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FISH AND GAME
COMMISSION

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California Fish & Game Commission
Resources Building 1st floor
1416 9th St.
Sacramento, CA 95814-5511

Dear Ladies & Gentlemen:

I have recently reviewed the proceedings of your December 3, 2014 meeting during which you discussed the implementation of AB 1213(FGC Sec. 4155) amended regarding bobcat trapping.

During this discussion the Department of Fish and Wildlife representatives offered what appeared to be a reasonable alternative for the implementation of bobcat trapping zones, a north zone and a south zone. As I understand it AB 1213 requires a buffer from bobcat trapping around state parks, refuges, national parks, monuments, and other areas deemed appropriate, there being some 200 plus such areas in the state. It also admonishes the Department to do this without extensive regulation narrative. Considering the Departments proposal there are only two zones making regulation narrative more succinct and enforcement more practical. I urge you to select the zone approach as presented by your wildlife management professionals.

I also understood from watching the December 3, 2014 proceeding on the internet it is the intent of the Commission to provide an alternative of banning bobcat trapping entirely state wide, under implementation of AB 1213. I recommend against this. If you implement a ban on bobcat trapping you will remove a management tool for the Department and eventually the bobcat population will exceed its carrying capacity of its habitat and become a public nuisance as the mountain lion has on occasion.

Considering there are some who favor a total ban there are also some who enjoy the sport of bobcat trapping such as myself. Perhaps a more logical compromise is a limit on the number of bobcat taken. Such a limit would be established by your professional biologists whom we pay to make such decisions. We all know that wiser resource management decisions are made as a result of scientific professional knowledge rather than the politics and emotion of a public hearing.

It seems that AB 1213 requires the Department to determine the cost of managing the trapping program and if necessary raise the cost of licenses and permits to cover it. A trapping license cost \$1.00 in 1961 and now in 2014 it costs \$115.62. I realize this is probably a mute point but I thought it is worth mentioning. No doubt there are many other programs that the Department must administer that are not financially self sustaining.

I realize that your charge as a Commission and also the Departments is very complex considering the diversity of California. To accomplish your task with ethics and balance is a challenge. An example occurred during your hearing of December 3, 2014 when discussing the implementation of AB 1213 you allowed a video to be shown of a bobcat in a steel jawed inleghold trap. The general use of such a trap has been illegal since the passing of proposition #4 in

1998. All current trapping of bobcat is allowed by cage traps only. The general viewing public is thus given the wrong impression. In fairness to the commission the chairman did say that no videos should be shown prior to review. He did not take the time to mention that this scene is no longer a legal activity so the damage has been done.

In summary I admonish the commission to implement the Departments recommendation of using zones to implement AB 1213. Also I am not in favor of a total ban on bobcat trapping and advocate limits instead.

Sincerely,



Irl H. Everest



cc:

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