

An excerpt from an excellent op-ed in the Anchorage Daily News, July 8, 2025 sums up the issue of killing bears to enhance caribou herds. I couldn't improve upon a single word, so am submitting this to be sure the words are included in public comment. Thank you to Jake Davis for your research and your voice.

*We expect the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Board of Game to base their wildlife management regulations on sound science. We also expect they will be transparent and honest with the public when approving wildlife regulations. However, over the past three years, the state has willfully violated these core principles, violating two articles of the Alaska Constitution.*

*At the Alaska Board of Game meeting in January 2022, the board (via the Fish and Game) illegally passed a privately amended proposal (Proposal 21) that granted Fish and Game carte blanche to kill bears that the department believed threatened caribou. Proposal 21 was amended in a closed-door meeting, and the public was not provided with legally mandated notice of this decision.*

*On May 12, Judge Rankin restrained Fish and Game from further killings until the agency complied with Judge Guidi's original order. She then made two extraordinary findings. First, she found Fish and Game had acted in bad faith: "the Emergency Regulation was passed (and implemented) in bad faith." Second, she found Ryan Scott (director of Fish and Game's Division of Wildlife Conservation) was "mostly not credible."*

*"Bad faith" is the doormat at the house of contempt and is legally defined as "dishonesty." A finding of bad faith simply means that an individual or entity cannot be trusted. Accordingly, the Department of Fish and Game cannot be trusted.*

*When wildlife is killed illegally, we have a word for it: poaching. ADF&G's killing of 175 brown bears between 2023 and 2024 was, therefore, state-sanctioned, state-funded poaching.*

Stop the culling of bears immediately – there is no creditable science to continue poaching.