

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The former Badlands Bombing Range is located within the Oglala Sioux Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwestern South Dakota. The site is approximately 13 miles by 43 miles equating to approximately 339,233 acres. The southern unit of the Badlands National Park lies within the former Badlands Bombing Range. The Park land is owned by the Oglala Sioux Tribe, and is managed by the National Park Service. The regional location of the former Badlands Bombing Range is shown on Figure ES-1.

The range was established in 1942 as a bombing and aerial gunnery range for the purpose of training B-17 combat crews. During the operational period from 1942 to 1975, B-29 and B-36 combat crews also used the site for training purposes. In addition, the South Dakota National Guard used the range for artillery training. The former Badlands Bombing Range was surface swept in 1975 and the property was returned to the Oglala Sioux tribe. Figure ES-2 presents a general historical time line of events that occurred at the former Badlands Bombing Range. The former Badlands Bombing Range is currently used primarily for agriculture, ranching, and recreational activities. There are numerous homesteads throughout the range. It is anticipated that the number of homesteads will increase since water mains are being installed along the two major roads (BIA Route 2 and BIA Route 27). In addition, the number of tourists is expected to increase as BIA Route 2 and BIA Route 27 are expected to receive designation as state and federal scenic highways. The Oglala Sioux Tribe and the National Park Service are currently joining forces to design and construct the Lakota Heritage and Education Center within the former Badlands Bombing Range.

Based on the site's former use, and previous investigations and reports, an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) project is currently being conducted at the former Badlands Bombing Range. The purpose of the EE/CA project is to assess the nature and extent of ordnance and explosive (OE) contamination, and to evaluate alternatives to minimize the risk of an OE accident. Due to the extensive number of acres comprising the former Badlands Bombing Range, multiple EE/CA studies and response actions will be conducted. The range has been divided into 28 sectors as shown on Figure ES-3. This Volume I EE/CA report addresses three high priority sectors. These sectors are described below.

Sector 1 (Cuny Table Range) incorporates 18,202 acres and is mostly flat. The sector is primarily used for agriculture. There are 5 known targets within the sector. This sector was used for both bombing and gunnery practice.

Sector 2 (Scenic Bombing Range) incorporates 10,135 acres and is a mixture of rolling grassland and areas transitioning into "Badlands" topography. The one known target within the sector exhibits large visible craters. This sector was used for both bombing and gunnery practice.

Sector 3 (Radar Bombing Range) incorporates 11,445 acres that are mostly comprised of rolling grassland used primarily for cattle ranching. The one known target in this sector was used for bombing and radar practice.