

From: Dale, Bruce W (DFG) <bruce.dale@alaska.gov>
Date: Thu, Jul 7, 2016 at 6:12 PM
Subject: RE: "Judas wolf" collaring by ADFG
To: Richard Steiner <richard.g.steiner@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Steiner,

Thank you for your continued concern for Alaska's wildlife resources.

A total of 28 wolves were fitted with radio collars since 2005 in the Upper Yukon–Tanana wolf control area. This is the only area where radio-collared wolves have been used to locate wolves during a wolf control program. These wolves were all radio-collared between fall 2011 and spring 2016 (Regulatory years 2011 through 2015; RY11–RY15). A total of 179 wolves were killed by ADF&G during RY11–RY15 in this wolf control program.

We estimate that approximately 30% of wolves killed by ADF&G in the Upper Yukon–Tanana wolf control area in the last 5 years were associated with collared wolves. To get an exact count, it would take our biologists 23-30 hours to review and analyze all the data sheets.

Our records show that no Pitman–Robertson funds were used to radio-collar, track, or kill wolves in the Upper Yukon–Tanana predation control program.

Sincerely,

Bruce W. Dale

Director

On Sat, Jun 4, 2016 at 1:12 PM, Richard Steiner <richard.g.steiner@gmail.com> wrote:

Bruce,

Further on my request yesterday, I note in the department's 2014-2019 IM Operational Plan for the Upper Yukon-Tanana Predation Control Area (which was part of your APRA production to me), the following (p.6):

"The department will use airplanes and helicopters to locate and lethally remove wolves. Removal will occur either in early-winter (October-early December) or late-winter (mid-February–mid-April) to take advantage of longer daylight hours and warmer temperatures during these periods. **When possible, 1 or 2 members of each pack may be radiocollared to aid in locating and removing non-radiocollared pack members.**" (emphasis added).

This is specifically the "Judas Wolf" collaring program I am inquiring about, statewide.

As well, I am adding below another question or two to the request, so please consider the list below in your response:

1. How many such "Judas" collars have been fitted by the department over past years -- since the state expanded its IM program in 2005, or at least over the past few years?
2. In which areas of the state has this been conducted?
3. How many wolves have been eliminated by your IM efforts specifically after tracking these "Judas" collars?
4. What are the demographics of the wolves taken in this "Judas" effort, in particular number and age of pups, etc.
5. What amount of this "Judas Wolf" collaring effort was part of your federally funded Pittman Robertson projects?

As you may know, most of the Alaska public is unaware of this practice, (conducted ostensibly on their behalf), and will likely question the ethics of such. Clearly, the public deserves the details of this program.

We would appreciate your response asap.

Thanks, as always for your commitment to transparent government.

Rick Steiner, Anchorage