



## Arrive Alive – a Tribal Transportation Safety Project funded through the Federal Highways Administration



*NVN's newly acquired road grader heads down the Johnson River from its former home at Kasigluk then turns up the Kuskokwim towards its new home at Kalskag*

### 1-22-17 TTSP Report #6:\*

#### *“From Kasigluk to Kalskag – a Blessing”*

#### **Summary:**

*With three broken down pieces of old ice road equipment and an impending storm it looked like our work to establish and maintain safe winter transportation routes for the Middle Kuskokwim was going to be put on hold for a while - maybe quite a while.*

*Then an opportunity – a blessing really – suddenly came up for us to purchase an 18 year old State of Alaska Department of Transportation surplus road grader that was sitting unused at the airport in the Johnson River community of Kasigluk. Only 18 years old - that's like brand new to us!*

*The furious storm prevented our crew from getting back there right away to inspect the grader, and breaking trail after the storm was difficult, but we finally made it and found a beautiful, well-maintained, low-time machine. The machine was purchased and immediately driven 150 miles from Kasigluk to Kalskag re-opening not only Upriver Route 1 but an additional 100 miles of Lower Kuskokwim Ice Road.*



*Knowing When to Turn Back: road to Kasigluk in 1-19 storm      Engine compartment full of snow – losing electrical power*

*– 0 visibility with high winds & snow*



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*1-20 dawns clear, cold, and calm: our crew makes it to Kasigluk, inspects grader, test runs it, makes the purchase and...*



*...immediately starts on the 150 mile journey...*



*...down the Johnson River...*



*...and up the Kuskokwim River in minus 30 degree temperatures*



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*Sunset on Upriver Route 1: temperatures dropping into the minus 40's on the River*



*With 11 more hours on the hour meter NVN's new grader arrives at Kalskag*



*From the Tundra to the Trees on the longest drive this machine has ever made*



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*Lower & Middle Kuskokwim Ice Road Expert – Oscar Samuelson completes a record 150 mile ice road plow from Kasigluk to Kalskag in bitter cold weather without so much as a hic up from the grader*

***Closing: We are glad that Upriver Routes 1 & 2 have been re-opened but remind travelers to use caution and be prepared. This is a plowed road and because of the berms will be very susceptible to drifting snow if we get a storm. Please check the weather before traveling. At the minimum carry a shovel, spare tire, warm clothes and please don't drink and drive***

*We are also very thankful for the opportunity to acquire this new piece of equipment that will make our work to establish and maintain safe winter transportation routes much easier. We will use it wisely for the benefit of all who travel these routes.*

*A special thanks goes to the Napaimute Traditional Council, Karl Gleason, Federal Highways Administration Tribal Transportation Program, Abby Applebee, State of Alaska DOT-Anchorage, Danny Smith, DOT-Bethel, and Gabe Charles, Kasiguk Airport Manager for their assistance in expediting this opportunity for us.*

*Now we have to come up with a name for this grader!*

*We were thinking of naming it "Blessing"??*

Thank you.

***\*Please note that this report is for informational purposes only. It is not an advisory that it is safe to travel.***



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*Moose like the ice road too!*



*Crow Village*