



Going places few have gone before is all in a day's work for Alaskan videographer Paul Gray. The challenge is finding gear that can pass the test.

But that's exactly what Gray found when he chose a Miller 440 tripod, spreader and DS10 fluid head assembly to film the unimaginably enduring 2,000-mile Tesoro Iron Dog snowmachine race.

Thanks to Miller's encapsulated design, which kept it from freezing in winter temperatures that dipped menacingly below zero (°F), Gray was able to maintain his focus of the 50 teams of determined snowmachiners flying across Alaska's wilderness at speeds sometimes exceeding 100 mph.

The tripod's compact design was an added bonus when Gray encountered three- and four-foot deep backcountry snows.

"You definitely don't want a tripod that's heavy," Gray says. Locking bolts on the head erased his worry of losing parts in the deep snow and the quick release on the plate meant he could be set up and ready to capture the action as helmeted snowmachiners flew into view.

*"This is the first time the race has been filmed from start to finish," says Gray, who produces Exploring Alaska, a half-hour weekly television show seen on ABC's Alaska affiliate, KIMO Channel 13.*

Gray said the actual filming process was daunting not only due to the extreme conditions, while the frozen environment personally took its toll on his equipment.

"I countered the adversity by using a truly professional tripod and head that wouldn't freeze - and I only filmed in small increments of time."