3.20 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

3.20.1 Regulatory Background

This section describes LWCs in the analysis area and discloses potential Project impacts to LWCs.

Managing the wilderness resource is part of the BLM's multiple use mission. LWCs provide a range of uses and benefits in addition to their value as settings for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Section 201 of the FLPMA requires the BLM to maintain, on a continuing basis, an inventory of all public lands and their resources and other values, which includes wilderness characteristics. Section 201 also provides that the preparation and maintenance of the inventory shall not, itself, change or prevent change of the management or use of public lands. Regardless of past inventory, the BLM must maintain and update as necessary, its inventory of wilderness resources on public lands.

BLM Manuals 6310 and 6320 issued on March 15, 2012, clarify that the requirements of Section 201 of FLPMA remain in effect. The manuals identify specific circumstances where the BLM will update or initiate a wilderness characteristics inventory, including the following:

1. The public or the BLM identifies wilderness characteristics as an issue during the NEPA process.
2. The BLM has new information concerning resource conditions, including wilderness characteristics information submitted by the public that meets the BLM's minimum standard (as described in BLM Manual 6310).
3. A project that may impact wilderness characteristics is undergoing NEPA analysis.

The primary function of an inventory is to determine the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. The inventory for wilderness characteristics is based on criteria, defined in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act and incorporated in Section 603 of the FLPMA, for sufficient size, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, and supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical values). Inventory areas that meet the size, naturalness, and outstanding solitude and/or the outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation criteria are LWCs. The BLM may conduct the inventory of lands, including LWCs, using available information (e.g., existing maps, photos, records related to range projects, monitoring data) and field verification.

3.20.2 Data Sources

Updated LWC inventory files were obtained from affected BLM FOs. Information was provided by the following: Rawlins FO, Little Snake FO, White River FO, Utah SO, Moab FO, Cedar City FO, and Caliente FO.

3.20.3 Analysis Area

The analysis area consists of the 2-mile proposed and alternative transmission line corridor areas as well as the siting areas for the terminals and electrode beds.

3.20.4 Baseline Description

Many BLM field offices have retained, and in some cases maintained, the wilderness inventory units developed in their jurisdiction during the late 1970s or early 1980s. However, when no inventory units have been established or no land use plan decisions have been made regarding LWCs, proposed projects may be required to inventory and identify LWCs and analyze impacts to LWCs in the associated NEPA document. A desktop analysis was conducted to determine whether any of the proposed or alternative corridors would directly affect any LWCs. Available information regarding existing wilderness inventories

was obtained from each BLM field office. Field verification of previously unsurveyed inventory units was completed in the summer and fall of 2012.

Figures 3.20-1 through **3.20-3** show existing LWC units that are within the analysis area. Previously unsurveyed units actively undergoing field verification are being considered as LWC for the purposes of this evaluation. There are 51 LWC units within the analysis area.

3.20.5 Regional Summary

Table 3.20-1 shows LWC units within the analysis area. These units are depicted in **Figures 3.20-1** through **3.20-3**.

While all units shown in **Table 3.20-1** meet the criteria for LWC, only one LWC unit (Mexican Mountain, Price FO) has an approved RMP decision that intends to manage the unit as a natural area to protect, preserve, and maintain wilderness characteristics.

Some units shown in **Table 3.20-1** have been evaluated in an RMP process, but the BLM determined to not manage these areas for their wilderness character, including affected LWC units in the following FOs: Vernal, Moab, and Price. The remaining units shown in **Table 3.20-1** have not been formally evaluated in an RMP process for appropriate management decisions for wilderness character.

3.20.6 Impacts to LWC

The analysis consists of determining whether LWC units are intersected and whether remaining portions would continue to meet LWC criteria. The analysis considers:

- Any loss of wilderness characteristics in areas that the BLM has administratively made a decision to protect; and
- Any impact to existing wilderness characteristics that would negate the eligibility of the whole inventoried area for consideration in a future planning effort for wilderness character protection.

3.20.6.1 Impacts from Terminal Construction, Operation, and Decommissioning

This section discloses impacts to land uses that would occur from construction and operation of the Northern and Southern terminals, which are common to all action alternatives.

<u>Northern Terminal</u>

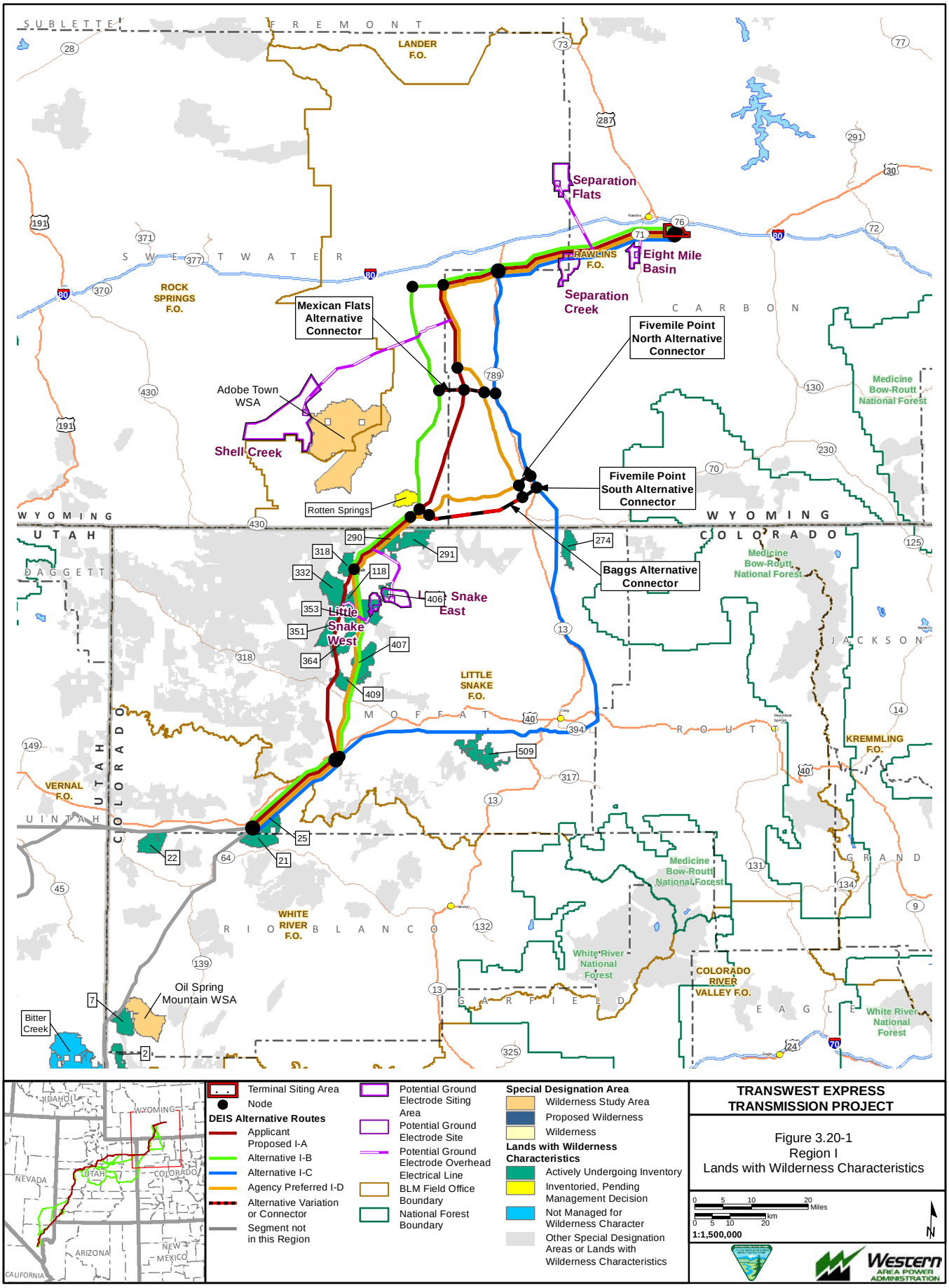
No LWCs were identified within the Northern Terminal Siting Area.

<u>Southern Terminal</u>

No LWCs were identified within the Southern Terminal Siting Area.

<u>Design Option 2 – DC from Wyoming to IPP; AC from IPP to Marketplace Hub</u>

The design option involves modifications of proposed transmission facilities that would apply to all alternatives. Differences between this design option and the Proposed Project include the locations of the southern converter station and ground electrode system, 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. Under Design Option 2, the transmission line would be AC from Southern Terminal Siting Area near the IPP to the Marketplace Hub in Nevada.



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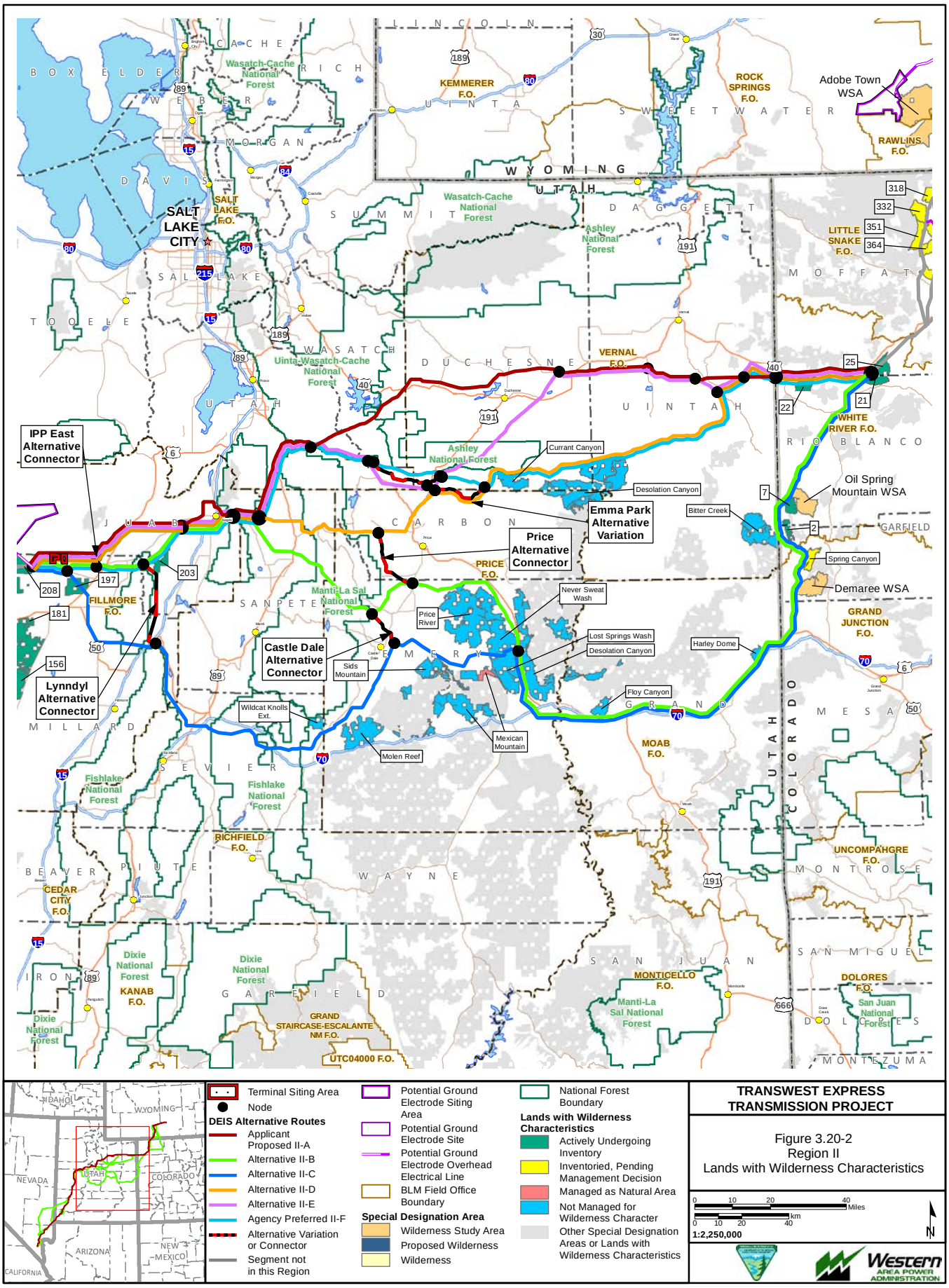

TRANSWEST EXPRESS TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Figure 3.20-2
Region II
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

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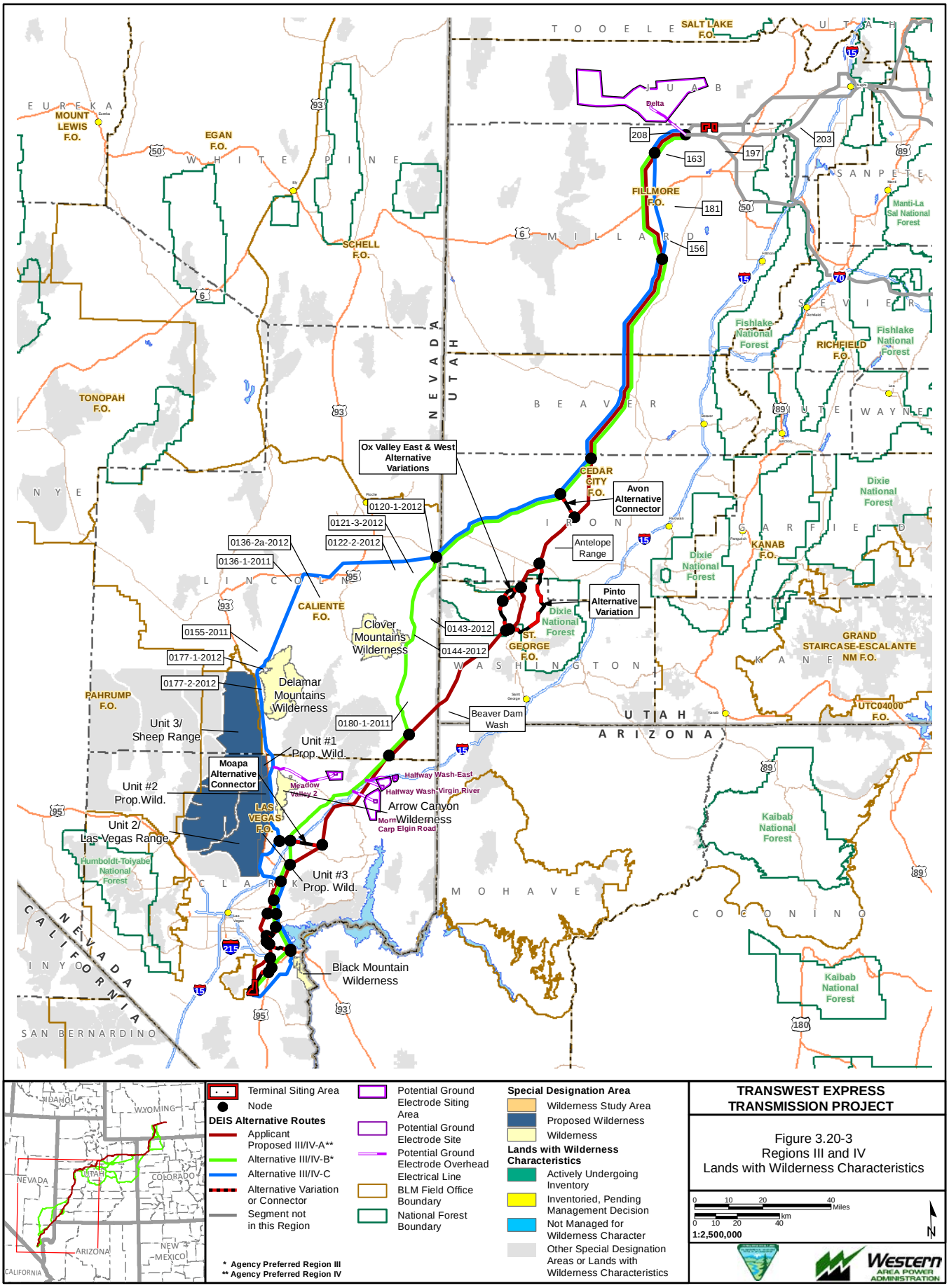

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Table 3.20-1 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Units in the Analysis Area

Region	Field Office	Unit ID/Name	Unit Size (Acres)	Sufficient Size	Naturalness	Solitude	Primitive and Unconfined Recreation	Supplemental Values	Approved RMP Decisions
I	Rawlins	WY-030-13N95W24-2012 - Rotten Springs	6,105	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
I	Little Snake	332	10,984	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*
I	Little Snake	118	5,356	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*
I	Little Snake	353	6,323	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*
I	Little Snake	351	9,762	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*
I	Little Snake	364	6,923	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*
I	Little Snake	406	11,485	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*
I	Little Snake	407	10,970	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*
I	Little Snake	409	6,343	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*
I	Little Snake	291	9,607	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N*
I	Little Snake	290	7,591	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N*
I	Little Snake	318	6,373	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N*
I	Little Snake	274	6,932	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*
I	Little Snake	509	14,521	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*
I	White River	25	9,567	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N*
II	White River	2	5,205	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*
II	White River	21	9,021	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*
II	White River	22	9,376	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*
II	White River	7	8,370	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*
II	Grand Junction	Spring Canyon	8,831	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
II	Vernal	Bitter Creek	33,488	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y – not managed for LWC
II	Vernal	Currant Canyon	14,434	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y – not managed for LWC
II	Vernal/Price	Desolation Canyon	170,606	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y – not managed for LWC
II	Moab	Floy Canyon	9,983	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y – not managed for LWC
II	Moab	Harley Dome	5,304	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y – not managed for LWC
II	Price	Lost Springs Wash	32,104	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y – not managed for LWC

Table 3.20-1 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Units in the Analysis Area

Region	Field Office	Unit ID/Name	Unit Size (Acres)	Sufficient Size	Naturalness	Solitude	Primitive and Unconfined Recreation	Supplemental Values	Approved RMP Decisions
II	Price	Mexican Mountain	40,955	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y – manage only 4,200 acres as natural area; remainder not managed for LWC
II	Price	Molen Reef	33,281	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y – not managed for LWC
II	Price	Never Sweat Wash	29,162	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y – not managed for LWC
II	Price	Price River	89,059	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y – not managed for LWC
II	Price	Sids Mountain	34,592	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y – not managed for LWC
II	Price	Wildcat Knolls Ext.	7,003	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y – not managed for LWC
II	Fillmore	197	13,517	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N*
II	Fillmore	203	10,219	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N*
III	Fillmore	156	27,421	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N*
III	Fillmore	163	8,597	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N*
III	Fillmore	181	58,282	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N*
III	Fillmore	208	27,236	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N*
III	St. George	Beaver Dam Wash	22,277	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
III	Cedar City	UT-040-037A - Antelope Range	5,928	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
III	Caliente	NV-040-0120-1-2012	9,106	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
III	Caliente	NV-040-0121-3-2012	41,962	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
III	Caliente	NV-040-0122-2-2012	19,870	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
III	Caliente	NV-040-0136-1-2011	12,921	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
III	Caliente	NV-040-0136-2a-2012	79,032	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
III	Caliente	NV-040-0143-2012	25,778	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
III	Caliente	NV-040-0144-2012	57,999	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
III	Caliente	NV-040-0155-2011	45,786	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
III	Caliente	NV-040-0177-1-2012	2,522	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
III	Caliente	NV-040-0177-2-2012	6,058	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
III	Caliente	NV-040-0180-1-2011	35,519	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N

* LWC units in the Little Snake, White River, and Fillmore FOs are actively undergoing inventory; however, preliminary inventory information has been used in this analysis.

The relocated Southern Terminal Siting Area would comprise 113 acres and would be located on BLM lands directly adjacent to the IPP in Millard County, Utah. Development of a ground electrode siting area would comprise 40 acres and would be located on BLM and State lands in Juab County. The ground electrode siting area and transmission connection associated with Design Option 2 includes 2,685 acres of LWC Unit 208 in the BLM Fillmore FO if development were to occur within the LWC unit boundaries. Portions of Unit 208 would be eliminated from the unit; however, the remaining portions of the unit would continue to meet the wilderness criteria. Other effects to LWCs from Design Option 2 would be the same as described under the transmission line alternatives since the additional components would be located with the transmission line footprint analyzed.

Design Option 3 – Phased Build Out

The design option involves modifications of proposed transmission facilities that would apply to all alternatives. Development of a substation would comprise 75 acres and would be located completely on BLM lands directly adjacent to the IPP within Millard County. The land that would be used for the substation is the same as that would be used for the Southern Terminal Siting Area under Design Option 2. Effects to LWCs from Design Option 3 would be the same as described under the transmission line alternatives since the additional components would be located with the transmission line footprint analyzed. Timing of impacts to LWCs as described under the proposed Project would vary due to construction schedule differences.

3.20.6.2 Impacts Common to All Alternative Routes and Associated Facilities

Inventory units that are determined to meet criteria for LWC could be intersected or include built portions of the proposed Project and, as a result, some remaining portions may no longer meet the criteria for size requirements (greater than 5,000 acres), naturalness, or solitude.

Since Section 201 of FLPMA indicates that the preparation and maintenance of the inventory shall not, itself, change or prevent change of the management or use of public lands, impacts are documented where they would occur to update the inventory and inform decision-making.

3.20.6.3 Region I

Affected LWC units within Region I crossed by proposed transmission route reference lines are listed in **Table 3.20-2**. As additional access roads and facilities are sited within the 2-mile transmission line corridor, additional impacts to LWC units could occur and eliminate portions or the entirety of the unit from meeting LWC criteria.

Table 3.20-2 Impacts to Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in Region I

Alternative	Field Office	Unit ID/Name	Unit Size (Acres)	Units Resulting From Intersection					Remaining Units Meeting LWC Criteria
				Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	
I-A	Little Snake	353	6,323	6,283	40	--	--	--	1
I-A	Little Snake	351	9,762	9,753	9	--	--	--	1
I-A	Little Snake	364	6,923	5,986	936	--	--	--	1
I-A	Little Snake	409	6,343	5,845	498	--	--	--	1
I-A	Little Snake	290	7,591	6,287	1,304	--	--	--	1
I-A	Little Snake	118	5,356	4,912	444	--	--	--	0
I-A	Little Snake	318	6,373	5,790	583	--	--	--	1
I-A	White River	25	9,567	6,244	3,323	--	--	--	1
I-B	Little Snake	353	6,323	5,882	441	--	--	--	1
I-B	Little Snake	406	11,485	10,885	600	--	--	--	1
I-B	Little Snake	407	10,970	8,883	2,067	19	--	--	1

Table 3.20-2 Impacts to Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in Region I

Alternative	Field Office	Unit ID/Name	Unit Size (Acres)	Units Resulting From Intersection					Remaining Units Meeting LWC Criteria
				Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	
I-B	Little Snake	409	6,343	4,891	1,452	--	--	--	0
I-B	Little Snake	290	7,591	6,287	1,304	--	--	--	1
I-B	Little Snake	318	6,373	5,927	446	--	--	--	1
I-B	Little Snake	118	5,356	4,751	605	--	--	--	0
I-B	Rawlins	Rotten Springs	6,105	6,094	11	--	--	--	1
I-B	White River	25	9,567	6,244	3,323	--	--	--	1
I-C	Little Snake	509	14,521	14,168	353	--	--	--	1
I-C	White River	25	9,567	6,244	3,323	--	--	--	1
I-D	Little Snake	353	6,323	5,882	441	--	--	--	1
I-D	Little Snake	406	11,485	10,885	600	--	--	--	1
I-D	Little Snake	407	10,970	8,883	2,067	19	--	--	1
I-D	Little Snake	409	6,343	4,891	1,452	--	--	--	0
I-D	Little Snake	290	7,591	6,287	1,304	--	--	--	1
I-D	Little Snake	318	6,373	5,927	446	--	--	--	1
I-D	Little Snake	118	5,356	4,751	605	--	--	--	0
I-D	White River	25	9,567	6,244	3,323	--	--	--	1
LS-West Electrode Bed, I-A	Little Snake	353	6,323	6,223	40	32	28	--	1
LS-West Electrode Bed, I-A	Little Snake	406	11,485	8,666	2,224	595	--	--	1
LS-West Electrode Bed, I-A	Little Snake	118	5,356	4,490	444	326	90	7	0
LS-West Electrode Bed, I-B and I-D	Little Snake	118	5,356	4,751	597	8	--	--	0
LS-West Electrode Bed, I-B and I-D	Little Snake	353	6,323	5,882	409	32	--	--	1
LS-West Electrode Bed, I-B and I-D	Little Snake	406	11,485	8,066	2,224	600	595	--	1

Alternative I-A (Applicant Proposed)

Alternative I-A would affect 8 LWC units and would eliminate one unit (Little Snake Unit 118 totaling 5,356 acres) from meeting the LWC criteria. Of the affected units, there would be 7 units remaining totaling 46,188 acres that would continue to meet the LWC criteria, but 7 portions totaling 6,693 acres would be eliminated. Since the 7 remaining units would be larger than 5,000 acres, it is possible that the LWC criteria for solitude and naturalness would continue to be met in the remaining portions.

Alternative I-B

Alternative I-B would affect 9 LWC units and would eliminate 2 units (Little Snake Unit 409 totaling 6,343 acres and Little Snake Unit 118 totaling 5,356 acres) from meeting the LWC criteria. Of the affected units, there would be 7 areas remaining totaling 50,202 acres that would continue to meet the LWC criteria and 8 portions of the units totaling 8,211 acres that would be eliminated. Since the 7 remaining units would be larger than 5,000 acres, it is possible that the LWC criteria for solitude and naturalness would continue to be met in the remaining portions.

Alternative I-C

Alternative I-C would affect 2 LWC units and would not eliminate any units from meeting the LWC criteria. Of the affected units, there would be 2 areas remaining totaling 20,412 acres that would continue to meet the LWC criteria and 2 portions of the units totaling 3,676 acres that would be eliminated. Since the

2 remaining units would be larger than 5,000 acres, it is possible that the LWC criteria for solitude and naturalness would continue to be met in the remaining portions.

Alternative I-D (Agency Preferred)

Alternative I-D would affect 8 LWC units and eliminate 2 units (Little Snake Unit 409 totaling 6,343 acres and Little Snake Unit 118 totaling 5,356 acres) from meeting LWC criteria. Of the affected units, there would be 6 areas remaining totaling 44,108 acres that would continue to meet the LWC criteria and 7 portions of the units totaling 8,200 acres that would be eliminated. Since the 6 remaining units would be larger than 5,000 acres, it is possible that the LWC criteria for solitude and naturalness would continue to be met in the remaining portions.

There are no LWC units near the Tuttle Easement micro-siting options; therefore, impacts would be the same as described for Alternative I-D.

Alternative Ground Electrode Systems in Region I

The conceptual location for the Little Snake West electrode bed and associated transmission connection would affect three LWC units (118, 353, and 406). The electrode bed siting area is located within Unit 406 and all affected units would be crossed by the associated transmission connection.

With connection of the Little Snake West electrode bed to Alternative I-A, all of Unit 118 (totaling 5,356 acres) as well as portions of Units 353 and 406 (totaling 2,919 acres) would be eliminated. Since the remaining portions of Unit 353 (6,323 acres) and Unit 406 (8,666 acres) would be larger than 5,000 acres, it is possible that the LWC criteria for solitude and naturalness would continue to be met in the remaining portions.

With connection of the Little Snake West electrode bed to Alternatives I-B and I-D, all of Unit 118 (totaling 5,356 acres) as well as portions of Units 353 and 406 (totaling 3,860 acres) would be eliminated. Since the remaining portions of Unit 353 (5,882 acres) and Unit 406 (8,066 acres) would be larger than 5,000 acres, it is possible that the LWC criteria for solitude and naturalness would continue to be met in the remaining portions.

Region I Conclusion

Alternative I-B would affect the most LWC units (8) while Alternative I-C would affect the least (2). Alternatives I-A, I-B, and I-D would eliminate Little Snake Unit 118, while Alternatives I-B and I-D also would eliminate Little Snake Unit 409.

3.20.6.4 Region II

Affected LWC units within Region II crossed by proposed transmission route reference lines are listed in **Table 3.20-3**. As additional access roads and facilities are sited within the 2-mile transmission line corridor, additional impacts to LWC units could occur and eliminate portions or the entirety of the unit from meeting LWC criteria.

Table 3.20-3 Impacts to Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in Region II

Alternative	Field Office	Unit ID/Name	Unit Size (Acres)	Units Resulting From Intersection							Remaining Units Meeting LWC Criteria
				Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6	Unit 7	
II-A	Fillmore	208	27,236	16,555	10,682	--	--	--	--	--	2
II-A	White River	22	13,049	12,726	321	2	--	--	--	--	1

Table 3.20-3 Impacts to Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in Region II

Alternative	Field Office	Unit ID/Name	Unit Size (Acres)	Units Resulting From Intersection							Remaining Units Meeting LWC Criteria
				Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6	Unit 7	
II-B	Fillmore	203	10,219	9,832	364	23	--	--	--	--	1
II-B	Fillmore	208	27,236	16,674	10,520	42	--	--	--	--	2
II-B	Moab	Floy Canyon	9,983	8,994	786	203	--	--	--	--	1
II-B	Moab	Harley Dome	5,304	4,941	207	156	--	--	--	--	0
II-B	Price	Never Sweat Wash	29,162	29,113	49	--	--	--	--	--	1
II-B	Price	Price River	89,059	88,798	148	113	--	--	--	--	1
II-B	White River	21	9,021	8,579	356	87	--	--	--	--	1
II-B	White River	7	8,370	7,699	548	123	--	--	--	--	1
II-C	Fillmore	197	13,517	9,140	4,377	--	--	--	--	--	1
II-C	Fillmore	208	27,236	16,674	10,520	42	--	--	--	--	2
II-C	Moab	Floy Canyon	9,983	8,994	786	203	--	--	--	--	1
II-C	Moab	Harley Dome	5,304	4,941	207	156	--	--	--	--	0
II-C	Price	Lost Springs Wash	32,104	31,992	112	--	--	--	--	--	1
II-C	Price	Never Sweat Wash	29,162	28,245	736	181	--	--	--	--	1
II-C	White River	21	9,021	8,579	356	87	--	--	--	--	1
II-C	White River	7	8,370	7,699	584	123	--	--	--	--	1
II-D	Fillmore	208	27,236	16,555	10,682	--	--	--	--	--	2
II-D	Vernal	Currant Canyon	14,434	14,262	173	--	--	--	--	--	1
II-D	Vernal	Desolation Canyon-2	170,606	170,224	328	13	9	7	2	2	1
II-D	White River	22	13,049	12,726	321	2	--	--	--	--	1
II-E	Fillmore	208	27,236	16,555	10,682	--	--	--	--	--	2
II-E	White River	22	13,049	12,726	321	2	--	--	--	--	1
II-F	Fillmore	203	10,219	9,832	364	23	--	--	--	--	1
II-F	Fillmore	208	27,236	16,674	10,520	42	--	--	--	--	2
II-F	Vernal	Currant Canyon	14,434	14,262	173	--	--	--	--	--	1
II-F	Vernal	Desolation Canyon	170,606	170,244	328	13	9	7	2	2	1
II-F	White River	22	13,049	12,726	321	2	--	--	--	--	1
Lynndyl Alt Con	Fillmore	203	10,219	10,157	62	--	--	--	--	--	1

Alternative II-A (Applicant Proposed)

Alternative II-A would affect 2 LWC units and would not eliminate any units from meeting the LWC criteria. Of the affected units, there would be 3 areas remaining totaling 39,962 acres that would continue to meet the LWC criteria and 2 portions of the units totaling 323 acres that would be eliminated. Since the 3 remaining units would be larger than 5,000 acres, it is possible that the LWC criteria for solitude and naturalness would continue to be met in the remaining portions.

There are no LWC units near the Strawberry IRA micro-siting options; therefore, impacts would be same as described for Alternative II-A.

Alternative II-B

Alternative II-B would affect 8 LWC units and would eliminate 1 unit (Harley Dome in Moab totaling 5,304 acres) from meeting the LWC criteria. Of the affected units, there would be 8 areas remaining totaling 180,209 acres that would continue to meet the LWC criteria and 12 portions of the units totaling 2,841 acres that would be eliminated. Since the 8 remaining units would be larger than 5,000 acres, it is possible that the LWC criteria for solitude and naturalness would continue to be met in the remaining portions.

Alternative II-C

Alternative II-C would affect 8 LWC units and would eliminate 1 unit (Harley Dome in Moab totaling 5,304 acres) from meeting the LWC criteria. Of the affected units, there would be 8 areas remaining totaling 121,843 acres that would continue to meet the LWC criteria and 11 portions of the units totaling 7,550 acres that would be eliminated. Since the 8 remaining units would be larger than 5,000 acres, it is possible that the LWC criteria for solitude and naturalness would continue to be met in the remaining portions.

Alternative II-D

Alternative II-D would affect 4 LWC units and would not eliminate any units from meeting the LWC criteria. Of the affected units, there would be 5 areas remaining totaling 224,448 acres that would continue to meet the LWC criteria and 9 portions of the units totaling 857 acres that would be eliminated. Since the 5 remaining units would be larger than 5,000 acres, it is possible that the LWC criteria for solitude and naturalness would continue to be met in the remaining portions.

Alternative II-E

Alternative II-E would affect 2 LWC units and would not eliminate any units from meeting the LWC criteria. Of the affected units, there would be 3 areas remaining totaling 39,962 acres that would continue to meet the LWC criteria and 2 portions of the units totaling 323 acres that would be eliminated. Since the 3 remaining units would be larger than 5,000 acres, it is possible that the LWC criteria for solitude and naturalness would continue to be met in the remaining portions.

Alternative II-F (Agency Preferred)

Alternative II-F would affect 5 LWC units and would not eliminate any units from meeting the LWC criteria. Of the affected units, there would be 6 areas remaining totaling 234,258 acres that would continue to meet the LWC criteria and 12 portions of units totaling 1,286 acres that would be eliminated. Since the 6 remaining units would be larger than 5,000 acres, it is possible that the LWC criteria for solitude and naturalness would continue to be met in the remaining portions.

There are no LWC units near the Cedar Knoll IRA micro-siting options; therefore, impacts would be the same as described for Alternative II-F.

Alternative Variation in Region II

Emma Park Alternative Variation

There are no LWC units in the vicinity of this alternative variation; therefore, no impacts to LWCs would be anticipated with this alternative variation.

Alternative Connectors in Region II

The Lynndyl Alternative Connector would affect one LWC unit (Fillmore Unit 203). Approximately 62 acres would be eliminated from the unit, but the remaining 10,157 acres would continue to meet the LWC criteria.

Since the remaining unit would be larger than 5,000 acres, it is possible that the LWC criteria for solitude and naturalness would continue to be met in the remaining portions.

There are no LWC units in the vicinity of the Highway 191 Alternative Connector; therefore, no impacts to LWCs would be anticipated with this alternative connector.

Region II Conclusion

Alternatives II-B and II-C would affect the most LWC units (8) and Alternatives II-A and II-E would affect the least (2). Alternatives II-B and II-C would both eliminate one LWC unit (Harley Dome in Moab).

3.20.6.5 Region III

Affected LWC units within Region III crossed by proposed transmission route reference lines are listed in **Table 3.20-4**. As additional access roads and facilities are sited within the 2-mile transmission line corridor, additional impacts to LWC units could occur and eliminate portions or the entirety of the unit from meeting LWC criteria.

Table 3.20-4 Impacts to Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in Region III

Alternative	Field Office	Unit ID/Name	Unit Size (Acres)	Units Resulting From Intersection						Remaining Units Meeting LWC Criteria
				Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6	
III-A	Fillmore	156	27,421	26,953	468	--	--	--	--	1
III-A	Fillmore	208	27,236	16,674	10,520	42	--	--	--	2
III-B	Caliente	0120-1-2012	9,108	4,878	4,229	--	--	--	--	0
III-B	Caliente	0121-3-2012	44,231	42,174	1,796	261	--	--	--	1
III-B	Caliente	0144-2012	58,024	39,547	18,254	206	8	7	3	2
III-B	Caliente	0180-1-2011	35,536	33,808	1,395	215	59	58	1	1
III-B	Fillmore	156	27,421	26,953	468	--	--	--	--	1
III-B	Fillmore	208	27,236	16,674	10,520	42	--	--	--	2
III-C	Caliente	0120-1-2012	9,108	8,994	114	--	--	--	--	1
III-C	Caliente	0121-3-2012	44,231	36,346	7,886	--	--	--	--	2
III-C	Caliente	0122-2-2012	19,883	18,376	1,387	121	--	--	--	1
III-C	Caliente	0155-2011	45,894	45,875	13	6	--	--	--	1
III-C	Caliente	0177-1-2012	2,528	2,337	185	6	--	--	--	1
III-C	Caliente	0177-2-2012	6,072	5,555	462	54	--	--	--	1
III-C	Fillmore	156	27,421	22,196	5,158	67	--	--	--	2
III-C	Fillmore	181	58,282	57,375	908	--	--	--	--	1
III-C	Fillmore	208	27,236	16,674	10,520	42	--	--	--	2

Alternative III-A (Applicant Proposed)

Alternative III-A would affect 2 LWC units and would not eliminate any units from meeting the LWC criteria. Of the affected units, there would be 3 areas remaining totaling 54,147 acres that would continue to meet the LWC criteria and 2 portions of units totaling 510 acres that would be eliminated. Since the 3 remaining

units would be larger than 5,000 acres, it is possible that the LWC criteria for solitude and naturalness would continue to be met in the remaining portions.

Alternative III-B (Agency Preferred)

Alternative III-B would affect 6 LWC units and eliminate 1 unit (Caliente Unit 0120-1-2012) totaling 9,108 acres from meeting the LWC criteria. Of the affected units, there would be 7 areas remaining totaling 187,931 acres that would continue to meet the LWC criteria and 13 portions of the units totaling 4,518 acres that would be eliminated. Since the 7 remaining units would be larger than 5,000 acres, it is possible that the LWC criteria for solitude and naturalness would continue to be met in the remaining portions.

Alternative III-C

Alternative III-C would affect 9 LWC units and would not eliminate any units from meeting the LWC criteria. Of the affected units, there would be 12 areas remaining totaling 237,291 acres that would continue to meet the LWC criteria and 12 portions of the units totaling 3,364 acres that would be eliminated. Since the 12 remaining units would be larger than 5,000 acres, it is possible that the LWC criteria for solitude and naturalness would continue to be met in the remaining portions.

Alternative Variations in Region III

There are no LWC units affected by alternative variations in this region.

Alternative Connector in Region III

There are no LWC units affected by alternative connectors in this region.

Alternative Ground Electrode Systems in Region III

There are no LWC units affected by ground electrode beds in this region.

Region III Conclusion

Alternative III-C would affect the most LWC units (9) and Alternative III-A would affect the least. Alternative III-B would eliminate one LWC unit (Caliente Unit 0120-1-2012).

3.20.6.6 Region IV

There are no inventory units that potentially meet LWC criteria within Region IV crossed by proposed or alternative transmission route reference lines.

Alternative Connectors in Region IV

There are no LWC units affected by the alternative connectors in this region.

3.20.6.7 Impacts to LWC from the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Project would not be developed. There would be no impacts to LWC units beyond existing conditions and trends.

3.20.6.8 Residual Effects

Since there is no mitigation proposed for impacts to LWC units, residual effects would be the same as the impacts discussed under the action alternatives. Inventory units that are determined to meet criteria for LWC could be intersected or include built portions of the proposed Project and, as a result, some remaining portions may no longer meet the criteria for size requirements (greater than 5,000 acres), naturalness, or solitude.

3.20.6.9 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

All operation impacts to the wilderness characteristics of LWC units would be irretrievable until transmission line decommissioning, after which time the wilderness characteristics of LWC units would be reclaimed. However, reclamation activities may have limited success in areas with poor soils, some vegetation communities would take years to reestablish, and some areas may never return to their former vegetation cover and composition. As such, these impacts may represent an irreversible commitment of naturalness in LWC units.

3.20.6.10 Relationship Between Local Short-term Uses and Long-term Productivity

Implementation of the Project would result in the use of some LWC units as ROW corridors. Long-term productivity of the LWC units would be largely unaffected except for areas where reclamation may have limited success.