



Safari Club International

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION * DEDICATED TO CONSERVING WILDLIFE AND PRESERVING HUNTING

November 18, 2014

Mr. Charlton Bonham, Director
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
1416 9th Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 9th Street, Ste. 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Implementation of AB 1213 (Chapter 748, Statutes of 2013)

Dear Mr. Bonham and Mr. Mastrup:

Safari Club International Foundation and Safari Club International (SCI) is a worldwide organization with the purpose of promoting Conservation of our Renewable Wildlife Resources, recognizing hunting as one of the many management tools. Currently with over 55,000 members and over 5,000 members in California, Safari Club International also has 30,000 California Affiliates, 950,000 U.S. Affiliates and over 7,000,000 International Affiliates. SCI spends millions annually for Wildlife Conservation, Research and Education.

AB 1213 (Chapter 748, Statutes of 2013) requires the Commission to delineate the boundaries of an area in which bobcat trapping is prohibited using readily identifiable features [Fish & Game Code Section 4155 (b) (3)]. Although the legislation did provide some examples of such features, it did not specifically define what the term actually means for purposes of section 4155, nor did it specify what “readily identifiable” means for the purposes of implementation.

The Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) proposal that buffer zones around the boundaries of areas in which bobcat trapping is prohibited be defined by using highways and other major roads and landmarks would result in vast closure areas far exceeding the boundaries of places where bobcat trapping. Most such places do not have major roadways within a reasonable distance and major landmarks are not defined in the proposal.

In effect, the WRC proposed restrictions would ban bobcat trapping statewide. This was proposed before the legislature and rejected for inclusion in AB 1213. It is not the intent of the legislation.

For many years, GPS waypoints have been used to identify boundaries, locations, and other geographic features. It is the most accurate and widely used means of navigation available to the public.

It would be inconsistent for the Commission, which has used GPS waypoints to define the boundaries of Marine Protected Areas to now fail to adopt the use of GPS technology for establishing the boundaries of the bobcat trapping prohibited areas. GPS uses waypoints based on latitude and longitude, and it makes no difference whether waypoints are located on land or water.

SCI supports the use of GPS waypoints for establishing the boundaries of no trapping buffer zones instead of the excessively broad based method proposed by the WRC.

The California Chapters of Safari Club International respectfully submit the above GPS based proposal for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate, Kathryn Lynch, at (916) 443-0202 or lynch@lynchlobby.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "A".

DennisAnderson

Safari Club International, California Legislative Coordinator

cc: California Fish and Game Commission
Assemblyman Richard Bloom
Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Safari Club International



Dedicated to Preserving Your Rights To Hunt and Fish In the State of California

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RE: Implementation of AB 1213 (Chapter 748, Statutes of 2013)

Dear Mr. Bonham and Mr. Mastrup:

The Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition of California is a nonprofit organization of sportsman's clubs and individuals dedicated to preserving outdoor recreation in California. Our principal activities are to monitor legislation that might negatively impact hunting, fishing and other recreation, and to oppose unwise changes in laws and regulations relating to these activities.

The Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition of California (OSCC) promotes the conservation enhancement, scientific management, and wise use of all our natural resources; OSCC seeks to end activities needlessly destructive to natural resources; OSCC endeavors to educate and encourage the public generally, and the youth specifically, to an understanding of the advantages and importance of the conservation and enhancement of our natural resources.

OSCC works to enhance outdoor opportunities for all citizens. With several thousand members located throughout California, we stay in contact with our membership via newsletters and the internet so they can be involved as they see fit.

The Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition of California (OSCC) urges that the commission adopt a GPS based system for establishing the boundaries of "no bobcat trapping" zones around areas where such trapping is prohibited by AB 1213.

AB 1213 (Chapter 748, Statutes of 2013) requires the Commission to delineate the boundaries of an area in which bobcat trapping is prohibited using readily identifiable "features" [Fish & Game Code Section 4155 (b) (3)]. Although the legislation did provide some examples of such features, it did not specifically define what the term actually means for purposes of section 4155, nor did it specify what "readily identifiable" means for the purposes of implementation.

The Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) proposal that buffer zones around the boundaries of areas in which bobcat trapping is prohibited be defined by using highways and other major roads and landmarks would result in vast closure areas far exceeding the boundaries of places where bobcat trapping. Most such places do not have major roadways within a reasonable distance and major landmarks are not defined in the proposal.

In effect, the WRC proposed restrictions would ban bobcat trapping statewide. This was proposed before the legislature and rejected for inclusion in AB 1213. It is not the intent of the legislation.

For many years, GPS waypoints have been used to identify boundaries, locations, and other geographic features. It is the most accurate and widely used means of navigation available to the public.

The Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition of California respectfully urges the commission to adopt the above GPS based proposal for establishing the boundaries of buffer zones around bobcat trapping prohibited areas.

Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate, Kathryn Lynch, at (916) 443-0202 or lynch@lynchlobby.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Ringgenberg", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Keith Ringgenberg
President, Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition

cc: California Fish and Game Commission
Assemblyman Richard Bloom
Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Ms. Kathryn Lynch
Outdoor Sportsmen's Association of California