

I am writing today to submit a Record Copy in response to RC009, in opposition to the emergency proposal by Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) to resume its predator control program (adopted in 2022 as Proposal 21.)

Recently Proposal 21 was ruled unlawful by the courts for insufficient science and the failure of ADFG to hold a public comment period on the Proposal as required by state law.

Now, ADFG is asking for emergency permission to sidestep this legal ruling. No proof of any emergency has been offered.

Despite claims of transparency, adherence to the Best Available Science and consideration of public opinion in matters involving public tax dollars, the ADFG has failed in all regards. The public has been excluded, and for good reason: the majority disapprove of such predator control programs, and don't approve of their tax dollars being spent on the egregious slaughter of wildlife. The court found that ADFG had insufficient understanding of bear population numbers, and failed to show evidence that bears negatively impacted caribou numbers. This was hardly the BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.

This Proposal, not based on science and slammed through without any input from the public, should never have been adopted in the first place.

ADFG should go back to the drawing board, do the science, present it to the public, and hold a public comment period.

I oppose this emergency request to bypass the court ruling.

Sincerely,

Kelly R Sweeney