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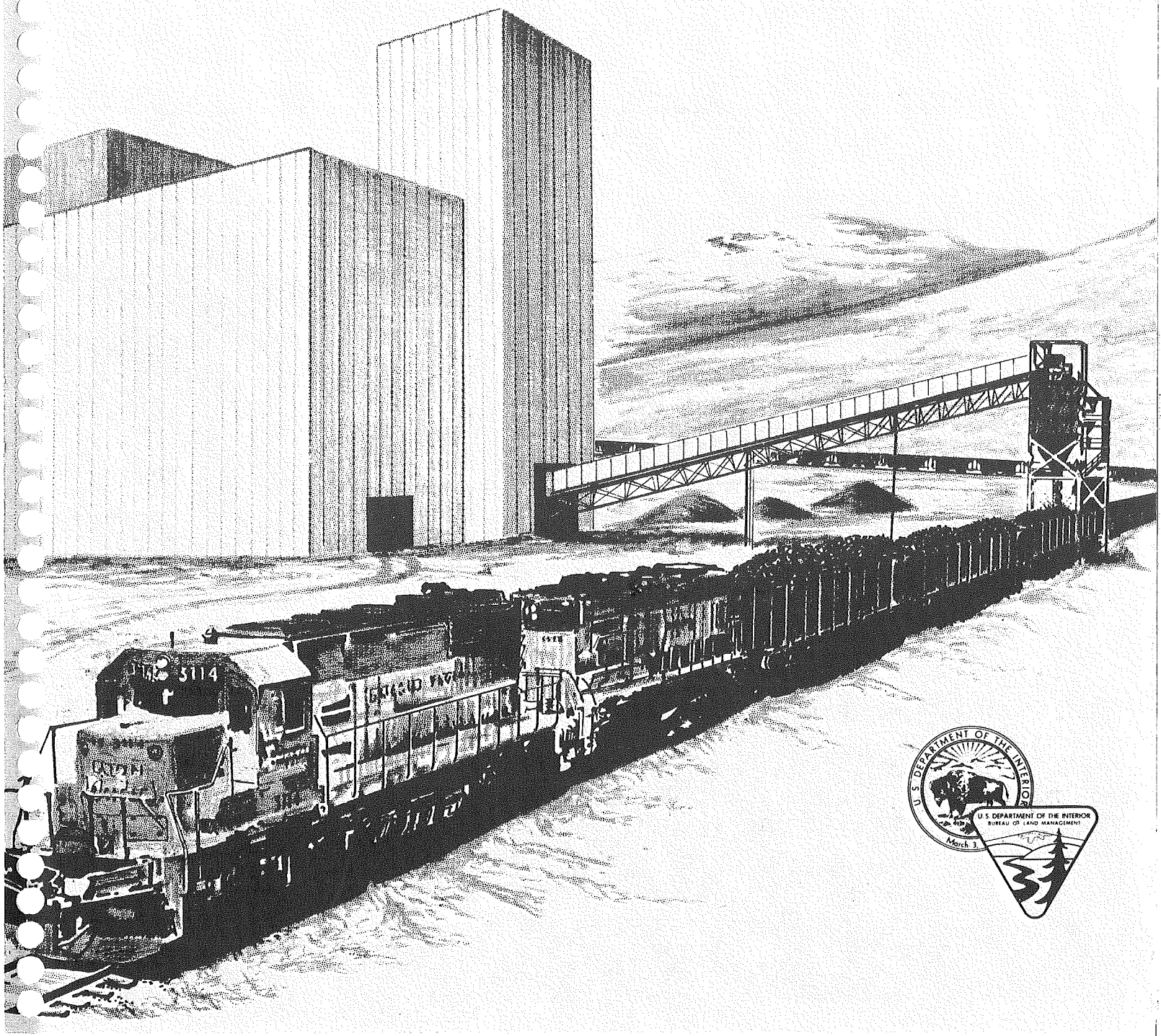
POWDER RIVER

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
COAL

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



POWDER RIVER COAL REGION
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

( ) Draft (X) Final

Lead Agency
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Cooperating Agencies
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

U.S. Department of Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

Type of Action

1. Administrative (X) Legislative ( )

2. Abstract

This statement assesses the environmental consequences of four alternative levels of coal development. The alternatives range from leasing 19 tracts (2.6 billion tons) to leasing 13 tracts (1.5 billion tons), and also includes the No-Action Alternative. The No-Action Alternative includes three I-90 coal exchanges, two noncompetitive leases, and 67 PRLAs totaling 15 mine units. The statement assesses impacts that would occur in Big Horn, Powder River, and Rosebud counties in Montana and Campbell, Converse, Crook, Johnson, Natrona, Sheridan, and Weston counties in Wyoming, as a result of coal leasing and development; and, cumulative impacts from the I-90 exchanges, noncompetitive leases, and PRLAs.

3. The draft environmental impact statement received a 60-day public review. Comments received during this review period have been incorporated into the analysis contained in this final environmental impact statement. Comments were received from various individuals, organizations and governmental agencies and are displayed in Appendix H of this document.

4. For further information regarding this statement or proposed alternative action contact:

Mr. Charles Wilkie
Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
951 Rancho Road
Casper, WY 82601

5. The draft of this environmental impact statement was made available to EPA and the public July 24, 1981.

6. This final environmental statement will be made available to the EPA and the public December 1, 1981.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Department of Agriculture

- Forest Service
- Soil Conservation Service

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Department of Energy

Department of the Interior

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Geological Survey
- National Park Service
- Office of Surface Mining
- Bureau of Mines

Department of Justice

Department of Transportation

Environmental Protection Agency

INDIAN TRIBES

Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Crow Tribe

STATE AGENCIES

Montana State Clearinghouse
Wyoming State Clearinghouse

LOCAL AGENCIES

Big Horn County Commissioners
Campbell County Commissioners
Carbon County Commissioners
Crook County Commissioners
Johnson County Commissioners
Natrona County Commissioners
Powder River County Commissioners
Rosebud County Commissioners
Sheridan County Commissioners
Weston County Commissioners

MAJOR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

American Wilderness Alliance
Friends of the Earth
National Wildlife Federation
Northern Plains Resource Council
Powder River Basin Resource Council
Sierra Club
Wilderness Society

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

Numerous other organizations and individuals expressing interest in the proposed action have been sent copies of this statement and have been invited to comment.