

The Statewide Moose Safety & Rebuilding Task Force takes a big step!

The winter of 2006/2007 started off with a bang with deep snow fall throughout south central Alaska. On average, 3 feet of snow starts moving moose to lower wintering grounds which also means that they start coming onto our highways in alarming numbers.

As of March 1st, the current number of moose struck by cars is 230 in the Mat-Su Borough alone. The Alaska Moose Federation has been working to create a deep snow mitigation plan which currently the State of Alaska does not have. Deep snow mitigation programs have been performed in Alaska's past as well as current protocol in other Western states. We chose to begin building the necessary components to create an automatic, annual proactive (rather than reactive) program that kicks into motion rather than waiting for high vehicle collisions, resulting in hurt people and lost moose, to force action.

Moose are simply looking for the easiest path to walk that leads

them to food. The program, accompanied with critical wintering habitat enhancement coupled with browse removal within road 'right of ways', will provide substantial relief by encour-



aging moose to winter away from these transportation corridors. Look for this 1994 Model 2000 Tucker Snow Cat at our 3rd Annual Wasilla Moose Benefit to show our commitment to assist the state in this effort. The vehicle cost \$32,900 which came from the \$50,000 state grant to the Statewide Moose Safety & Rebuilding Task Force.

We soundly thank our Alaska Legislature for supporting Phase I of the Statewide Moose Safety & Rebuilding Task Force for their acknowledgement of how dangerous highways are when moose choose to live in these

corridors. If you would like to help with additional tracked vehicles, snow machines or would like to donate to purchase fuel and other expenses, please contact us. We are taking a major step in increasing safety on our highways.