

BLM Schedules Open House to Discuss Lease Renewal For Gun Club

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has scheduled an open house to gather public comments on the preparation of a draft environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the lease renewal of a recreational shooting range operated by the Inland Fish and Game Conservation Association at 8207 North Orange Street in Highland, California.

The open house will be held Tuesday, March 2, 2004, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Elks Lodge at 2055 Elks Drive, in San Bernardino.

“The Inland Fish and Game Conservation Association has leased these public lands in the Highland area since 1964,” said John Kalish, BLM Lands Supervisor. The lease, covering about 40 acres, was issued under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, which allows communities and public organizations to lease BLM-managed public lands for the overall public benefit. The lease will expire in August.

“The draft EA will consider potential impacts of extending the lease, including impacts on wildlife habitat in the Santa Ana Wash and adjacent land owners,” added Kalish. “The BLM will also make a determination if the facility is still providing the public benefits required under the law.”

The Inland Fish and Game Conservation Association gun range maintains facilities for trap, skeet and general target shooting. Numerous improvements have been added to this facility over the years, including shade shelters and a clubhouse. The Association represents over 1,500 members, most of whom are from Highland, Redlands, Yucaipa, and San Bernardino.

All public comments received will be incorporated into the draft EA and be made available for public comment and review. For more information contact John Kalish at (760) 251-4849.