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Chief Editor: Larry Kaniut Volume 1, Issue 3



"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.

"Sportsman's Warehouse Believes in Alaska!"

On February 28, 2004 Sportsman's Warehouse held its grand opening of the new Anchorage store. This is store #21 in a nationwide chain. Attendees included their Chairman & CEO Stuart Utgaard, General Manager Patrick Nolde, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Governor Jay Hammond, AMF Cordova Club members Tom Plooy, Warren Olson and Dr. Lou Maier, AMF Chairman Gary Olson, AMF Directors John Floyd and Al Smay along with approximately 300 others welcoming Sportsman's Warehouse to Alaska.

This organization has known of The Alaska Moose Federation since January of 2004 yet only it took an enormous step in supporting our efforts. During the opening ceremonies, Stuart Utgaard, Sportsman's Warehouse's CEO, presented AMF's Chairman Gary Olson with a check for \$5,000.00 towards our efforts of rebuilding Alaska's moose. Chairman Olson thanked them and spoke to the significance of this pro-active organization.

"The Alaska Moose Federation

is only 15 months old but has succeeded in major foundation building in that time. Sportsman's Warehouse is also new to Alaska yet sees the importance of this organization enough to make a substantial donation to this just cause," said Chairman Olson to the assembled crowd.

The Alaska Moose Federation welcomes the Sportsman's Warehouse to Alaska and looks forward to a long relationship with this organization. Thank you again for the donation.



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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.



CEO Stuart Utgaard

Senator Lisa Murkowski

Governor Jay Hammond



Governor Murkowski joins the Advisory Board!



On January 21, 2004, The Alaska Moose Federation received the following acceptance letter to our request for Governor Frank Murkowski to be involved with our efforts. We received the following response:

Dear Mr. Olson, Thank you for the invitation to become a member of your Advisory Board. I gladly accept the offer and look forward to being involved with The Alaska Moose Federation. With the environmental concerns and attacks on how Alaska manages its resources, it is good to see Alaskans coming together to preserve healthy moose populations. Again thank you for inviting me to become involved. Sincerely yours, Governor Frank Murkowski.

It sounds like our Governor is ready to lead our state into a new era of active moose management.



Senator Con Bunde Sponsors Senate Bill #329 in Juneau.

On February 13, 2004, Senator Con Bunde, at our request, introduced Senate Bill No. 329 in Juneau. The Senate bill reads as follows:

“An Act relating to control of nuisance moose.”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

- **Section 1.** AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Section 16.05.052. Nuisance Moose. The commissioner shall avoid destruction of nuisance moose if a practicable alternative exists for the relation of the moose to suitable habitat where the moose will not be a nuisance. The commissioner shall seek to relocate nuisance moose at the least cost to the state. The commissioner may authorize one or more private individuals or groups to relocate nuisance moose to suitable habitat if, upon review and evaluation of a written application and proposal, the commissioner finds that the individual or group is qualified to relocate nuisance moose without danger to the public, themselves, or the moose. In this section, “nuisance moose” means a moose located in an area of concentrated human population that poses a significant risk to the health, safety, or economic well-being of persons in the area.

This bill would allow an organization like the AMF to transplant possibly up to 250 moose annually out of the Anchorage Bowl to begin to gain control of this ever growing moose population. The key is to keep our city moose healthy. Moose are definitely a unique aspect to Alaska’s cities whose residents and visitors look forward to the occasional sight of a moose interacting with us.

The problem is that the populations in cities in moose country throughout the state are growing thus putting more moose on our school grounds, roads, trails and in neighborhoods at an alarming rate. Some schools in Anchorage have a near daily occurrence of ‘pushing’ moose off the playgrounds. We must have the tools to transplant moose to address these ever growing populations because inactivity continues to force us to experience negative aspects of life with moose.

Currently the #1 moose/vehicle collision location in the entire state is near the intersection of Tudor and Bragraw in Anchorage. Please support this legislation to help not only our moose but also us. Playing ‘moose roulette’ every time we walk, jog or drive through our cities is no longer acceptable. Do you think this is a new concept? How did moose get to the Copper River Delta outside of Cordova?

Senator Murkowski is ready to act to help reduce moose/vehicle accidents.

The following are some quotes from Senator Murkowski and her interest in helping with our programs:

“I read with great interest the Sunday Anchorage Daily News story (February 22, 2004) about the Federation’s work related to moose and traffic accidents, the lack of moose in many parts of the state and the need to address solutions for both subsistence hunters and Alaskan drivers.

As a member of the Senate’s Environment and Public Works Committee, which has jurisdiction over highway programs, I am particularly interested in learning more about your suggestions for road fencing and over- or under-passes to allow moose to safely cross the road. Consideration of wildlife crossings was an integral part of the highway authorization bill that recently passed the Senate. I would also welcome further information on your idea of transplanting moose to areas of Alaska where the populations are declining. I would be interested in seeing data from Fish & Wildlife experts on this suggested approach. Recalling that moose were transplanted from South central Alaska to the Copper River Delta and to Southeast Alaska in the 1950’s, I know this is a possibility that needs to be fully examined.—Senator Lisa Murkowski

“It’s Time To Help Our Moose!”

www.growmoremoose.org