

'Yeti' hunter visits Alaska

The Yeti may be making his last stand in the far North.

Called Bigfoot, Sasquatch, Yeti or Abominable Snowman, the creature which may be the missing link between ape and man, is being sought in Alaska.

Michael Polesnek, president of the American Anthropological Research Foundation of Miami, Florida, was in Fairbanks this week to contact other Yeti or Sasquatch hunters.

Polesnek, who has been hunting the Yeti, as he calls the creature, for ten years, says he is particularly interested in the area around Ruby where there have been several sightings. Polesnek plans to live in Ruby and hopes to collect stories about the creature. "There may be two different things," he says. "There's the idea of Bushman, which many people believe is an Indian who has gone wild. Then there's the Sasquatch or Yeti."

Other areas of particular interest are near Petersburg and Anchorage. Sightings of the Yeti are reported most often in

areas where there are trees, bushes and streams, said Polesnek.

Alaska is one of the "prime areas" in which to seek the Yeti, said Polesnek because "man is pushing farther and farther. There are only a few areas left where the Yeti can live."

The American Yeti Expedition, which is managed by the American Anthropological Research Foundation, is centering this year near Mount St. Helens, Washington, but Alaska may be an outgrowth of that search, Polesnek said.

The Yeti expedition in Washington brought scientists even closer to finding the creature, said Polesnek.

"We found hair samples and footprints, but lost him when the hunting season opened."

Scientists estimate the creature is from seven to nine feet tall, and weighs over 400 pounds. Hair samples found in Washington were analyzed and found to be "close to human but not human." The hair samples

were not those of a known primate species, said Polesnek.

Polesnek, who says he wouldn't kill the creature, believes a live capture would mean that the expedition have a doctor to administer a tranquilizer.

If it is hard to make contact with the Yeti, especially in an Alaskan winter, it is also difficult to make contact with those who have had an experience with the creature. Many people have been ridiculed because of their reports, he said, and don't want

to talk about it. But Polesnek has urged anyone who knows anything about the creature to contact him at 1800 E. 41st Court in Anchorage and he says that all information will be kept confidential.

Communications between the hunters of Yeti can also be difficult, said Polesnek. Some of the hunters, he said, are afraid somebody else will find the

creature first and don't want to cooperate.

Polesnek said he is only interested in research.

Is Polesnek sure the creature he is seeking actually exists?

"I don't doubt it one bit," he says. "So much has been turned up. And I've had experiences in the woods when I'm sure I wasn't alone, when I picked up a strange scent. The Yeti is curious."



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