

MBCA



morongo basin conservation association

September 24, 2013

Governor Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Also sent by email on the Governor's Contact Page

Dear Governor Brown:

The members and supporters of the Morongo Basin Conservation Association are greatly affected by bobcat trapping in our area, and ask you to please sign The Bobcat Protection Act, AB 1213, into law. We are among the California residents most affected by the unwanted trespass of trappers in our own backyards near Joshua Tree National Park and the taking of bobcats that would have enhanced our desert living experience and that of visitors.

The Morongo Basin Conservation Association is a 501(c)(4), community-based, California Non-Profit Corporation. The MBCA is the oldest collective voice in our area for educating the Morongo Basin's citizens about the unique and valuable natural desert environment surrounding us, of which they are stewards. MBCA was founded in 1969, and currently has over 500 members and supporters. We have continued to be vigilant in seeking to protect the desert ecosystem surrounding us.

Permitting the trapping of bobcats on private property near Joshua Tree National Park reduces the value of the Park for our tourism economy. Our Park-border properties are just as important as the Park's own lands in allowing natural movement of Park wildlife. Adding a buffer zone prohibiting bobcat trapping around the National Park is necessary to provide both residents and visitors the chance to see and appreciate bobcats in their natural habitat. This opportunity is an important draw for thousands of US and international visitors who arrive to experience the desert and its wildlife.

This bill will also trigger a process for other tourism-dependent protected land areas in California to appropriately modify bobcat-trapping activity and will reduce the imbalance of cost related to the inexpensive license fee for trappers.

Please sign AB 1213.

Thank you,
Laraine Turk
President, MBCA