

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Alaska Moose Federation****Federal Tax ID: 42-1552446****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

# Alaska Moose Federation Conservation Fund, Inc. - Rescue and Relocate Orphaned Moose Calves

**State Funding Requested: \$1,441,500****House District: Statewide (1-40)**

Future Funding May Be Requested

**Brief Project Description:**

Enable the AMF to perform orphaned calf rescue and relocation through the first year of a calf's orphanancy which will result in a decrease in vehicle collisions occurred.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$1,441,500
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$1,441,500)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

This moose salvage program has observed that, following the loss of a cow, the resulting orphaned calves appeared to stay near the specific location of the collision in search of their mother. We passed this observation on to DPS, ADF&G and APD for the applicable agencies to determine what the next course of action should be. Director Rossi confirmed that ADF&G had collared orphaned calves resulting from vehicle collisions in the 1990's where it was determined that the orphans do live in the corridor after the collisions. Currently, according to DOT statistics, statewide vehicle collisions with moose are broken down in the following format: 50% cows, 40% calves and 10% bulls. It is also apparent that, should the orphans survive to breeding age, they may actually live in the area further compounding the collision problem by teaching their young to live along the highway corridor as well. This proposal would enable the AMF to perform orphaned calf rescue and relocation throughout their first year which will result in a solid decrease in vehicle collisions in the area where the original collision occurred with their cow. Without this program, the AMF will be waiting to pull these orphans off the front of other cars in the following days of the original collision that took the cow.

The costs for the orphaned calf relocation program includes:

- Truck purchases (1 F-550 4x4 crew cab truck outfitted with flatbed, lights, bumper, winches, etc.) = \$55,000
- Equipment (outfitted horse trailer, dart guns, skids, road surface signs, etc.) = \$25,000
- 3 modified connexes on skids to transport moose away from highways at \$4,000 per modified connex with skid = \$12,000
- Willow holding area (this would allow calves to be temporarily held until the number of moose are adequate for transport) = \$100,000
- 10 Rural holding facilities throughout Alaska @ \$100,000 each including logistics, calf food, medicine, oversight. = \$1,000,000
- AMF biologist III (statewide coordinator to oversee rescue, rearing and release orphaned calf program) = \$85,000

Total Project Snapshot Report

2011 Legislature

TPS Report 56653v1

- Wildlife technician (assistant to the biologist) = \$52,000
- Medicine, Xylazine tranquilizing agent, monitoring protocol (\$500/ moose x 100 moose per season) \$50,000
- Fuel: (Anchorage—\$6,000); (Mat-Su Borough—\$10,000); (Kenai Peninsula—\$10,000) & Maintenance (\$2,500) = \$28,500
- Insurance—Commercial Auto and other required specialized insurance = \$10,000
- Shop leased to house truck & trailer—keep the truck warm and clean (Mat-Su) 12 months @ 2,000/month = \$24,000

**Project Timeline:**

FY2012

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Alaska Moose Federation

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No



# Alaska Families Initiative Moose Subsistence & Safety

## Capital Budget Requests 2012 Orphaned Calf Rescue & Relocation Effort

### Orphaned Calf Relocation Program coinciding with the Salvage Program

This moose salvage program has observed that, following the loss of a cow, the resulting orphaned calves appeared to stay near the specific location of the collision in search of their mother. We passed this observation on to DPS, ADF&G and APD for the applicable agencies to determine what the next course of action should be. Director Rossi confirmed that ADF&G had collared orphaned calves resulting from vehicle collisions in the 1990's where it was determined that the orphans do live in the corridor after the collisions. Currently, according to DOT statistics, statewide vehicle collisions with moose are broken down in the following format: 50% cows, 40% calves and 10% bulls. It is also apparent that, should the orphans survive to breeding age, they may actually live in the area further compounding the collision problem by teaching their young to live along the highway corridor as well. This proposal would enable the AMF to perform orphaned calf rescue and relocation throughout their first year which will result in a solid decreases in vehicle collisions in the area where the original collision occurred with their cow. Without this program, the AMF will be waiting to pull these orphans off the front of other cars in the following days of the original collision that took the cow. The next page of this proposal shows the worth of a cow moose is something that should be considered because of the numbers of cows saved from this program



### Capital budget request for rescue and relocation of orphaned calves

The capital costs for the orphaned calf relocation program includes the following expenses:

- AMF biologist III (statewide coordinator to oversee rescue, rearing and release orphaned calf program) =	\$85,000
- Wildlife technician (assistant to the biologist) =	\$52,000
- Medicine, Xylazine tranquilizing agent, monitoring protocol (\$500/ moose x 100 moose per season)	\$50,000
- Fuel: (Anchorage—\$6,000); (Mat-Su Borough—\$10,000); (Kenai Peninsula—\$10,000) & Maintenance (\$2,500) =	\$28,500
- Insurance—Commercial Auto and other required specialized insurance =	\$10,000
- Shop leased to house truck & trailer—keep the truck warm and clean (Mat-Su) 12 months @ 2,000/month =	\$24,000
- Truck purchases: (1 F-550 4x4 crew cab truck outfitted with flatbed, lights, bumper, winches, etc.) =	\$55,000
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- 10 Rural holding facilities throughout Alaska @ \$100,000 each including logistics, calf food, medicine, oversight.	<u>\$1,000,000</u>
Capital Budget Total Request:	\$1,441,500

# How many moose is one cow worth to Alaska herd dynamics?

This is a question that is being asked a lot recently. Whether it is in an urban area when some say it costs too much to help rescue an orphaned calf or relocate a moose, whether mitigation efforts are worth keeping moose off of railroad and highways or determining if current management practices utilizing cow hunts is a good idea in some parts of the state.

Cow moose are good at what they do. They are one of Alaska's most critically important, renewable resources because of their ability to generate more moose. Some say the sheer fact that because moose usually twin when giving birth, that this is why moose still are holding on in some areas in the absence of active management.

The design to the right was created by Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game. It is used extensively throughout Western Alaska by Roger Seavoy, Unit 18 Area Biologist. According to Roger, it was originally created by Craig Fleener of Fort Yukon and Bob Stephenson, former Fort Yukon Area Biologist, who had passed it on to Randy Kaycon to use in the Bethel area prior to Roger taking the position.

Now keep in mind that, in 2010 figures, a half pound of sandwich meat is selling for \$7.00/ half pound. This equates to a cow moose worth approximately \$8,500 to a rural Alaskan family in food value. Even if you multiply a cow's \$8,500 worth times a modest value of 30 animals to her worth, you still have a \$250,000 renewable resource!

The information below documents cow moose as one of Alaska's original permanent funds which should definitely justify better management to make sure moose populations are abundant.

## Diagram Assumptions:

- \* 2 year old and younger cows do not have calves.
- \* 3 year old and older cows have calves every year.
- \* 3 year old cows always give birth to a single calf.
- \* 4 year old cows always give birth to twin calves.
- \* Twin calves are born once every three years, otherwise a single calf is born.
- \* Half of the calves are bulls, half of the calves are cows.
- \* Only 14 years are depicted on the diagram, but cows will continue to have calves for life (up to 20 years). (In addition, there are no coffee cups or hats big enough to display what a cow can do in her 20 years of life).

## Diagram Results:

- \* A cow will give birth to 19 calves in 14 years.
- \* Female offspring from one cow will themselves give birth to an additional 184 calves in 14 years.
- \* Total production from one cow, and her offspring is:      **203 calves over the 14 years**      **389 calves over 16 years**      **724 calves over 18 years**

Now, after learning these facts, look again at this cow and we hope you understand how important she is to Alaska.

