



Zuma's
Paw Prints

RESTART MOVED TO WILLOW

February 28, 2006

Hello Everyone,

I have some important information to pass along to you as you plan to follow your musher(s) to Nome. Due to poor snow conditions in the Wasilla/Knik areas, the restart has once again been moved to Willow. The Iditarod always plans for a Wasilla restart because Wasilla is the home of the Iditarod. It is where Joe Redington is from and where the dream of the Iditarod Race began. However, the Iditarod Trail Committee must look at trail condition with a 100% commitment to do what is best for the K-9 athletes participating in this race.

It is true that it snowed in Wasilla over the past weekend and it turned cold so that the snow didn't melt. The problem is that a dog trail must be packed down and hardened where a good base is formed. If it snows on top of this base, that is just some extra good luck, but there has to be that base. There is no way to make a base out of six inches of over grass in a week's time. So, the race moves to where there is a safe trail.

What this means for you is that you must make some changes in your musher tracking chart (print a copy at <http://www.iditarod.com/pdfs/2006/2006mushercksht.pdf>). You must cross out Wasilla and print Willow. Eagle River and Knik need to be crossed out. This will give you the correct checkpoints for tracking the musher of your choice.

For my human friends that have come to Alaska for the race, here is some information you need regarding parking at the Willow restart. This is a press release by the Iditarod Trail Committee. http://iditaweb-1.gci.net/pdf/files/media/pr2006-02-25_1.pdf

See you there!



Lots of Tail Wags,
Zuma

Don't forget to visit the rest of the Iditarod website at www.iditarod.com where you will be able to find the latest updates plus terrific stories by my good friend, June Price, as the teams travel the trail to Nome.