

Statewide Summary: ADFG Predator Control (“Intensive Management”) take and cost

Summarized April 2014 (by R. Steiner) from ADFG annual reports to the BOG, February/March 2014, for the 8 active predator control (IM) areas of the state:

Most recent full reporting year, **Regulatory Year 2012; Fiscal Year 2013** - **not counting the reported public take by trapping and hunting** (see below):

Total Wolves: 207 (63 by ADFG, 144 by “Public Control”)

Total Black Bears: 165 (85 by ADFG, 81 by “Public Control”)

Total Brown Bears: 11 (3 by ADFG, 8 by “Public Control”)

Cost (FY2013): Total = \$1.4 million (state and private), but incomplete accounting*

Some cost tables in ADFG reports are incomplete, particularly cost table for GMU16, where high bear take is reported, but no predator control costs or total IM costs are reported

In some areas - 26B (Prudhoe Bay, etc.) - 3 brown bears were taken by ADFG at total predation control cost of \$126,000 = \$42,000/bear

In 24B (Upper Koyukuk), 23 wolves were taken by ADFG, total cost of \$194,000 = \$8,400/wolf.

In 19A (mid-Kuskokwim), ADFG took 84 black bears, 5 brown bears; total cost of IM \$402,400, or \$4,500 / bear.

In 15A (Kenai), no wolves reported taken, but total IM cost = \$286,300 (\$250,000 of which is research, \$36,300 is “Other IM Activities”).

Some units, e.g. 19A (mid-Kuskokwim), report “no progress” toward prey abundance objectives after 9 years of IM, with Public Control taking about 15 wolves/year, wolf population is now higher than when IM program started in 2004; yet recommendation is to “continue IM,” now with bear control.

Many reported predator densities come from local pilots, trappers, hunters, with no methodical, scientific state survey.

** total reported hunting and trapping take in the eight IM districts for most recent full year were another 173 wolves, 123 black bears, and 87 brown bears.

[total cost = \$3,655 / animal killed (383); total cost per ADFG kill (151) = \$9,271]