

ANF holds land management seminar

by Holly F. Reimer

Tundra Times reporter

The Alaska Native Foundation held its first annual training seminar for land managers from throughout the state recently. ANF only anticipated a turnout of about 20 for its five day workshop but ended up with nearly 60 participants.

Ruth Kaloa, ANF director of development, said the large turn out was due to the great need for this type of training.

Under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act's 14(c) ruling (which deals with land), regional and village corporations have to follow certain regulations dealing with land use issues. The organizations hire land managers or a person with a similar title to deal with these issues.

So this seminar, specifically designed for a person dealing with corporations land issues, covered nearly every field of land management.

This training seminar, Kaloa said, was developed so land managers could gain more knowledge in all fields of their land management position, since these positions demand knowledge in many fields of land management.

"We want these people to be able to go anywhere in the world and know exactly where they are on the map," she said about the participants, because

one of the segments that was taught was learning how to read maps.

"This is a very intense program. They have five books to cover in five days, and they get two tests a day," she explained.

Land related matters cover a wide spectrum of fields and issues, thus the land managers must be knowledgeable in all such areas.

After completing this course, the participants will be more effective as land managers. They will be able to provide information to their board of directors and others, and have a better understanding of the process of retrieving and submitting various documents.

Some topics on the agenda included ownership rights, requirements of a valid deed, leases, title insurance, words used by government officials and attorneys, words used by geographers, planners and surveyors, Native allotments and easements.

Kalao said the program was aimed at land managers because ANF thought there was a need to further the knowledge of land management personnel.

"It was something that was long overdue," she said.

ANF plans to have another seminar next year or in six months if there is a need for one.



Nelson Angapak speaks to participants of the ANF land management seminar.

Photo by Chris Cushman