

Den Nena Henash - Our Land Speaks
Ut Kah neek - Informing and Reporting
Yupit Qanlautciat - The Way Eskimos Talk
Unangan Tunukun - The Aleuts Speak
Inupiat Paitot - People's Heritage

Fire crew boss training needed

To the editor:

Hi. I am writing about fire fighting. I am a crew boss trainee. I did my three days of fire training, so now I am a crew boss. They need to set up more crew boss training for village crews.

Sometimes it's dangerous in a village to travel by river. So the village

needs to request for the Bureau of Land Management or the Alaska Forest Service to come to the village.

Our representatives — members of the Senate or House — need to know this problem.

Mike Peters
Holy Cross

Agency responds to cartoon

To the editor:

A recent cartoon which appeared in the *Tundra Times* issue of Sept. 17 signed by Tosha Galaktionoff appears to have been based on erroneous information and may have misled your readers about federal programs important to Native peoples of Alaska.

Please allow me to set the record straight:

•The cartoon implies that foxes in the Aleutians are being poisoned and that eagles are dying from eating poisoned foxes.

—False. No poison has been used to kill foxes for the last four years. Fox removal by trapping has occurred on 10 islands. Poison was used under several emergency permits from the Environmental Protection Agency in conjunction with trapping to kill foxes on seven remote islands in the Aleutian Chain from 1981-86.

This closely monitored fox eradication effort was part of a very successful program to enhance the survival of nesting Aleutian Canada geese, an endangered species. No eagles were known to be killed by this use of poison.

•The cartoon implies that Natives are not allowed to trap foxes.

—False. Anyone with a valid license and permit may trap foxes on the

Aleutian Islands Unit of Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and residents of several Aleut villages do so. However, not many people trap foxes due to low fur prices and the high cost of transportation in the Aleutians.

•The cartoon implies that government agencies will not hire Natives for this work.

—False. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently employs more than 40 Alaska Natives in a variety of positions throughout the state. The service previously employed two Aleut trappers to assist in the fox eradication project.

This agency is actively seeking qualified applicants from the Native community for a variety of positions. We are especially interested in persons with trapping skills to assist in this program.

We are also increasing efforts to recruit Natives as cooperative education students. In this program, college students spend part of each year working for the service and are usually hired permanently upon graduation.

Interested and qualified individuals should contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Personnel Management, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage 99503.

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