

A First Foods Approach to Landscape Stewardship, Management, and Restoration



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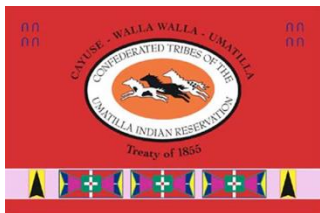
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Susan Theis (USFS)
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...And many
more



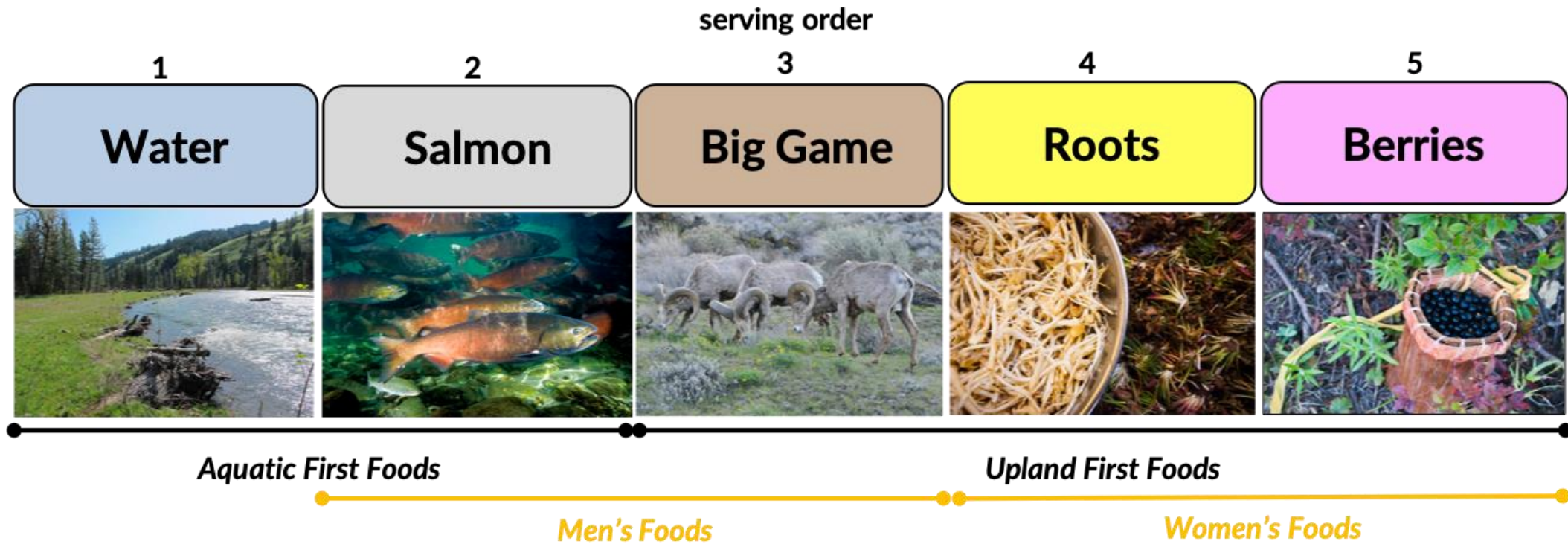
Presentation Goals


- Overview of CTUIR First Foods
- CTUIR DNR Mission, Upland and River Visions
- Applying the First Foods Approach: Examples



First Foods

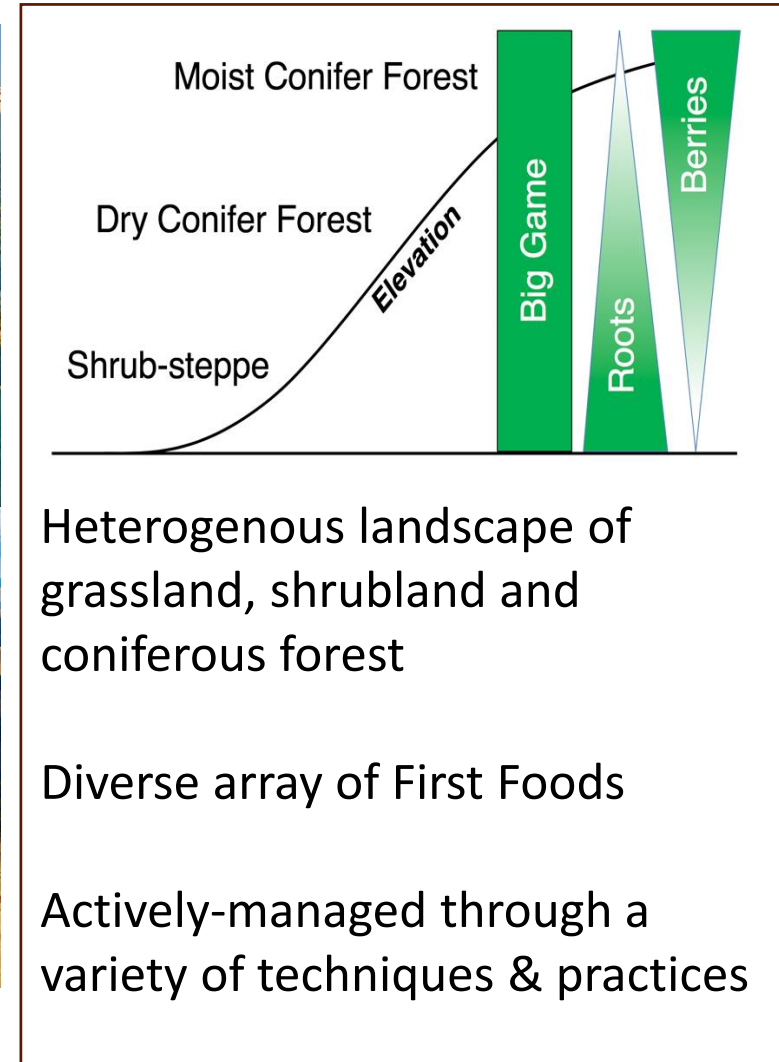
- Central part of creation belief; fundamental to diet, health, well-being and identity
- Served at the Longhouse and practiced for feasts, celebrations & at home
- The minimum ecological products necessary to sustain subsistence & culture

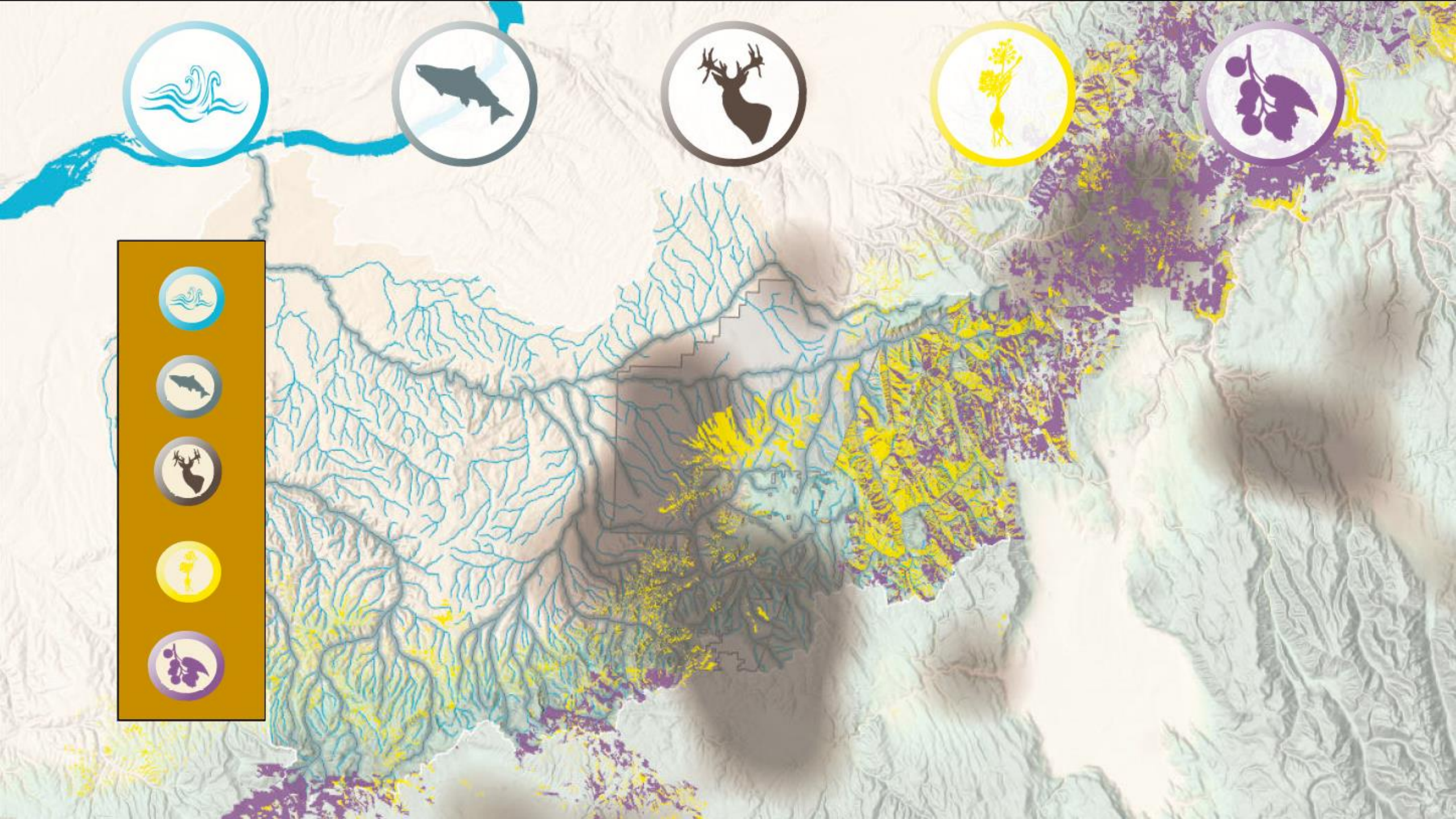




Food production systems since time immemorial
Grounded in reciprocity, care & community

Landscape-Scale Food System





Ecology – Between and Among Foods, People

Cúuš

Water

Núsux

Chinook
Coho
Sockeye
Lamprey
Trout
Whitefish
Suckers
Sturgeon
Smelt
Mussels

Yáamaš

Mule Deer
Elk
WT Deer
Bison
Bighorn
Mtn Goat
Pronghorn
Moose

Xáwš

Biscuitroot
Celery
Bitterroot
Yellow Bells
Spring Beauty
Mariposa Lily
Yampah
Onion
Camas
Wapto
Black Moss

Wiwnu

Huckleberry
Chokecherry
Serviceberry
Strawberry
G. whortleberry
Black current
Golden current
Thimbleberry
Hawthorne
Elderberry

Men's foods

Women's foods

Treaty of 1855, Article 1

....Provided, also, that the exclusive ***right of taking fish*** in the streams running through and bordering said reservation is hereby secured to said Indians, and at all other usual and accustomed stations in common with citizens of the United States, and of erecting suitable buildings for curing the same; the ***privilege of hunting, gathering roots and berries and pasturing their stock*** on unclaimed lands in common with citizens is also secured to them.

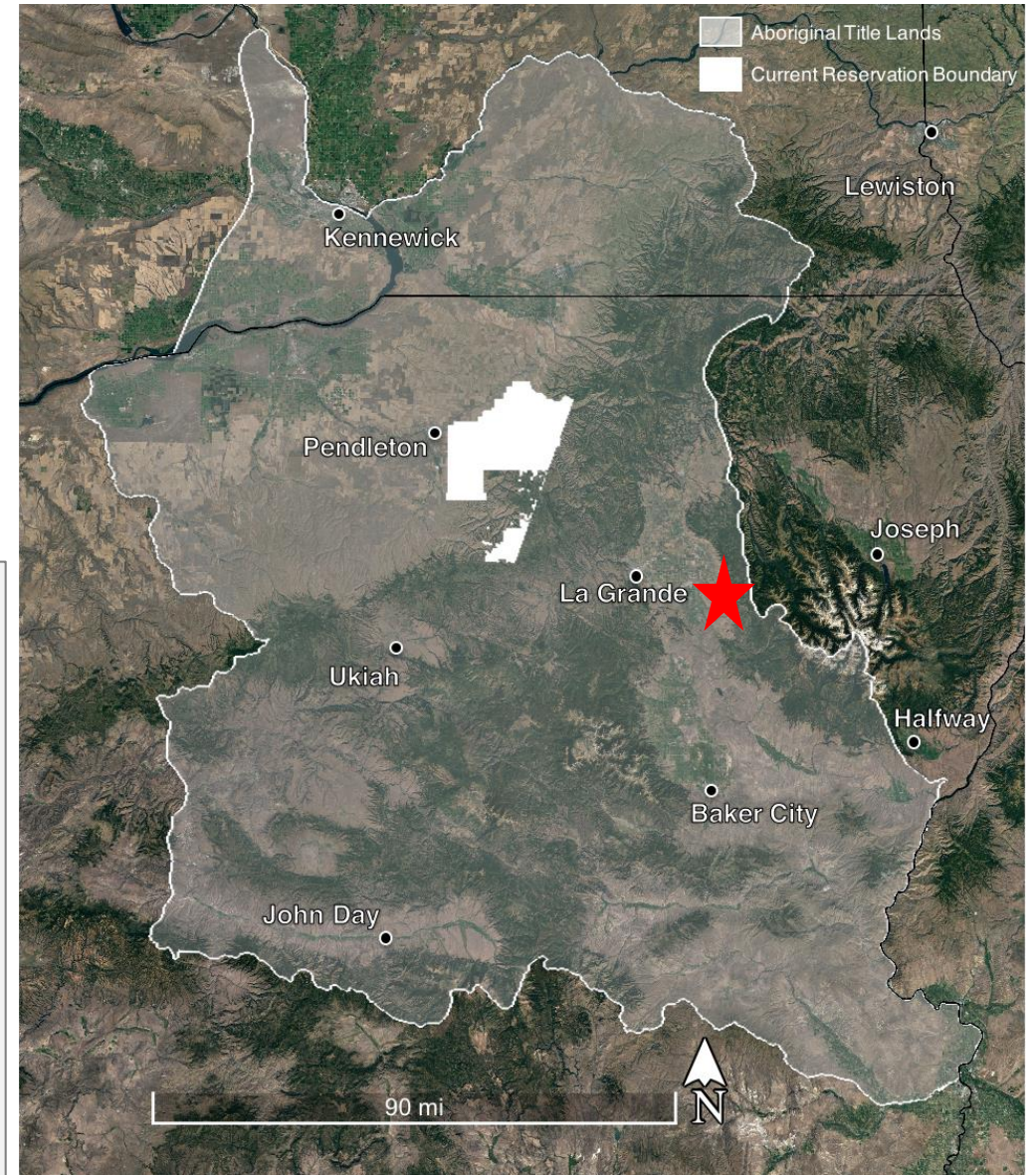


Treaty of 1855, Article 1

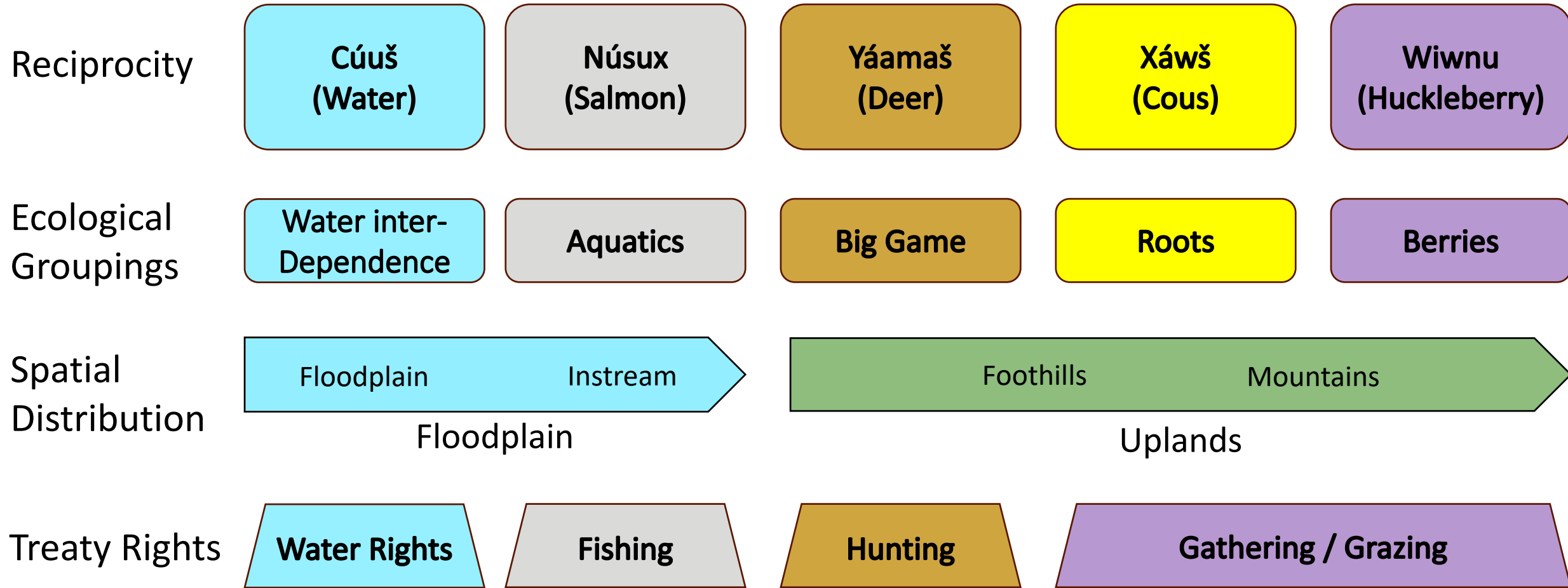
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Trust Responsibility The federal government & its agencies have a trust responsibility to Plateau treaty tribes that extends to all federal actions and the implementation of federal statutes that affect Indian people, land, or resources, including the management of the ***Tribes' First Foods***.

Wy kan ush mi Wa kish wit—The Spirit of the Salmon. The Columbia River anadromous fish restoration plan of the Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Yakama Tribes. CRITFC 2014

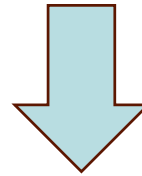


First Foods based approach to management = holistic landscape approach



Department of Natural Resources Mission

To protect, restore and enhance the First Foods — *water, salmon, deer, cous* and *huckleberry*— for the perpetual cultural, economic and sovereign benefit of the CTUIR



First Foods Vision Documents

- Outlines desired ecological characteristics
- Framework for planning management or restoration efforts
- Benchmark for assessing management progress and outcomes; and
- Context necessary for understanding the role of any specific management decision or action in the context of other decisions or actions.

The Umatilla River Vision

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Department of Natural Resources



Vision: The Umatilla basin includes a healthy river capable of providing First Foods that sustain the continuity of the Tribe's culture. This vision requires a river that is dynamic, and shaped not only by physical and biological processes, but the interactions and interconnections between those processes.

First Foods Upland Vision



Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Department of Natural Resources

Bryan A. Endress, Eric J. Quaepts, Shawn Steinmetz

April 2019

Vision

To ensure healthy, resilient and dynamic upland ecosystems capable of providing First Foods that sustain the continuity of the Tribe's culture.

CTUIR River Vision



...a healthy river capable of providing First Foods that sustain the continuity of the Tribe's culture. This vision requires a river that is dynamic, and shaped not only by physical and biological processes, but the interactions and interconnections between those processes

Hydrology

Connectivity

Native Fish

Riparian
Vegetation

Geomorphology

Upland Vision

healthy, resilient and dynamic upland ecosystems capable of providing First Foods that sustain the continuity of the Tribe's culture

Soils

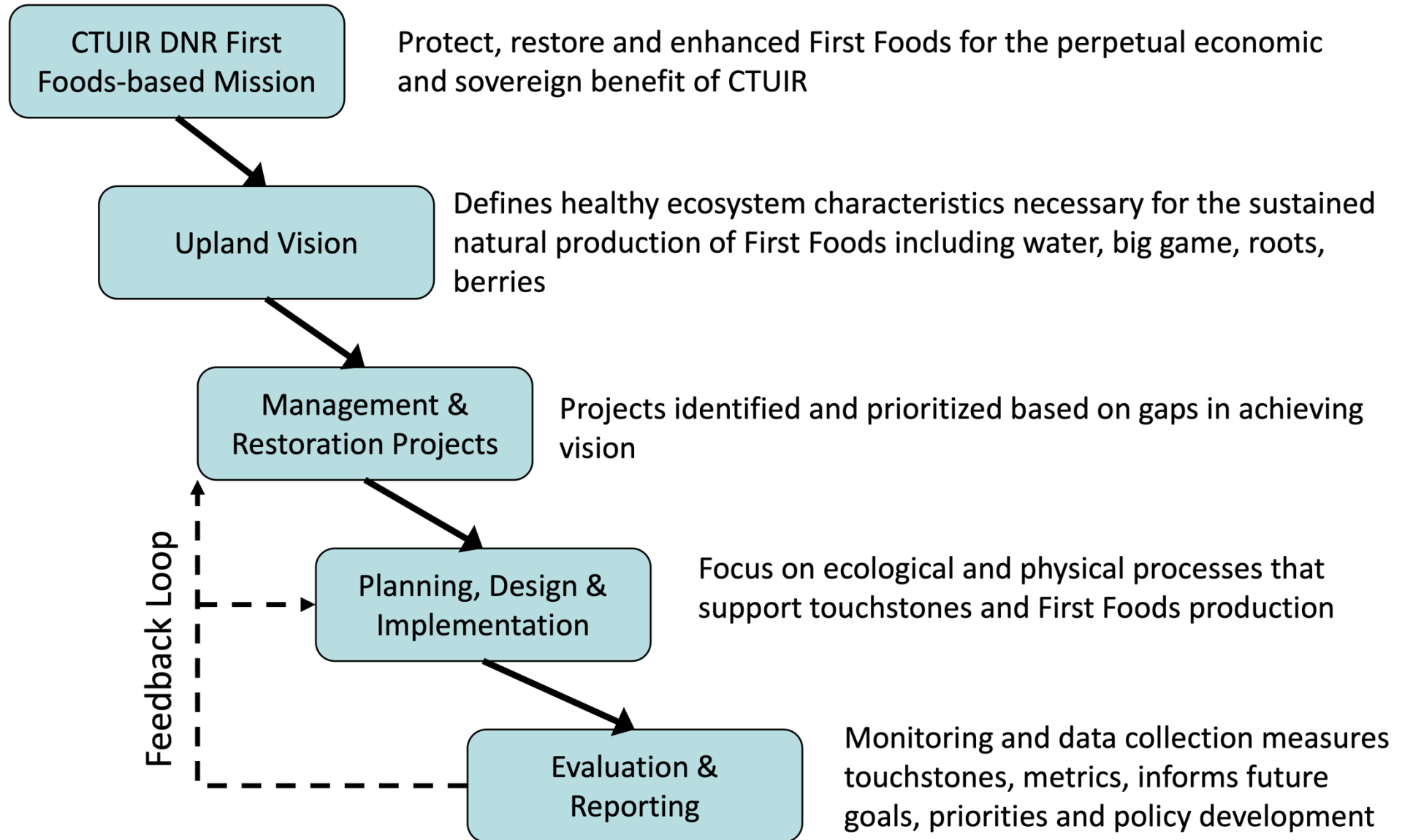
Landscape Pattern


Hydrologic Function

Biota


Implementing the Vision

To be successful, visions must be connected to use, policy, management, & restoration actions





This First Foods approach is **transferable** across organizations and agencies and provides a holistic framework to conceptualize, prioritize and implement policy, management, and restoration activities that support healthy, resilient landscapes



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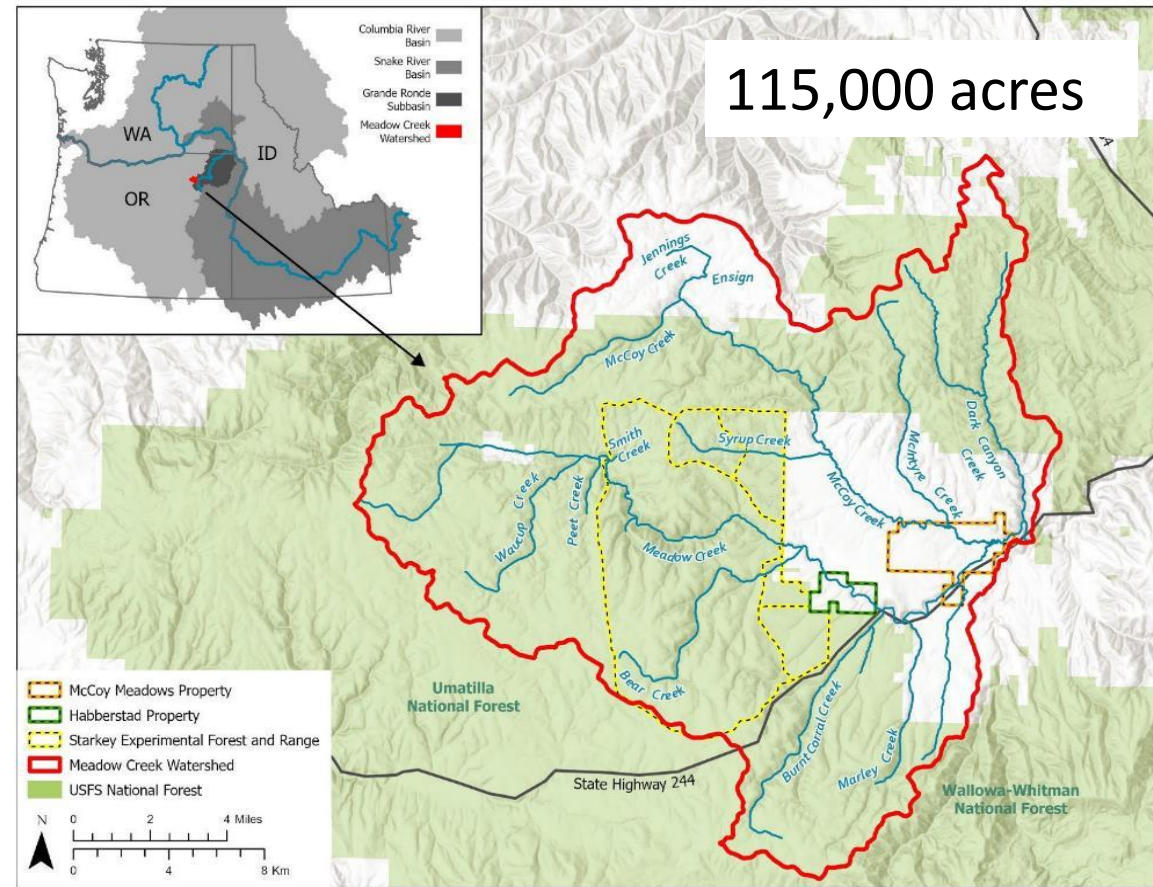
Meadow Creek Whole-Watershed Restoration

Expanding Rangeland Monitoring to Women's Foods

Example #1 : Meadow Creek Watershed Restoration

Forest Restoration Need

Long-term fire suppression without active silviculture over many decades has dramatically altered forest structure from historical conditions



Project spans public, private, and tribal land

Changes from historical conditions have substantially reduced:

- occurrence and abundance of many upland Forest First Foods
- >30 vertebrate species of interest
- reduced forage availability & quality for wild & domestic ungulates



Evie Bull



Jim Ward



Josh Averett



Bryan Endress

Project Goals

Use CTUIR River Vision and Upland Vision documents as the foundation to guide and plan & whole-watershed restoration designed holistically to achieve desired outcomes

Objectives:

- Reduce risk of large, high intensity wildfires
- Increase ecosystem resilience
- Improve conditions that support First Foods
- Increase recovery success for ESA-listed species



Upland Vision

- Elk, Mule Deer, Pronghorn
- Cous, Camas, Onions, Celery
- Huckleberry, Serviceberry, Currents

River Vision

- Steelhead, Chinook, Bull Trout
- Pacific Lamprey, Western Brook Lamprey
- W Pearlshell Mussel, W Ridged Mussel

Restoration and Management at a landscape scale

Design incorporates landscape & stand-level considerations

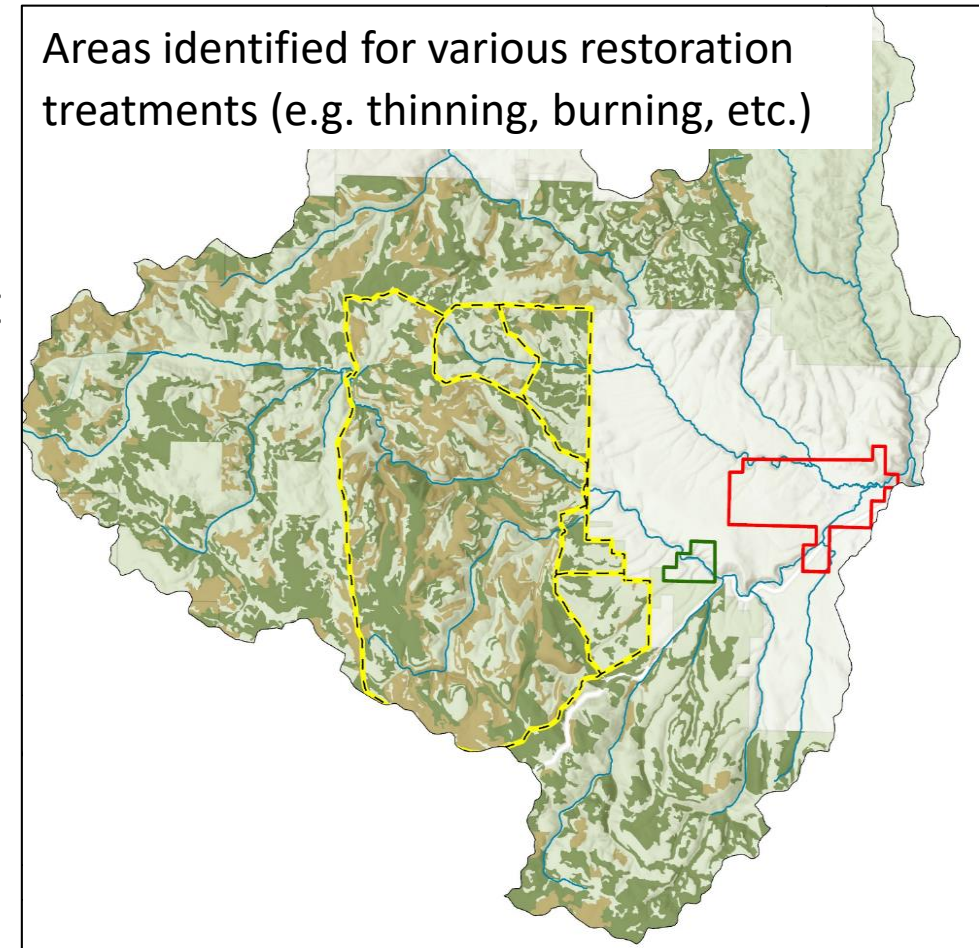


Evaluate First Foods, hydrologic, wildlife, fuel, ungulate, & understory vegetation responses as part of multi-partner collaborative restoration, monitoring, and evaluation program

Key Features

Project goes well beyond a “fuels treatment” effort

- Manage for landscape resiliency and health, including the sustained natural production of First Foods
- Holistic, multidisciplinary perspective from the outset
- Grounded in First Foods Visions and Touchstones
- Effectiveness monitoring explicitly designed to track First Foods responses, in addition to many other resources
- Increased learning opportunities



Example #2: Expanding Rangeland Monitoring to Women's Foods

First Foods Framework Highlighted Knowledge Gap

- Limited western scientific knowledge on ecology & natural history of most Roots;
- Little understanding of how disturbance and land management practices affect these species;
- Land use, policy, management, & restoration plans rarely address or even acknowledge these species or recognize that they are a part of a food system practiced since time immemorial

“You’re always talking about the men’s foods. Who is going to take care of the women’s foods?”

Marie “Butch” Dick, CTUIR Member



Expressions of concern about health and status of Roots among gatherers and the community

Root and Celery Monitoring Program

Objectives:

- Establish long-term plots to monitor trends, status, health
- Effect of disturbances and management actions
- Inform management and policy

Justification:

- Improve understanding, stewardship & restoration
- Responsive to community concerns
- Supports management of lands consistent with the Tribes' treaty rights



Celery in a monitoring plot

Root and Celery Monitoring Program

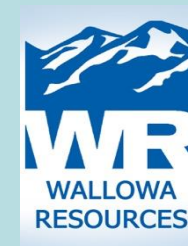
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A collaborative effort driven by
Tribal priorities



Monitoring

Species

- 18 species monitored across permanent plots in the Oregon portions of CTUIR and Nez Perce Tribe's ancestral lands

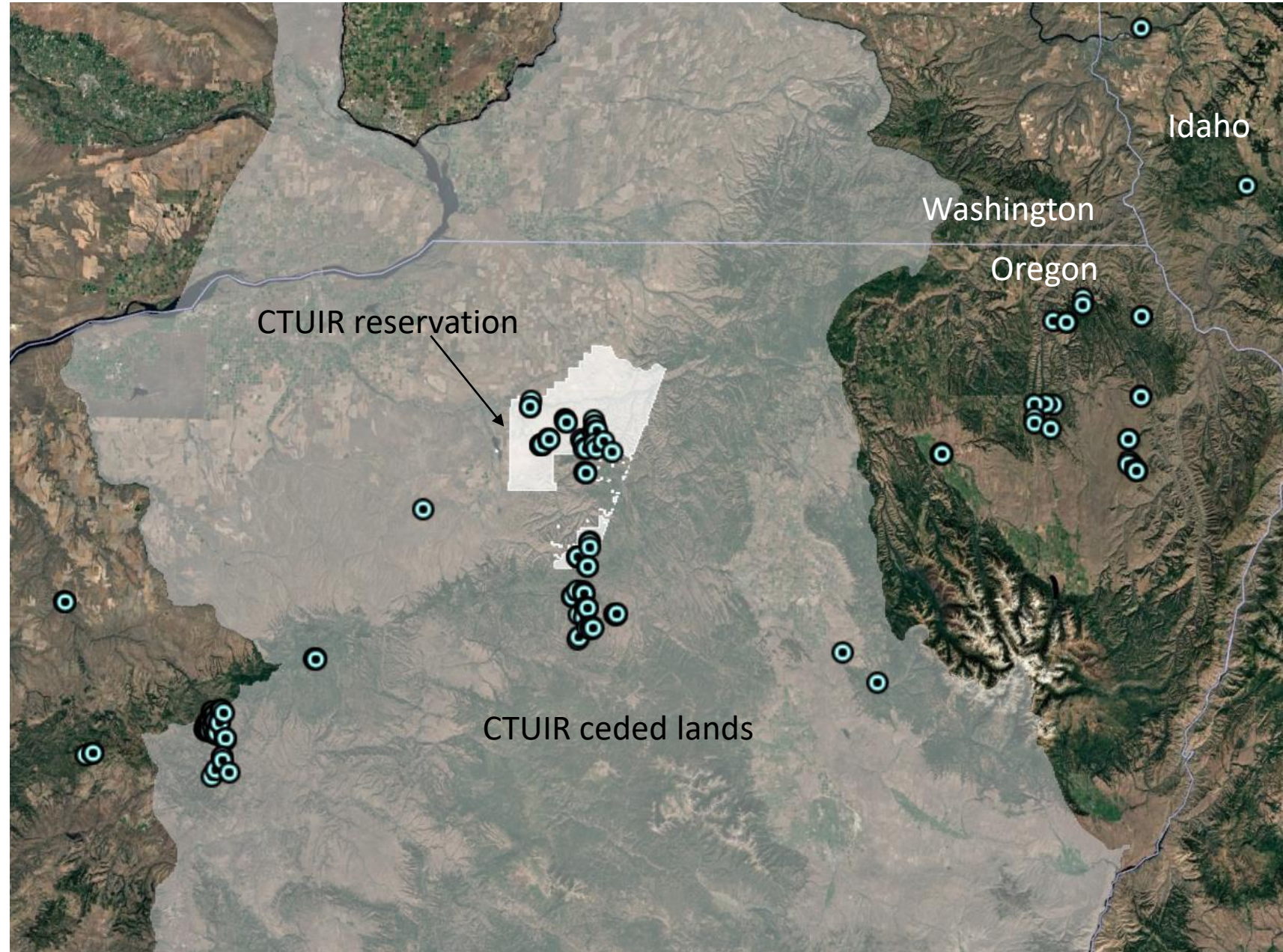
Site Selection

- Consult to identify areas of interest from gatherers, CTUIR, NPT, other available data
- Identify locations of planned treatments
- Select areas to establish monitoring plots



Data protection agreements are embedded in the project ensure confidentiality and protection of sensitive information

Effort spans Tribal,
State, Federal, &
Private lands




Outcomes

- Data gaps and needs being addressed
- Increased recognition of First Foods principles and management across region by various partners
- Agencies are proactively considering First Foods when planning management actions; incorporating monitoring as part of standard practice
- Increased learning opportunities



Summary: First Foods Based Approach to Stewardship

- Holistic, multidisciplinary perspective that is landscape-scale in scope
- Focuses on interactions, relationships and reciprocity – linking places, management and community
- Incorporate many kinds and forms of knowledge
- Supports ecosystem health, productivity and resiliency
- Creates space and opportunity for co-development across boundaries
- Provides a framework to evaluate and prioritize land use, management, conservation and restoration actions / decision making
- Transferrable



We express our gratitude to all who have shared their time, generosity, knowledge and insights in support of these efforts

THANK YOU

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