



CONTEMPORARY USES AND KNOWLEDGE OF PLANTS OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

Yale Forest Forum

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Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

OVERVIEW OF TOPIC

- What are culturally significant plants?
- Who are they important to?
- Contemporary knowledge
- Challenges
- Future considerations



Confederated Tribes of the
Colville Reservation
12 Confederated Bands and their
Aboriginal Territories Pre-1900

12 TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION



- Traditional territories of the Colville Tribes extend across eastern WA, portions of BC, and down into OR and ID,
- ~39 million acres
- Was home to the 12 tribes that make up the present-day Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

- ščəlámxəxw (deep water) or Chelan
- walwáma (Wallowa people) or Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce
- sǰwýʔitp (sharp pointed trees) or Colville
- šntíyátkwəxw (grass in the water) or Entiat
- snʔáyckst (speckled fish) or Lakes
- mətxwu (blunt hills around a valley) or Methow
- škwáxcənəxw (people living on the bank) or Moses-Columbia
- nspilm (prairie) or Nespelem
- uknaqin (seeing over the top) or Okanogan
- palúšpam (people from Palouse) or Palus
- sənpʔwilx (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil
- šnpəšqawáw səxw (people in between) or Wenatchi.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION MISSION



Natural Resource Division mission

To preserve who we are as a people through our cultures and traditions.

To be able to leave to our future generations their right to exercise and protect our tribal sovereignty and promote self-determination.

We will accomplish this by asserting our way of life as a nation in perpetuity, sustaining our natural resources for the benefit of its membership while honoring and respecting one another's uniqueness.

WHAT ARE CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT PLANTS

- Culturally significant plants play a role in traditional beliefs and activities (historically and today)
 - Gathered for:
 - Subsistence
 - Medicine
 - Fibers
 - Ceremonial activities
- They are significant because they play a significant role in tribal members' cultural identity.



12 PLANTS SPECIES OF SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE

Huckleberries

Foamberry

Bitterroot

White camas

Indian potatoes

Indian carrots

Canby's lovage

Black camas

Indian hemp

Tule

Little white camas

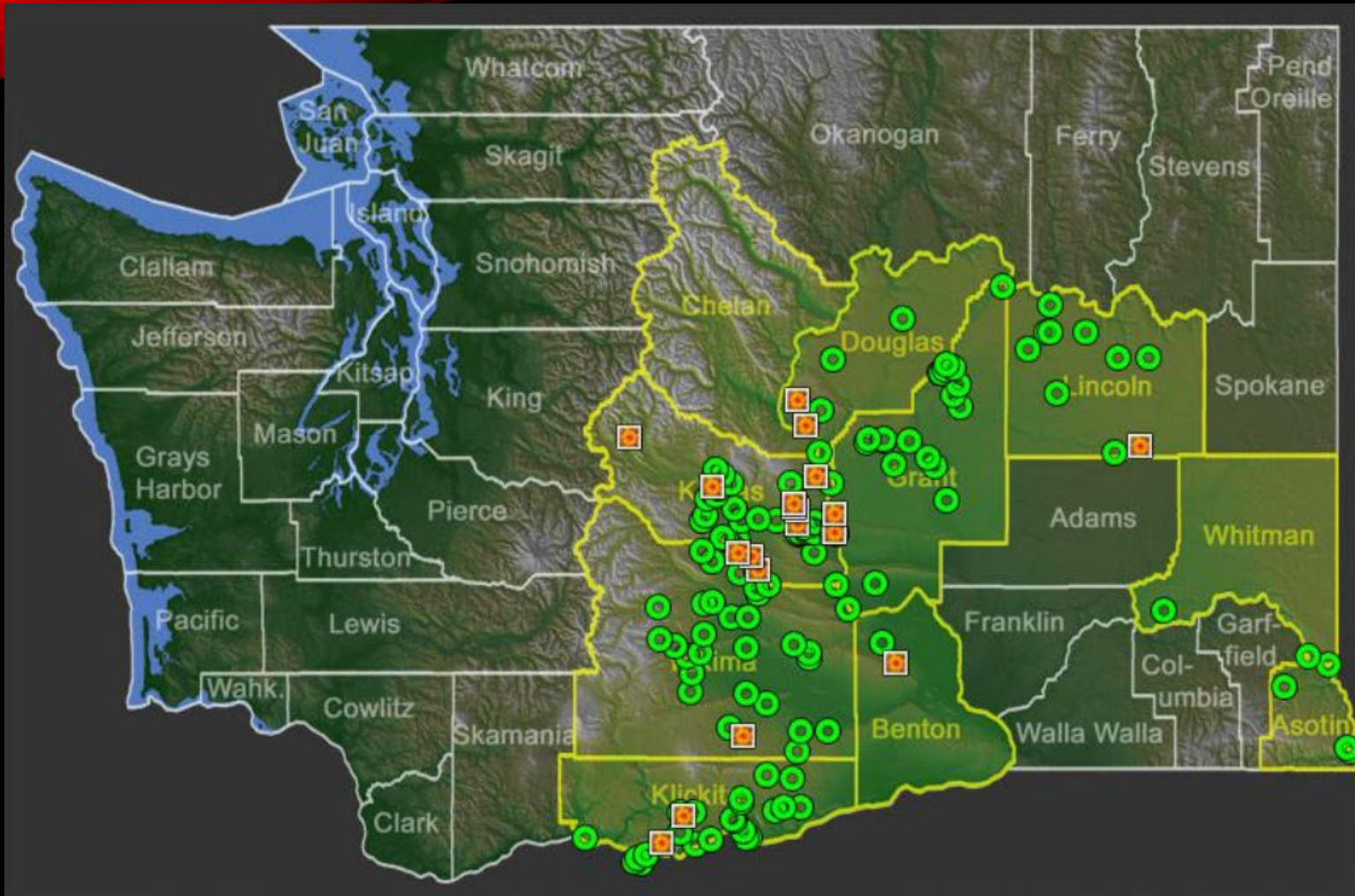
Western sweet cicely



WHITE CAMAS (*LOMATIUM CANBYI*)

- White camas lives in open, rocky or gravelly sites from sagebrush-steppe regions to lower elevations in the mountains
- Associated species include stiff sagebrush, Hood's phlox, Sandberg's bluegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, desert yellow fleabane, buckwheats, pussytoes, Gairdner's penstemon, spikemoss, fameflower, bigseed desert-parsley, upland larkspur, ballhead sandwort & native onions





White camas: Washington State distribution map. Burke Museum Herbarium

Agriculture



Invasive species



Fire exclusion



Climate change



TALL, BIG, BLACK OR THIN-
LEAVED HUCKLEBERRY
(*VACCINIUM MEMBRANACEUM*)



- Tall huckleberry grows from mid to subalpine elevations in the mountains
- Huckleberries prefer cool mountain slopes in open, moist to dry forests; they tolerate nitrogen-poor soils and are often found growing under subalpine fir, larch, Douglas fir & lodgepole pine
- Associated plants include foamberry, sarvisberry, alder, buckbrush, Oregon boxwood, kinnikinnick, thimbleberry, gray willow, red twinberry, white spirea, twinflower & strawberries

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The Wenatchi (P'Squosa) Territory

Posted on June 23, 2016 by wvegeorge



"In the fall of 1980, Moses George rode on horseback through the NW part of the Wenatchi (P'Squosa) Territory. He and T.B. Charley, another tribal member, were asked by the U.S. Forest Service to look for areas that had previously grown huckleberries. They rode to the Chiwawa Ridge along Raging Creek from the Chiwawa River Road. Chiwawa Ridge is about 2,300 feet elevation with Twin Lakes of Raging Creek and School Lake to the north. Moses was on Dusty, a Forest Service horse, as he overlooked the valley.

He told the Forest Service that the whole area was full of huckleberries in the old days. But the dense under growth has pushed out the berries.

Indians in the past used prescribed fires to contain the brush and limit the fire danger."

CHALLENGES

- Current land management practices are less focused on traditional plant species as a driving management goal
- Finite management resources
- Monitoring procedures
- Land ownership
- Tribal stewardship vs. Tribal co-management
- Changing tribal use (gathering pressure) and the historical/current abundance of some plants
- Lack of propagation knowledge
- Seed banks
- Climate change impacts
- Tribal reluctance to share information (members or tribal programs, federal regulations)



FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- Improve information sharing
- Education
- Seed banks
- Bridge between government and tribal programs
- Lands back



Lámlamt'

(Thank you)

Questions?