

Incorporating Traditional Values in Forest Management



What I plan to cover

To understand First Nations values you first need to understand the culture, governance and history of the local First Nation.

Morals and history are past on by oral history.

What are some First Nations values in Forest Management and How do we manage for them?

Ecosystem Based Management

Fire as a tool on the land

Frame of reference

The term “traditional values” is similar to “Indigenous Knowledge” and “Traditional Ecological Knowledge” and is based on the science of natural law using observation, reasoning, local experience, and is influenced by culture and spiritual way aboriginal people look at their ecosystems.

This presentation will be discussed from a Secwepemc perspective and with upmost respect to each individual Indigenous Nation that have their own unique morals and values on the land.

Understanding First Nation Values

- Keepers of the land – Many FN they are gifted by the good creator and believe it is their responsibility to look after the land.
- Managing for 7 generations
- Spiritual connection to the land through culture and language
- Intensive land management
- The role of Governance in land management – Matriarchal society with Women as the knowledge keepers.
- Oral histories – morals and history past on through Tl'esa7 and coyote stories and legends

Oral history

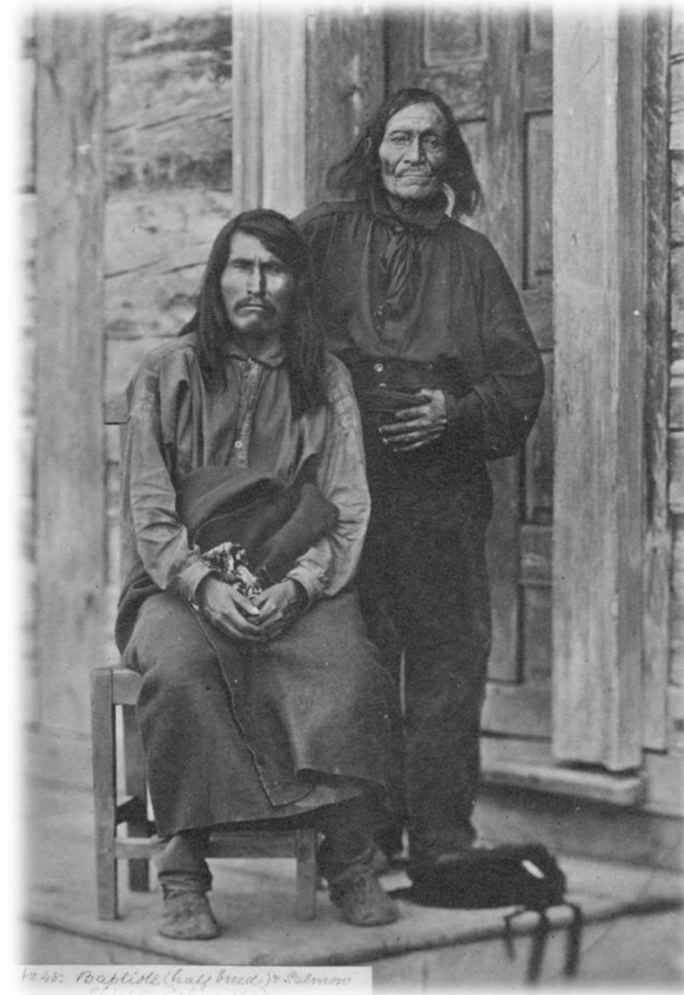
- Morals and history past on through Coyote stories and legends
- Women are the knowledge keepers
- Traditional knowledge is being lost due to alienation from lands and loss of culture
- First Nations have collected TUS interviews with elders
- The Story of Worm
- The Story of Coyote breaking the dams and allowing the Salmon to swim up stream.

Movements on the land

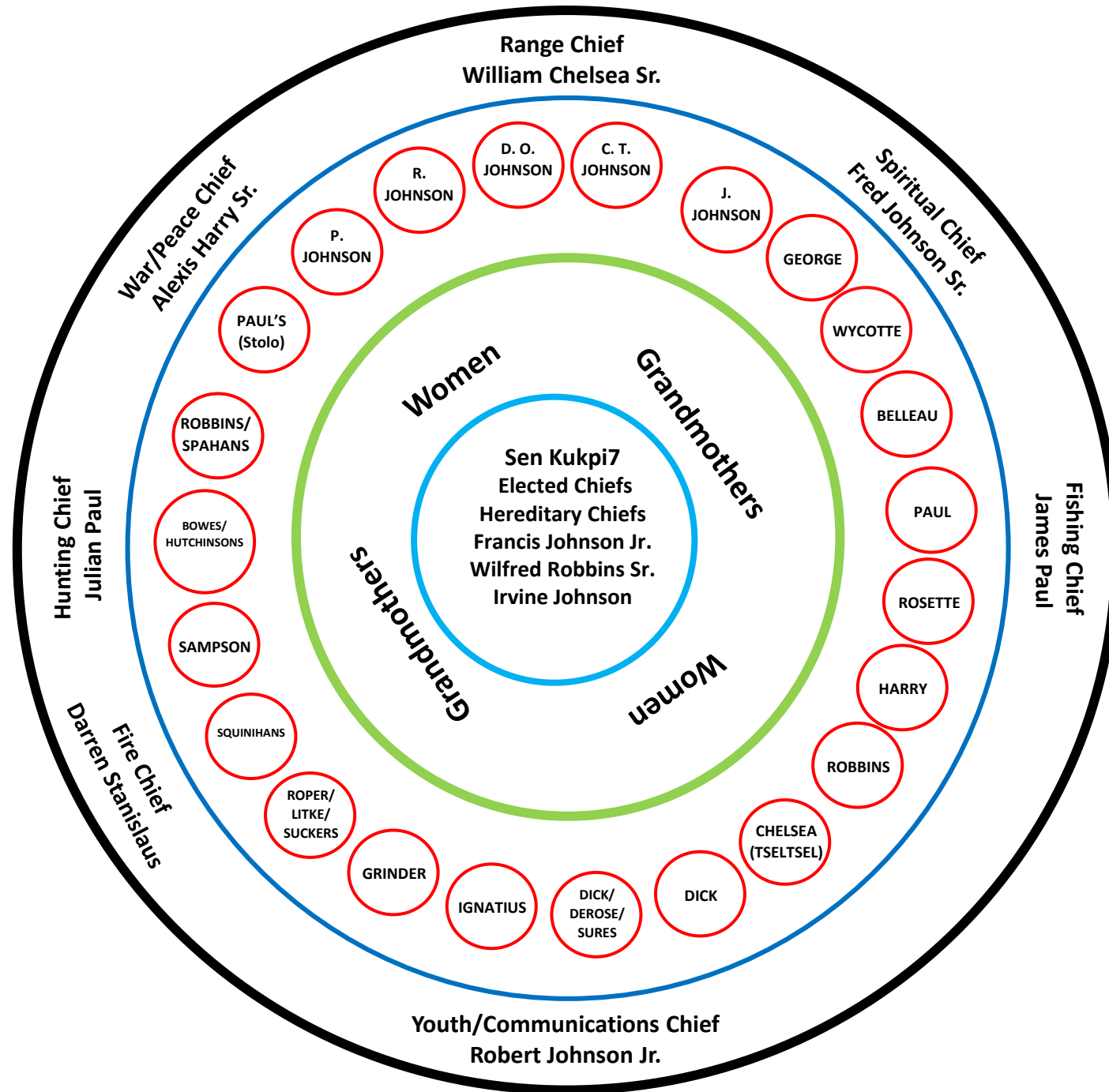
Movements were dependant on seasonal availability of resources through gathering, hunting and fishing.

- Spring – trout lakes, Summer – River for salmon, Fall – mountains for hunting, Winter camps along river or valleys.
- Required several Biogeoclimatic zones which produced required plants and medicines
- Traditional Fishing economy of trade – eg salmon and dentalium shells
- Intensive land management because at population carrying capacity

Chiefs (Task Manager) were appointed for a specific task based on individuals expertise in an area. There were “Chiefs” who were appointed by elders or women to manage Hunting, Fishing, War, Dances and Ceremony, Fire, berry picking/root gathering sites, or any other specific task that required expertise.

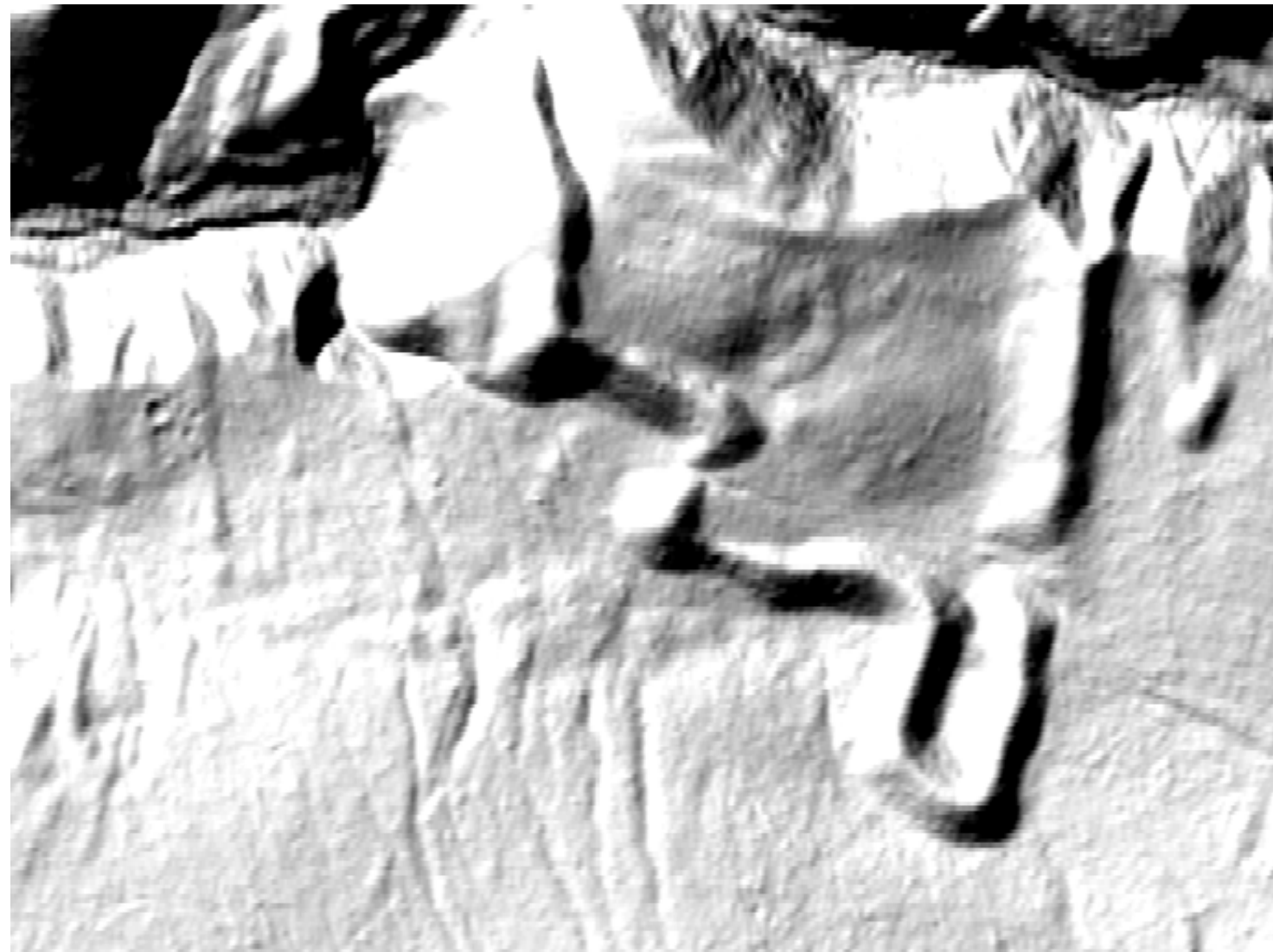


(Photo: Kamloops Salmon Chief 1861)



What are the traditional Values in Forest Management?

- Many of the values on the land have to identified by the local First Nation using their TUS.
- Fire
- Archaeology – past villages, deer fences, trails, key mountains, burial sites and fasting and prayer sites.
- Foods and medicines
- Areas of high use – hunting and fishing areas
- Protection of water
- Protection of important ecosystem



Traditional food and medicines

Managing specific values on the land are based off Traditional Use Studies (TUS).

- Food resources: Roots (Arrow leaved balsam root) and wild potatoes, Blueberries, Labrador tea, soapberries, and saskatoons.
- Tool making resources: such as birch bark, basalt and obsidian quarries
- Medicines: balsam bark, Indian Hellbore, Devils club, and red willow



Putting First Nations values on the land is the closest to Ecosystem Based Management

- Values are managed not as just patches, but as a whole ecosystem
- Managing for values are specific to plant species, cultural sites, or values on the land
- Partial cutting in Douglas-fir – take 1 leave 4
- Water and watersheds

Fire – traditional burning



Questions

