

**STATEMENT OF CARSON PETE CULP
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MINERALS, REALTY
AND RESOURCE PROTECTION
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ON
H.R. 2937
BEFORE THE
HOUSE RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS, RECREATION, AND PUBLIC LANDS
February 14, 2002**

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. I appear before you today to give the Administration's views regarding H.R. 2937, a bill to provide for the conveyance of certain public lands in Clark County, Nevada for use as a shooting range. A hearing on H.R. 2937's companion bill, S. 1451, took place on November 27, 2001. Our position on H.R. 2937 remains unchanged. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) supports the bill with suggested changes.

H.R. 2937 provides the Secretary of the Interior with special disposal authority to convey 2,880 acres of BLM administered lands in Clark County, Nevada, to the County for the establishment of a centralized shooting facility in the Las Vegas valley.

In the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP), Congress recognized the benefit of conveying BLM-managed public lands to local governments without compensation for recreation purposes. The R&PP Act limits conveyances for public purposes other than recreation to 640 acres. Because this land will be used as a target range both for recreational purposes and for training of local law enforcement officers, the 640 acre limitation appears to apply and this legislation is needed.

We would like to suggest a few changes to this legislation to improve the administration of this bill if enacted and would be pleased to work with the committee to address these concerns.

The conveyance of these lands by the BLM will result in certain administrative costs. For example, a resurvey will likely be required since the area would have common property boundaries with other land owners that could create use conflicts without a specific defined property boundary. For this reason we suggest that the bill be amended to include language providing compensation by Clark County to the BLM for survey costs and other administrative costs related to the preparation of patents and transfer of title.

Additionally, the United States must avoid the potential for hazardous waste liability from any property reverted to the United States under Section 1 (e) (2) of the bill. We suggest an amendment that Clark County be required to clean up any hazardous waste contamination prior to reversion to the United States.

This concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions.