

# INCORPORATING TRADITIONAL VALUES IN FOREST MANAGEMENT



Presented by:

T7exwemnesq't ~ Francis  
Johnson, RPF

Community of Esk'et

Alkali Resource  
Management

# OVERVIEW

What do First Nations value?

To understand First Nations values you first need to understand their worldview based on their culture, language, governance and history of the local First Nation.

What is Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Ecosystem Based Management?

First Nation Laws, Morals and history are passed on by oral history.

How are we re-introducing First Nations values in Forest management?

- Putting fire back on the land
- Re-emergence of Culture, Language and Ceremony on the land.



boundaries.

The North Eastern Boundary was defined in 1824. The Newwagwag people traditionally lived as far east as Jasper and Hinton, Alberta. In 1824, the Piegan and Crow attacked the Mountain Newwagwag. The survivors moved to Teton House Cache. In the influenza epidemic of 1919, most of the Newwagwag people died. The survivors moved to the Shingwagwag on the North Saskatchewan and to Kamloops. The Newwagwag still gather food and hunt in their traditional territory between McBride and Jasper.

The Eastern boundary was shifted in the 1980s. The Newswomen have always been on good terms with the Keweenaw Tribe. The Newswomen have always hunted in the upper Keweenaw valley in the fall time. At early winter caught the Newswomen hunted near Gullies. Several Newswomen's Gullies has moved previously in the Inshore area and the community is called the Shorway Band.

- Number: 1-0000-0000

[illegible]

## KEY FIRST NATIONS CONCEPTS

- Spiritual connection to the land. The land is our Mother.
- Ceremony and prayer on the land
- 4 directions, 4 races of man, 4 elements, 4 seasons,
- 7 sacred laws, 7 generations,

## WHAT IS TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE?

The term “Indigenous Knowledge” is similar to “Traditional Knowledge” and “Traditional Ecological Knowledge” and is based on the science of natural law using observation, reasoning, local experience, and is influenced by a culture and spirituality and the worldview that our ecosystems are related and interconnected. Given aspects of TEK, the concept can fall outside the realm of science.

## WHAT IS ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT?

Is an environmental management approach that recognizes the full array of interactions within an ecosystem, including humans, rather than considering single issues, species, or ecosystem services in isolation.

For First Nations the key philosophy is all things on the land are connected through the creator.

Limitations: the philosophy and practice is not readily available to those with formal science training. Gained through cultural immersion and direct experience over time.



## 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

## 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, and the 7 Sacred Laws
- Spiritual connection to the land through culture and language
- Intensive land management and required diverse ecosystems
- The role of Governance in land management – Matriarchal society with Women as the knowledge keepers.
- Oral histories – morals and history past on through Tll'esa7 and coyote stories and legends
- Traditional laws



## 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 and important ecosystems

# MOVEMENTS ON THE LAND

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

Spring – trout lakes, Summer – River for salmon, Fall – mountains for hunting, Winter camps along river or valleys.

- Required several Biogeoclimatic zones  
Traditional Fishing economy of trade – eg salmon and dentalium shells
- Intensive land management because at population carrying capacity



# 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



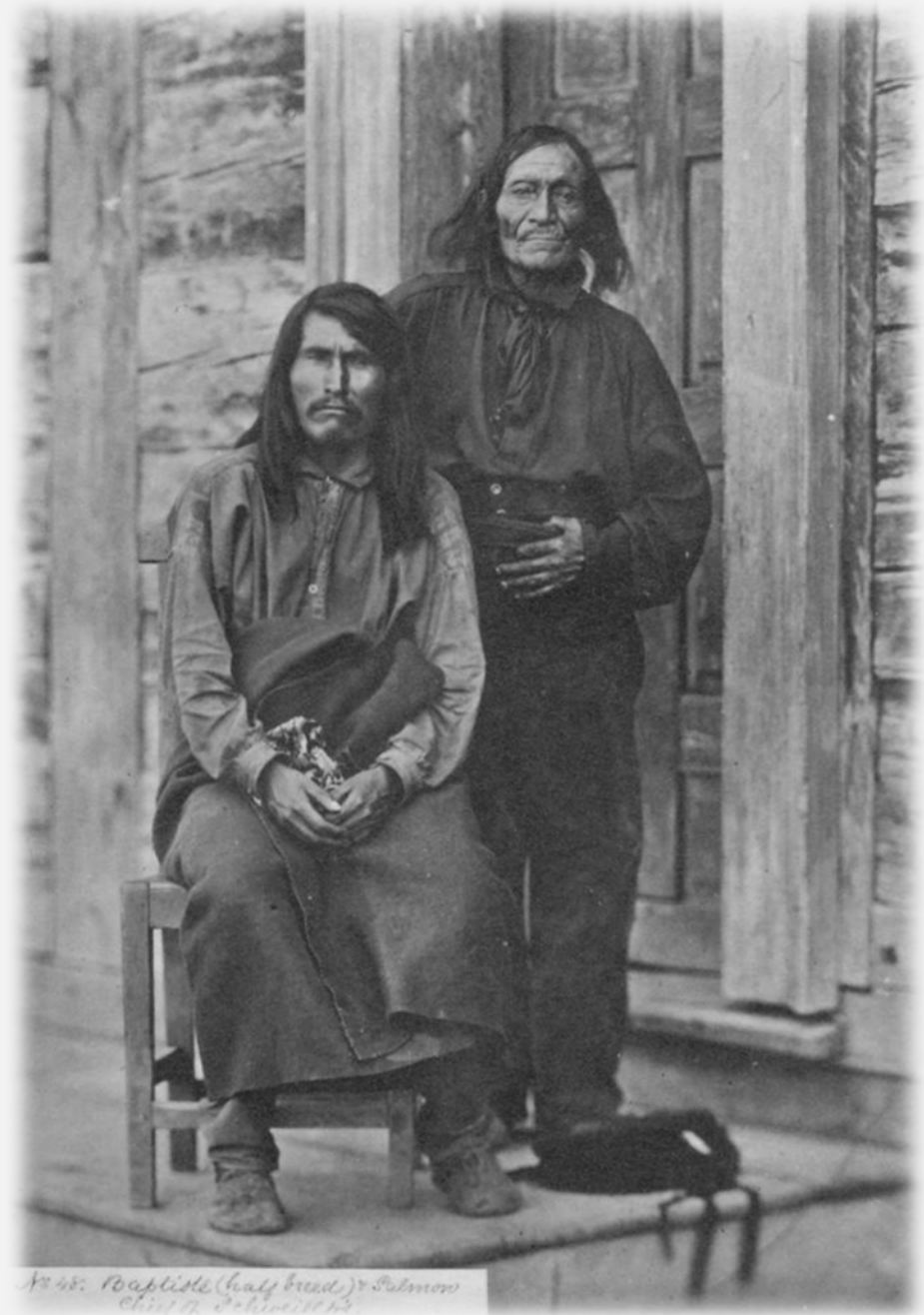
## ORAL HISTORY

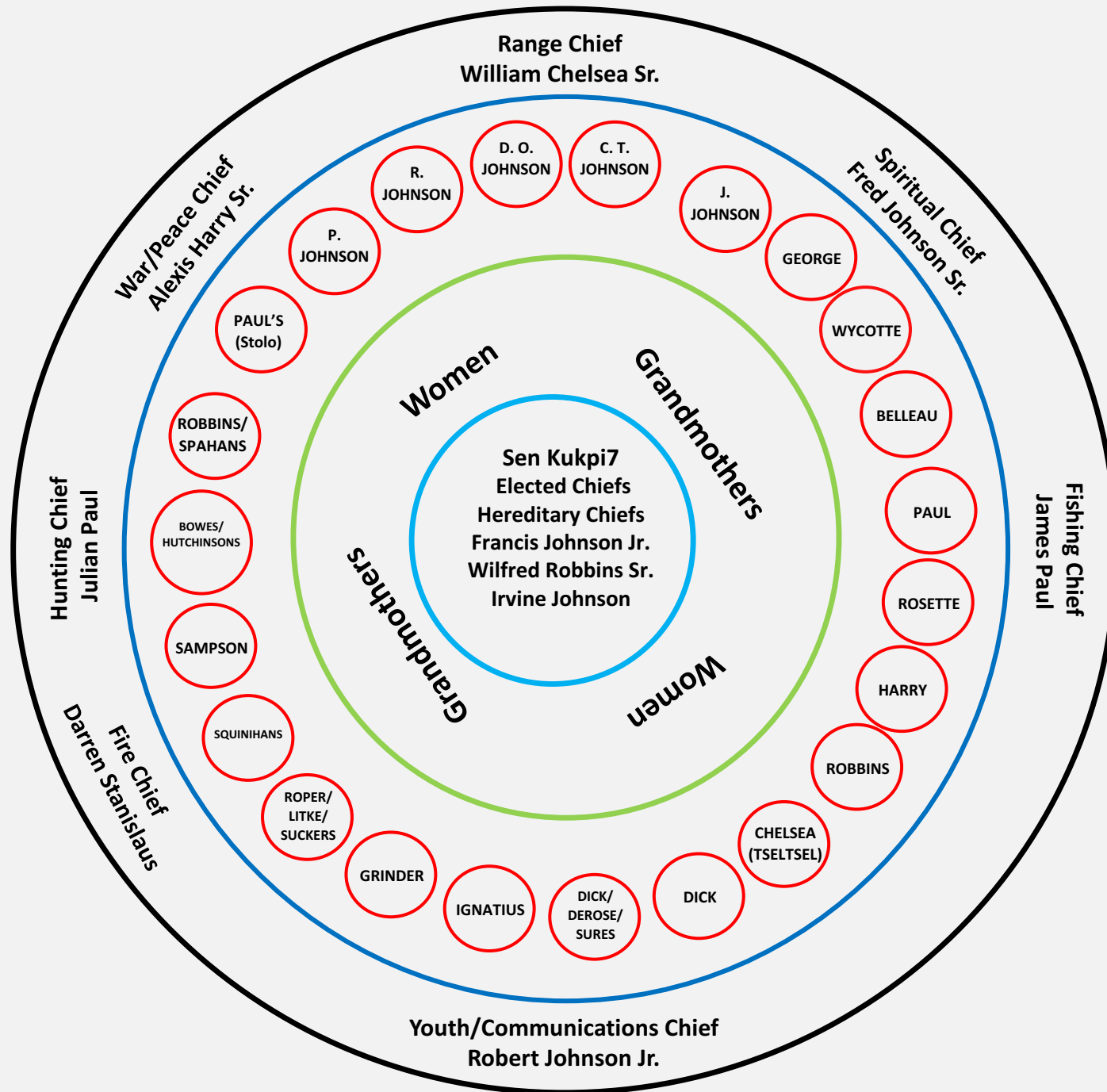
- Morals and history past on through Coyote stories and legends
- Women are the knowledge keepers
- Traditional knowledge is being lost due to alienation from lands and loss of culture
- First Nations have collected TUS interviews with elders
- The Story of Coyote breaking the dams and allowing the Salmon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



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)

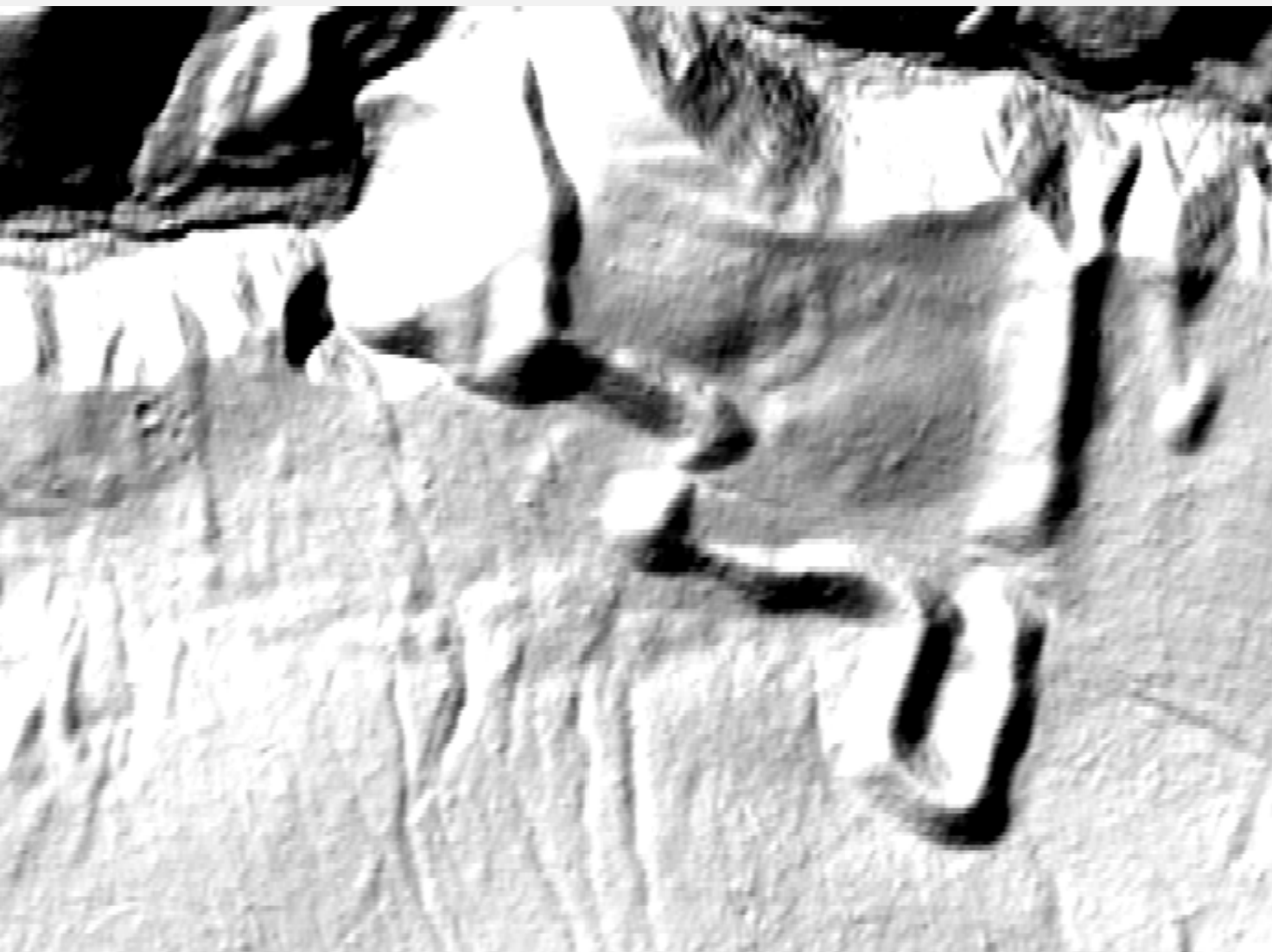




## HOW ARE FN USING NEW TECHNOLOGY ALONG WITH TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE TO MANGE THE LAND?

- LiDAR
- Western science of fire, ecology,
- First Nation have to be adaptable











# KUKSTSETSEMC

