

## Memorandum

Date: November 10, 2014

To: Sonke Mastrup  
Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham  
Director



**Subject: Agenda Item for the December 3, 2014 Fish and Game Commission Meeting  
Re: Request to Authorize Public Notice of the Commission's Intent to Amend  
Section 478, Title 14 CCR, Establishing Open and Closed Zones for Bobcat  
Trapping.**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) authorize publication of notice of its intent to consider regulations implementing the requirements of the Bobcat Protection Act of 2013 (Fish and Game Code Section 4155).

An Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) and supporting documents will be provided to the Commission by January 2015. This will allow for publication of the notice prior to discussion at the February meeting. The proposed regulations could be considered for adoption at the April 8, 2015, Commission meeting. If adopted, the new regulations will be added to the Mammal Hunting booklet to be published in May 2015.

The Commission and Department received comments from interested parties regarding bobcat trapping regulations at the Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) meetings in Sacramento in July and September of 2014. The WRC recommended that the Commission authorize staff to work with the Department to prepare a rulemaking to implement the Bobcat Protection Act mandate. The recommendations of the WRC were further discussed and accepted at the Commission meeting on October 8, 2014, in Mount Shasta.

### The Zone Concept

The Department proposes that the areas of the state where bobcat trapping records indicate little or no trapping be closed to bobcat trapping. Conversely, the Department proposes regulations that identify and continue trapping in two areas of the State where the majority of bobcat trapping occurs; these two areas would be described as Northern and Southern Bobcat Trapping Zones. Within the Northern and Southern Bobcat Trapping Zones, a closure boundary will be established around each national or state park and national monument or wildlife refuge using readily identifiable features, as described in the statute. The boundaries of the proposed Northern and Southern Bobcat Trapping Zones are shown on the attached map.

Developing closure boundaries within the trapping zones is a significant task for staff, requiring time to correctly identify surrounding roads or other features. By delineating the two zones where trapping may occur, the number of parks, monuments, refuges

Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission  
November 10, 2014  
Page 2 of 3

and other areas requiring a defined closure boundary is reduced from over 280 statewide to about 33 properties. This also represents a significant reduction in regulatory text that would otherwise comprise dozens of pages. The Initial Statement of Reasons, with proposed regulatory text, including descriptions of the Northern and Southern Bobcat Trapping Zones, and all closure areas within them, will be ready in January.

#### GPS Alternative

An alternative using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology as a method to identify a set buffer distance (for example, ¼ mile) from closed parks and other areas was carefully considered, but is not recommended by the Department. While the GPS method would be useful and provide a more simple regulatory alternative, that solution does not conform to the requirement of the statute which states, in part, "*The commission shall delineate the boundaries of an area in which bobcat trapping is prohibited ... using readily identifiable features, such as highways or other major roads...*"

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Dr. Eric Loft at (916) 445-3555.

#### Attachment

ec: Dan Yparraguirre, Deputy Director  
Wildlife and Fisheries Division  
[Dan.Yparraguirre@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Dan.Yparraguirre@wildlife.ca.gov)

Tom Gibson, General Counsel  
Office of the General Counsel  
Wildlife and Fisheries Division  
[Tom.Gibson@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tom.Gibson@wildlife.ca.gov)

Eric Loft, Ph.D., Chief  
Wildlife Branch  
Wildlife and Fisheries Division  
[Eric.Loft@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Eric.Loft@wildlife.ca.gov)

Craig Martz, Program Manager  
Regulations Unit  
Wildlife and Fisheries Division  
[Craig.Martz@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Craig.Martz@wildlife.ca.gov)

Craig Stowers, Environmental  
Program Manager I  
Game Conservation Program  
Wildlife Branch  
Wildlife and Fisheries Division  
[Craig.Stowers@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Craig.Stowers@wildlife.ca.gov)

Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission  
November 10, 2014  
Page 3 of 3

Scott Gardner, Senior Environmental  
Scientist Supervisor  
Game Conservation Program  
Wildlife Branch  
[Scott.Gardner@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Gardner@wildlife.ca.gov)

Mike Randall, Analyst  
Regulations Unit  
Wildlife and Fisheries Division  
[Mike.Randall@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Mike.Randall@wildlife.ca.gov)