

PRESS RELEASE FROM DR. LYNN ROGERS July 13, 2015

Today, the Minnesota Court of Appeals issued a decision regarding whether Dr. Lynn Rogers needs a permit to use den cameras to record and broadcast never-before-seen footage of the life of a hibernating black bear, and to use radio collars on bears.

The Court disagreed with the DNR regarding Dr. Rogers' use of den cameras. The Court decided that Dr. Rogers does not need a permit to use den cameras. (Decision at p. 20-21.) Therefore, Dr. Rogers plans to resume den camera broadcasts this winter. The Court specifically found:

“[Dr. Rogers’] research . . . includes the use of den cams: cameras placed in a bear den to allow remote viewing of what happens in a den. [Dr. Rogers’] den cams have been highly praised in the scientific and educational communities for their contributions to the shared knowledge of bears in dens.”

(Decision at p. 3.) The Court also decided that radio collaring of bears meets the statutory definition of “constructive possession,” which requires a permit. Therefore, Dr. Rogers is considering whether to re-apply for a permit to radio collar bears, or appeal this narrow legal issue to the Minnesota Supreme Court.