



P.O. Box 231028, Anchorage, Alaska 99523 (907) 33-MOOSE  
 Chief Editor: Larry Kaniut Volume 1, Issue 2

## *"Let's Grow Some Moose!"*

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Believing in the value of healthy moose populations for all Alaskans, the Alaska Moose Federation will be the leader in the effort to both initiate and maintain the quantity and quality of Alaska's moose population.

### **"A major endorsement for our efforts comes from rural Alaska!"**

On October 7, 2003, Gary Olson, Chairman of The Alaska Moose Federation attended the Alaska Village Council Presidents (AVCP) 39th Annual Convention with fellow AMF Director Greg Roczicka in Bethel, Alaska. Greg, being a resident of Bethel and also very active in rural issues, was instrumental in making sure this new organization was given the proper attention at the convention.

The AVCP is a non-profit organization committed to programs that enhance rural culture and traditions throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. This is a very important forum for The Alaska Moose Federation. The potential of securing support from one of Alaska's largest rural organizations is vital to our success.

The decision was made to make a presentation before AVCP's

Board of Directors, the 56 village delegates and the convention as a whole.

Following the presentation Gary Olson returned to Anchorage to continue working on the Banquet preparations while Greg remained to further request support for the AMF.

On October 9th, a proposed resolution of support was brought up before the AVCP Board for consideration. The resolution was passed unanimously. The only comment offered was from the Chair of the Resolutions Committee to the effect of "This one's a no-brainer, as simple as the proverbial Mom and Apple Pie for us, short and to the point. Anybody here going to vote against moose?" In addition, a request for the Alaska Federation of Natives was also passed for the

AFN to adopt a similar support resolution for the Alaska Moose Federation.

The Resolved section of AVCP's resolution is as follows:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Village Council Presidents supports and endorses the purpose of the Alaska Moose Federation in their efforts to rebuild and enhance moose populations across the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution should be forwarded to the next convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives requesting their support of these efforts as well.

The Alaska Moose Federation is now truly a statewide organization in its efforts and support.

#### **Inside this issue:**

<b>A major endorsement from rural Alaska.</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Here comes the Junior Moose Troop!</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Habitat program gets a major boost from Wilder.</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The Advisory Board is continuing to grow.</b>	<b>2</b>

#### **Specific Programs:**

- Continual education to all Alaskans of the benefit of healthy moose populations .
- Road and railroad corridor protection.
- Habitat enhancement using machines and controlled burns.
- Cow and calf protection.
- Moose trans-planting from urban to rural Alaska.



### **Attention all kids! Here comes the Junior Moose Troop!**



The Alaska Moose Federation is creating a "kids only" portion of the organization called the Junior Moose Troop. Our goal is to educate our future generations to be better stewards of moose than we are. Our children interact with moose as much (if not more in some cases) than we do. The Chairman cannot even remember how many times he had run-ins with moose while growing up in Anchorage.

Details and funding for this new membership are still being worked out. Our younger members can expect Alaska moose coloring and activity books, field trips and classroom visits by biologists and AMF personnel. Pre-teen and older members will be participating in Alaska Moose Federation summer camps, hands-on activities including habitat enhancement, photography outings, fishing trips, etc.

Some teachers around the state are already doing this in one form or another dealing specifically with moose. We want to expand some of these successful programs that will work mostly within existing school programs utilizing some of their teachers, concerned citizens, local Department of Fish & Game, Division of Forestry and Public Safety personnel in both urban and rural Alaska.

Teaching our youth how to live with and be good stewards of our moose is very important. Alaska's moose and our kids deserve it!

## Habitat Program gets a major boost from Wilder Construction!

In the world of moose management, substantial amounts of research have been performed in both Alaska and around the world to determine habitat manipulation procedures that result in healthier moose populations.

We are on the tail-end of decades of hands-off management in Alaska where not only timber development was at minimums but also a very active fire suppression program fought most forest fires across the state. Forest fires are nature's way of regenerating forests which are necessary for healthy moose. In an area where the willow, aspen and birch have grown out of reach of the existing moose population, the result is the continual decline of moose herds.

Alaska now has a resource developing state administration that is likely considering timber development. This is good for our moose if it is done correctly. It is now time to put all of the moose research that the state has to use. It has been cal-

culated in the international moose journal *Alces* (Volume 34, Number 2, 1998 Collins and Schwartz) that a forest with good regeneration has 15.3 times more browse than a forest with poor regeneration.

Some concepts to remember that should go hand in hand with timber development are as follows:

#1 Post-logging site preparation and reforestation should always be included in timber development.

#2 Certain areas should be left uncut inside timber harvesting operations that will provide cover and protection for moose.

#3 Scarification of the remaining overburden should be performed within 1 year of the logging activity to encourage hardwood growth over grass production.

#4 Mature willow trees should remain in timber harvest areas to encourage the growth of future browse for moose.

These are just a few of the procedures that must take place for successful habitat for moose. Not only would these projects provide food for our suffering moose herds but it could also be done in such a fashion to remove many moose from our transportation corridors.

How can the state even begin to work on this level with our current budget cutting?

The Alaska Moose Federation approached Mr. Bill Hopper with Wilder Construction on the concept of his company donating operational use of their heavy equipment for habitat projects where their equipment winters. They realize the positive outcomes of our programs and agreed to be involved.

The Alaska Moose Federation again thanks Wilder Construction for their substantial part in helping to rebuild Alaska's moose populations.

## The Alaska Moose Federation adds Senator Ted Stevens to its Advisory Board.

On July 5, 2003, The Alaska Moose Federation sent a letter to Washington D.C. requesting the Honorable Ted Stevens to be on the Advisory Board. We received the following response:

*Thank you for your offer of a position on the Advisory Board of the Alaska Moose Federation. I appreciate the efforts you are undertaking in rebuilding and maintaining stable moose populations and I look forward to participating in your efforts. An issue such as this one is important to the state as a whole and it seems that you have been conscious of this in your efforts to solicit state-wide opinion. I congratulate you for this and you may include my name in your letterhead. With best wishes, TED STEVENS*

**"It's Time To Help Our Moose!"**

[www.growmoremoose.org](http://www.growmoremoose.org)