



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

January 26, 2015

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

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

RE: Agenda Item 29 for the February 11-12, 2015 Fish and Game Commission Meeting Concerning Proposed Changes to Bobcat Trapping Regulations

Position: Oppose

Dear Mr. Mastrup and Mr. Bonham:

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.

This is to supplement the Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition of California's (OSCC) letter to the commission dated November 19, 2014. Since writing this letter, OSCC has learned that the Department of Fish and Wildlife has proposed regulations for implementing AB 1213 (Chapter 748, Statutes of 2013), bobcat trapping prohibited areas, which would be in conflict with OSCC's proposal based on modern scientific GPS technology.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife is proposing that there be only two areas of the state where bobcat trapping would be allowed and that buffer zones around the boundaries of places within them, where bobcat trapping is prohibited by AB 1213, be defined by using major highways and other major roads and landmarks. This would result in vast closure areas far exceeding the boundaries of places where bobcat trapping is statutorily prohibited. Most such places do not have major roadways within a reasonable distance and major landmarks are not defined in the law.

Subsequently, a commissioner proposed a total statewide ban.

The result would be that bobcat trapping would be banned throughout most or all of the state.

This was proposed before the legislature and rejected for inclusion in AB 1213. It is not the intent of the legislation to directly, or in effect, ban bobcat trapping statewide.

The methods proposed by the department and the commissioner would be excessively broad in scope and would needlessly ban bobcat trapping in too many areas or statewide.

For the above reasons, the Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition of California is opposed to the approaches to implementing AB 1213 suggested by the department and the commissioner.

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

Sincerely,



Keith Ringgenberg
President, Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition

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