

FIRE ROLE CARDS

<p>Hunter: You harvest animals such as moose to feed yourself, your family and some older people who can no longer hunt. The removal of trees from the forest encourages brushy vegetation to grow, making more food for moose. The fires that burn through tundra may encourage additional plant growth but may damage some slow growing lichens.</p>	<p>Trapper: You harvest fox and marten to sell and make clothing for your family. The higher the animal population, the more you can harvest. Fires eventually improve habitat for these animals because their prey, small birds, rodents, and hares find abundant food in recently burned areas.</p>
<p>Private Firewood Cutter: You heat your home entirely with wood. Every summer you collect enough wood to provide you with sufficient firewood for the next winter.</p>	<p>Bird Watcher: You enjoy hiking and looking for different kinds of birds. You know that different kinds of birds live in different habitats; in order to see a greater variety of birds, you want to protect all kinds of habitats.</p>

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<p>(Forest) Commercial Logger: You earn a living by cutting firewood and selling it to other people. The more firewood people need and the more you can cut, the more money you make.</p>	<p>Fire fighter: You earn your living by putting out fires. When there are few fires or fires are allowed to burn, there is little work for you.</p>
<p>Store Owner: You sell hardware, groceries, and have an ice cream truck in the summer for tourists. Your business depends on the population growth in the area..</p>	<p>Photographer: You make your living selling scenic and wildlife photographs to publishers and other businesses. Fires make the area "uglier"; however, there seems to be a market for forest fire documentation.</p>

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<p>Mother: You have 3 children, a husband, and grandparents for whom you gather many of the traditional plants. You find that the area that was burned 8 years ago has an abundance of the food you like to gather.</p>	<p>Commercial Pilot: You own a small commercial airline that transports people and supplies into and out of the area. Fires produce a large amount of smoke, sometimes making it unsafe to fly. Fires also bring you business if people and supplies need to be transported.</p>
<p>Fire Expert: You are concerned about protecting people and property from wildland fires. You know that fires in areas near towns or small villages present a more serious threat to people than do wildland fires in areas distant from inhabited areas. You know that if forest fires are put out there will be a build-up of fuels, which often leads to a more severe fire in the future. You feel it important to monitor all wildland fires and put out those that threaten people. Because it is very expensive to put out fires, you think those that do not pose a threat should be watched carefully, but allowed to burn. You realize that if more people are allowed to build homes in remote areas, it will become more important to put out fires in those areas. This will make it more difficult to allow fires to perform their natural role, and it will cost the public much more money.</p>	<p>Landowner: You own land adjacent to the forest and plan to cut logs to build a home there in the future. You like to hunt, but also enjoy seeing animals wander through your property. You hope the firebreak along the forest boundary might provide access to the property..</p>

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<p>Moose Expert: You are concerned about protecting habitat for moose so that they will remain abundant. You know that moose feed on shrubs and saplings that are most numerous in areas in forests during the early stages of succession. These shrubs may be more abundant in mature tundra. Suppression of fires may reduce the amount of tall shrub areas by allowing these forest areas to mature, thus reducing the amount of feeding habitat for moose.</p>	<p>Atmosphere Expert: You are concerned about the atmosphere and the air we breathe. You know that healthy vegetation is important in keeping the air clean and in removing dust, carbon dioxide, and pollutants. They also return oxygen to the air. Fires release smoke and ash into the air, sometimes causing short term breathing difficulties for people..</p>
<p>(Forest) Tree-growing Expert: You know that spruce bark beetles live and breed in dead and dying trees. Certain conditions promote spruce bark beetle outbreaks that kill live, healthy trees. You want to stop the loss of trees to the spruce bark beetle. You believe that trees infested by spruce bark beetles should be removed from the forest.to allow fires to perform their natural role, and it will cost the public much more money.</p>	<p>Bird Expert: You are concerned about protecting habitat for birds. You know that a fire sometimes improves habitat for some kinds of birds, while it destroys habitats for other kinds. To provide habitat for the greatest variety of birds it is important to have aging forests, young forests, cleared areas, and the areas where these habitats meet (edges). Dead and dying trees provide important feeding and nesting sites for some kinds of birds. Some birds eat insects like the spruce bark beetle and help reduce disease that may kill trees.</p>

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<p>Watershed Expert: You are concerned about protecting the water supplies for towns and villages and about preventing floods and droughts. You know that vegetation is very important in the water cycle, returning moisture to the air and storing and purify water. You know that burning of large areas can cause more frequent and severe flooding and can result in less water in streams during dry periods.</p>	<p>Waterfowl Expert: You are interested in preserving breeding habitat for waterfowl. Good breeding habitat includes the availability of wetlands with high quality water to support substantial invertebrate populations and aquatic plants for waterfowl food. In addition, nearby nesting cover must be available. The waterfowl nesting season is May-July. The removal of nesting cover, decline in food resources, or other disturbances could have an adverse impact on nesting success. Many North American waterfowl populations are declining due to loss of breeding habitat. Alaska has many areas that are critical nesting habitat.</p>
<p>Furbearer Expert: You are concerned about protecting habitat for furbearers such as marten and foxes. You know that openings in boreal forests created by fires and other disturbances can improve habitat for mice, voles, birds, and hares, the main prey of furbearers. These prey animals require adequate ground cover and shrubby plants that provide food. Some furbearers require patches of old forest for cover and denning. Fire may encourage new growth in tundra as well.</p>	<p>Village Elder: You are a member of the Village Council that works hard to help the younger generation learn to understand and appreciate the traditional values your father and grandfather taught you. You feel that in the past the small natural fires around your village have provided a variety of habitat that allows the traditional ways to flourish.</p>

** The commercial logger and tree growing expert roles will not be assigned in a tundra ecosystem.