

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

For

**Sand Hills Comprehensive Travel &
Transportation Management Plan**

Prepared by

Bureau of Land Management

Casper Field Office

Casper, Wyoming

WY-060-EA09-04



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION	1
PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION	2
CONFORMANCE WITH LAND USE PLANS	2
STATUTES, REGULATIONS, AUTHORITY AND OTHER GUIDANCE	4
THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT	6
Soil Resources	6
Vegetation Resources	6
Water Resources	6
Wildlife Resources	7
Threatened and Endangered Species	8
Cultural Resources	8
Paleontological Resources	9
Socioeconomics	9
Recreation	10
Off-highway Vehicles	11
Visual Resources	12
ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION	13
No Action Alternative	14
The Development Alternative (A)	15
The Preferred Alternative (B)	16
The Preservation Alternative (C)	17
THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES	19
The Development Alternative (A)	19
Soil and Vegetation Resources	19
Wildlife Resources	20
Cultural/Paleontological Resources	21
Socioeconomics	22
Recreation	23
Off-highway Vehicles	24
Visual Resources	24
The Preferred Alternative (B)	24
Soil and Vegetation Resources	25
Wildlife Resources	25
Cultural/Paleontological Resources	26
Socioeconomics	26

Table of Contents (cont.)

	<u>Page</u>
THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES	
The Preferred Alternative (B)	
Recreation	27
Off-highway Vehicles	27
Visual Resources	28
The Preservation Alternative (C)	28
Soil and Vegetation Resources	28
Wildlife Resources	29
Cultural/Paleontological Resources	30
Socioeconomics	30
Recreation	30
Off-highway Vehicles	31
Visual Resources	31
CUMULATIVE IMPACTS	31
Soil Resources	31
Vegetation Resources	32
Water Resources	32
Wildlife Resources	32
Cultural/Paleontological Resources	33
Socioeconomics	33
Recreation	33
Visual Resources	33
LIST OF PREPARERS AND REVIEWERS	33
SCOPING AND CONSULTATION	35
REFERENCES	37
APPENDIX A: Decisions Affecting the Sand Hills Management Area	38
APPENDIX B: Casper Field Office Standards for Road and Trail Inventories	55
APPENDIX C: Mitigation Measures for All Surface-disturbing Activities	57
APPENDIX D: Public Comments	61
APPENDIX E: Maps	75