA and the River Mountains Loop Trail |
| Railroad Pass Alternative Connector (Alternatives IV-A and IV-B) | **Refined transmission corridor:**<br>Las Vegas Valley SRMA: 316 acres<br>Nelson/Eldorado SRMA: 262 acres<br>**Analysis area:**<br>Cascata Golf Course: 199 acres<br>Las Vegas SRMA: 1,211 acres<br>Nelson/Eldorado SRMA: 2,049 acres<br>Would affect the River Mountains Loop Trail |

Region IV Conclusion

Alternative IV-C would affect the fewest RAs, primarily affecting the Lake Mead NRA and BCCE. Alternative IV-A (Applicant Proposed, Agency Preferred) would affect the most recreation sites, primarily affecting BLM and local RAs. In terms of impact to the River Mountains Loop Trail, Alternatives IV-B and IV-C would permanently affect the recreation setting of the trail in an area with no existing transmission lines while Alternative A would have fewer miles impacted, fewer trail crossings, and would be located in areas with existing transmission lines.

### 3.13.6.7 Residual Effects

Mitigation related to construction activities would reduce impacts to dispersed recreation and recreation at designated sites by maintaining public access to key recreational areas, locating ancillary construction areas away from developed RAs, scheduling construction around key recreational events or high use times or seasons, limiting new access road locations, and scheduling vegetation maintenance outside of big game hunting season. Residual effects from construction would consist of temporary disruption of recreation activities through noise and construction activity, and travel or access delays, particularly during non-high use times or within non-high use areas. Residual effects from operation of the transmission line itself would be the same as those described under each action alternative and would consist primarily of visual impacts from the line itself. There would be no residual effects to designated RAs from road development if mitigation limiting access to existing roads is applied. In cases where access road development is not fully avoided, but rather limited to existing corridors and/or subject to closure/rehabilitation, residual impacts would include wildlife habitat loss, visual impacts, and potential for unauthorized OHV use. Mitigation related to maintenance activities would reduce impacts to key hunting areas during big game hunting seasons, but would not reduce impacts to other recreational activities occurring during the rest of the year. Impacts would consist of noise and human activity that would interfere with recreational activities, especially activities relying on quiet or solitude.

### 3.13.6.8 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

All operational impacts to recreation described above would be irretrievable until transmission line decommissioning, after which time the recreational values of the transmission line area would be fully reclaimed.

### 3.13.6.9 Relationship between Local Short-term Uses and Long-term Productivity

Implementation of the Project would result in the conversion of some lands from existing recreational uses to use as ROW corridors. Long-term productivity of lands for recreation would be largely unaffected except for areas of high visual quality. In these areas, long-term productivity of lands for recreation would be impacted if the surrounding land use shifted to a more industrial use as a result of the transmission line placement.

### 3.13.6.10 Impacts to Recreation from the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Project would not be constructed and current management across the analysis area would be maintained. Therefore, no construction, operation, or decommissioning impacts to recreation would occur from the Project and recreation opportunities and experiences would continue as is throughout the analysis area.