



Shocking footage captured poaching of mother bear and cubs

Right now the administration is working to finalize a rule dismantling federal protections prohibiting killing mother bears and their cubs at the den, (the same activity shown in the video footage) and other egregious hunting methods, on National Park Service's preserve lands in Alaska. We need *more* federal protections, not less, to ensure that these types of cruel and horrific activities are banned on federal lands, which belong to all Americans.



The crime

In April 2018, Andrew Renner and his son, Owen Renner, [skied to a remote den](#) on Esther Island in Prince William Sound, Alaska and slaughtered a mother bear in front of her shrieking cubs, then went on to kill the cubs. They then cut up the mother's body, placed it into game bags, and skied away.

Two days later the father and son returned to the scene of the crime, where the father destroyed evidence and stuffed the bodies of the newborn cubs in a bag.

Two weeks later, Andrew Renner presented the adult carcass as a legal kill to the [state's wildlife agency](#), lied about killing the cubs, and submitted falsified information.



Sentencing

Andrew Renner [plead guilty](#) to eight counts, including unlawfully killing and transporting the bears, and was sentenced to five months in jail, with two months suspended. He will reportedly pay a \$9,000 fine, and forfeited property including a 22-foot Sea Sport ocean boat and trailer, a 2012 GMC Sierra pickup, two rifles, two handguns, two iPhones and two sets of backcountry skis used in the crime. His hunting license was revoked for 10 years.

Owen Renner plead guilty to four counts, including killing and transporting the bears. He was sentenced to 30 days of suspended jail time and will be required to perform community service and take a hunter safety course. His hunting license has been suspended for two years.

In March 2019 the Humane Society of the United States obtained video footage of this horrific crime.

This rare video footage of poachers illegally killing a mother bear and her cubs on federal lands is a reminder as to why these hunting methods should be prohibited on federal lands. Under Alaska law, it is generally unlawful to kill bear cubs and mother bears with cubs- however, it is lawful in some limited circumstances. Under Federal law, these practices are prohibited on National Preserves but the Administration in the coming months is looking to remove such prohibitions.

