

Quick review. In March, I predicted that you would get yet another legal spanking from Superior court for shortcuts you were making to go kill more bears. I was right, and it was strongly delivered by Judge Rankin with maybe more to come.

A few more points:

Sustainability – Still with no survey data and only anecdotal commentary, ADFG says sustainability is no problem because the bears killed from helicopters are replaced by bears coming from surrounding “refugia” and “sanctuary populations outside the removal area”. They don’t want to name them but these include Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, Katmai National Park and Preserve and McNeil River Sanctuary and Refuge, among others. What about the sustainability of the bear populations in those surrounding areas, many of which are already open to substantial resident and non-resident bear hunting? What is happening to the bear populations of those areas? ADFG has absolutely no scientifically based idea.

Impacts on other users - ADFG states confidently that the helicopter bear-killing would have little impact on bear-viewing. There is a way to prove that. ADFG can provide photos of the bears killed so they may be identified by bear-viewing experts. Hunters have no problem being photographed with the bears they have killed. But no, that is fantasy. ADFG is absolutely petrified that any such visual evidence will not only prove them wrong but also reveal the true nature of this slaughter. On that note, I can only imagine the absolute terror of an adult brown bear, and its cubs, being chased and harassed into exhaustion by low-flying helicopters and then blasted, one by one, with a shotgun. And I also wonder what kind of person does it take to tolerate doing that again and again and again, hundreds of times, without any emotion?

Costs - The costs presented by ADFG are inaccurate, incomplete and misleading. Even if what they have presented is accurate, and there is no way for the public to check, they do not include any Personal Services costs for any state employees from biologist shooters to administrative staff involved in the killing. The costs do not include substantial legal costs the state has incurred to defend what the court decided was unconstitutional. It does not include legal costs to reimburse the prevailing plaintiff’s legal fees. And it does not include the cost of this meeting which has been designed solely to try and overcome the legal restraints imposed by the courts on the killing.

IM “Mandate” - ADFG/BOG say they are compelled to implement this killing by law. In effect, they are saying the people have no say in the matter of public wildlife resources. They say their hands are tied. The BOG is authorized to adopt or reject all proposals relevant to wildlife management. Even though the BOG has not done so with respect to ADFG proposals in decades, Proposal 1 can and should be rejected. But even if adopted, as it will surely be, the governor has the ultimate authority to veto regulations the same way he has vetoed bills passed by the Legislature. No one’s hand is being forced by the IM statute. You are all still responsible for your own actions.