



# Safari Club International

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



January 26, 2015

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

Mr. Charlton Bonham, Director  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 12<sup>th</sup> 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:

Safari Club International and Safari Club International Foundation (SCI) is a worldwide Non-Profit organization with the mission to protect the freedom to hunt and to promote wildlife conservation. SCI recognizes hunting as a valuable management tool. SCI currently has over 55,000 members and over 6,500 members in California. SCI 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.

This is to supplement the California Chapters of Safari Club International's (SCI) letter to the commission dated November 19, 2014. Since writing this letter, SCI 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 SCI's proposal for establishing area boundaries based on scientific GPS technology.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has proposed 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 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.

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

Subsequently, a commission member proposed a bobcat trapping ban statewide.

In his signing message for AB 1213 the Governor called for a bobcat population survey to be funded by the legislature working jointly with the department. The Governor specified that the survey should be completed before regulations are adopted. This process has not yet occurred and it would be premature to proceed with the implementing regulations as proposed by DFW and a commission member before this survey is funded and completed. Such premature action by the commission would be contrary to the Governor's wishes.

Accordingly, the proposals from the department and a commission member are strongly opposed.

A far better approach pending the completion of the survey would be to establish GPS waypoints to delineate prohibited area boundaries or to establish a buffer zone of a given distance around the areas now statutorily prohibited as proposed in SCI's previous letter.

The methods proposed by the department and a commission member would be excessively broad in scope and would needlessly and unjustifiably ban bobcat trapping in far too many areas or even statewide. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate, Kathryn Lynch, at (916) 443-0202 or [lynch@lynchlobby.com](mailto:lynch@lynchlobby.com).

Sincerely,



Dennis Anderson  
Safari Club International, California Legislative Coordinator

cc: California Fish and Game Commission  
Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Ms. Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate  
Safari Club International