

6-29-'48

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# A [Very] Brief History of Salmon And People Along the Banks of The Alsea River, Oregon

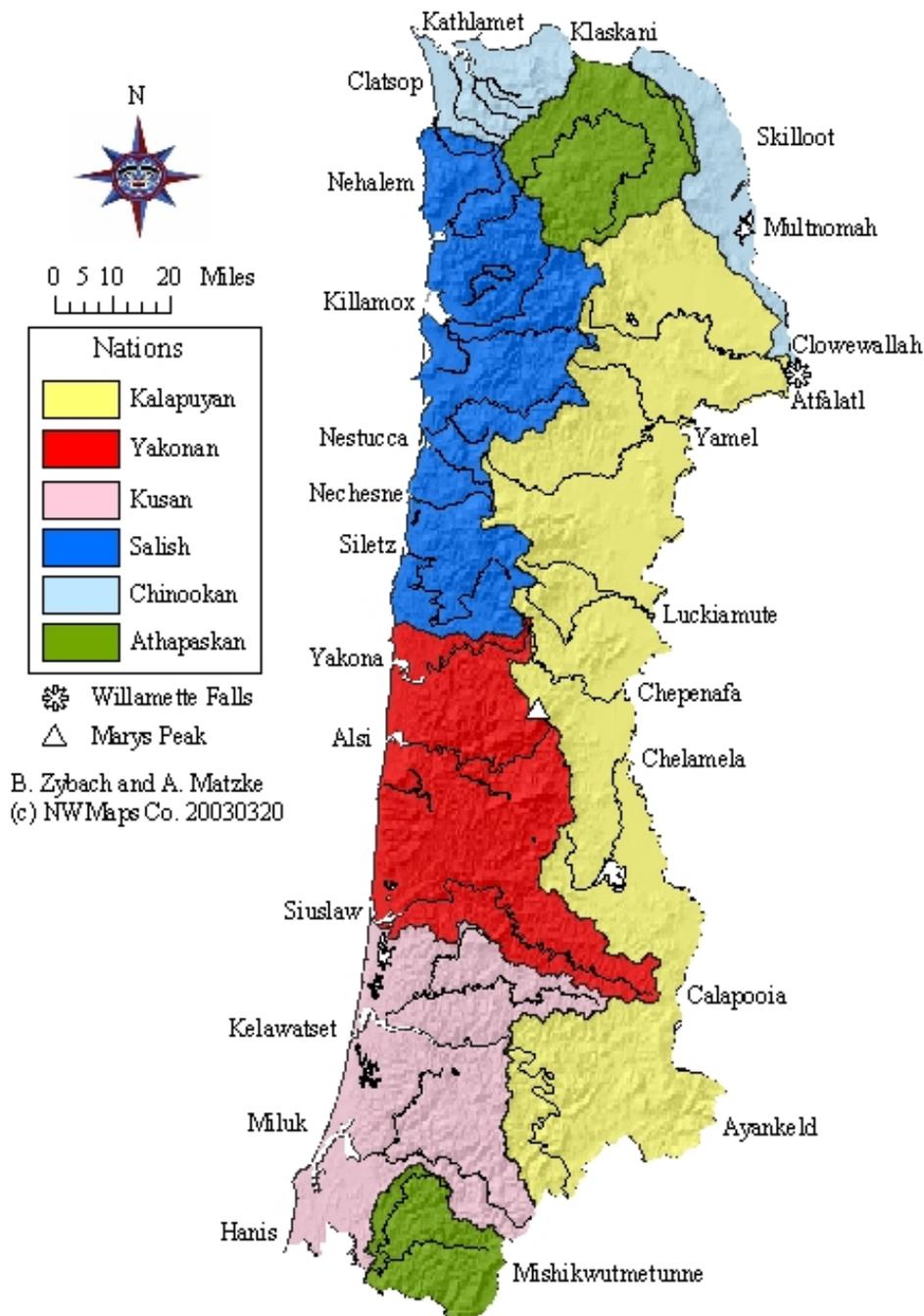
Presented by Dr. Bob Zybach  
To the Alsea Watershed Council  
Alsea Hope Grange Hall,  
Alsea, Oregon, April 28, 2011

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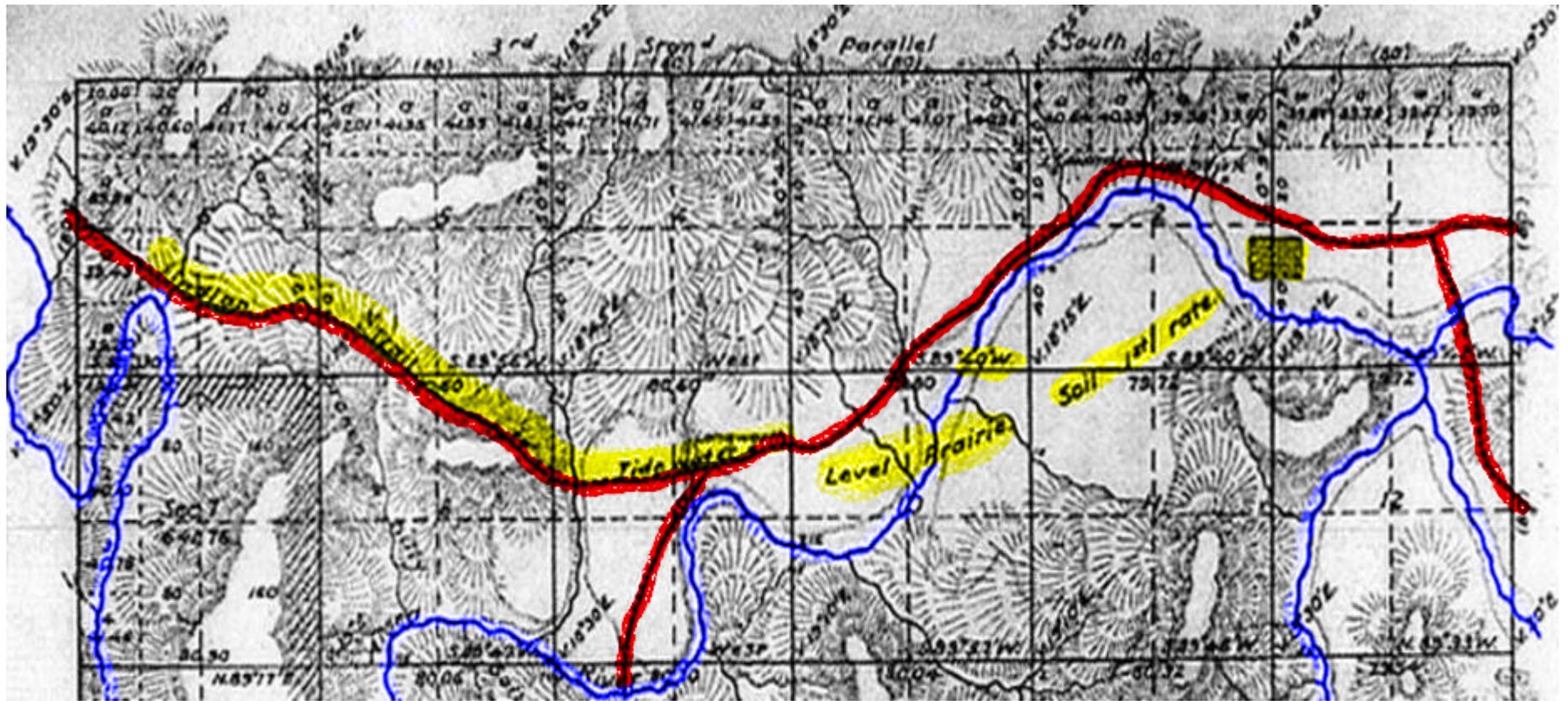


YAQUINA BAY—INDIANS' FULL DRESS.

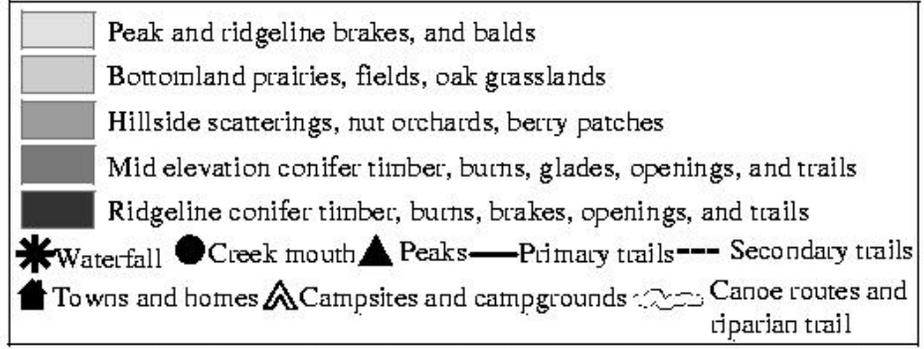
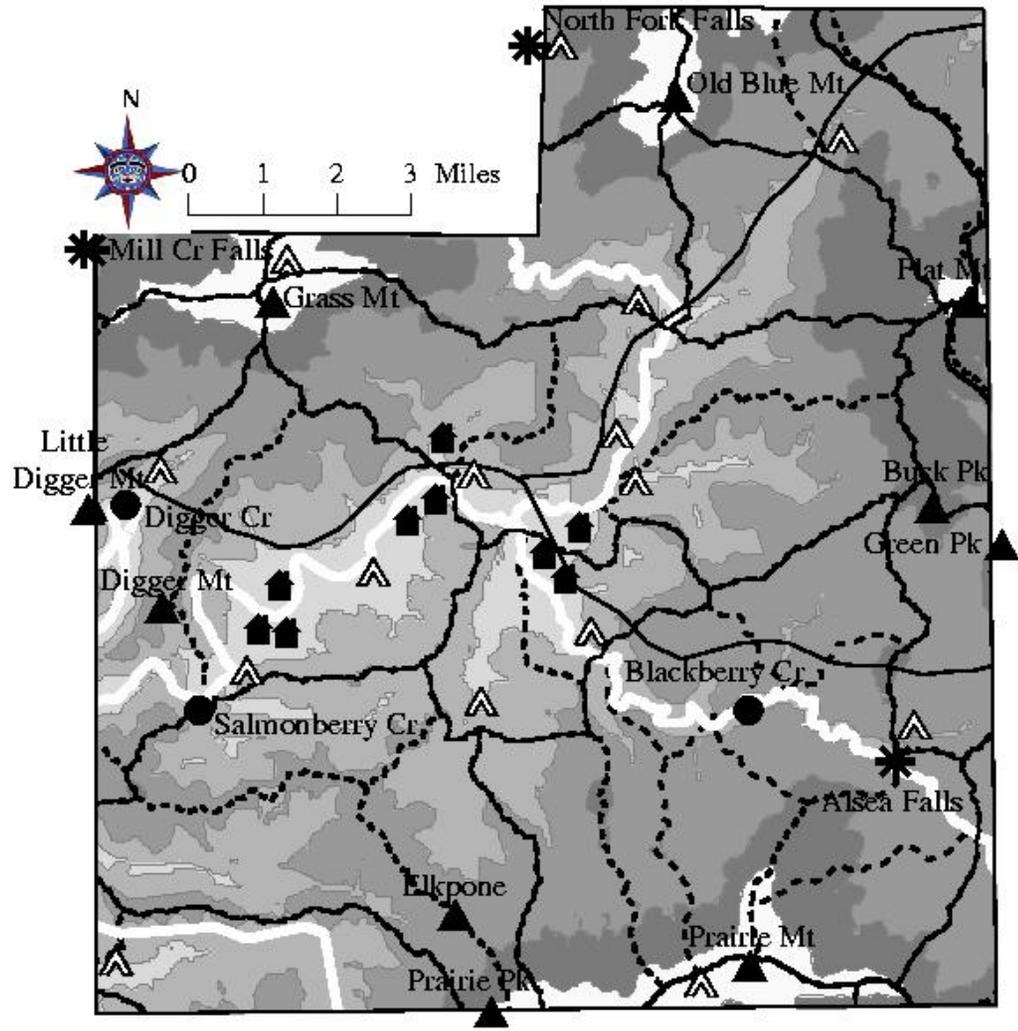




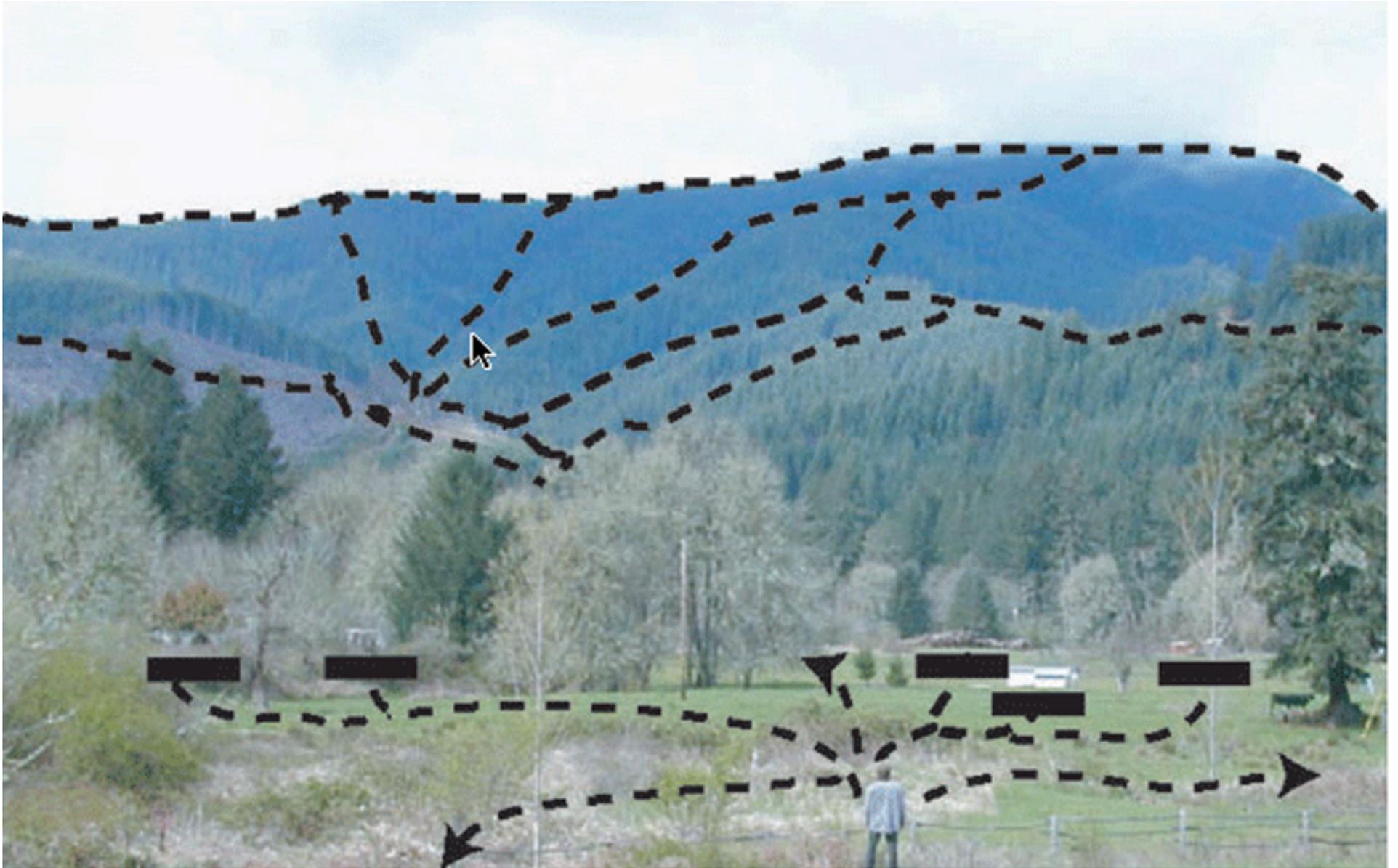
Tribe	Language	River
<b>Northern</b>		
<u>Clowewallah</u>	Chinookan	Willamette
<u>Multnomah</u>	Chinookan	Willamette
<u>Kathlamet</u>	Chinookan	Columbia
<u>Clatsop</u>	Chinookan	<u>Youngs</u>
<u>Klaskani</u>	Athapaskan	Clatskanie
<u>Nehalem</u>	Salish	Nehalem
<b>Eastern</b>		
<u>Atfalatl</u>	Kalapuyan	Tualatin
<u>Yamel</u>	Kalapuyan	Yamhill
<u>Luckiamute</u>	Kalapuyan	Luckiamute
<u>Chepenafa</u>	Kalapuyan	Marys
<u>Chelamela</u>	Kalapuyan	Long Tom
<u>Calapooia</u>	Kalapuyan	Willamette
<b>Western</b>		
<u>Killamox</u>	Salish	Tillamook
<u>Nestucca</u>	Salish	Nestucca
<u>Nechesne</u>	Salish	Salmon
<u>Siletz</u>	Salish	Siletz
<u>Yakona</u>	Yakonan	Yaquina
<u>Alsi</u>	Yakonan	Alea
<u>Siuslaw</u>	Yakonan	Siuslaw
<b>Southern</b>		
<u>Ayankeld</u>	Kalapuyan	Umpqua
<u>Kelawatset</u>	Kusan	Umpqua
<u>Hanis</u>	Kusan	Coos
<u>Miluk</u>	Kusan	Coquille
<u>Mishikwutmetunne</u>	Athapaskan	Coquille



- *"There is a plain Indian trail leading from this township to tide water on the Alseya, which is said to be quite passable for horses. The Indians however generally travel it in their canoes from a point near the west line of the township and frequently from near the east line of the same."* --Dennis Hathorn, GLO, 1856



F.K. Lake, B. Zybach, and A. Matzke (c) NWMaps Co. 20030422

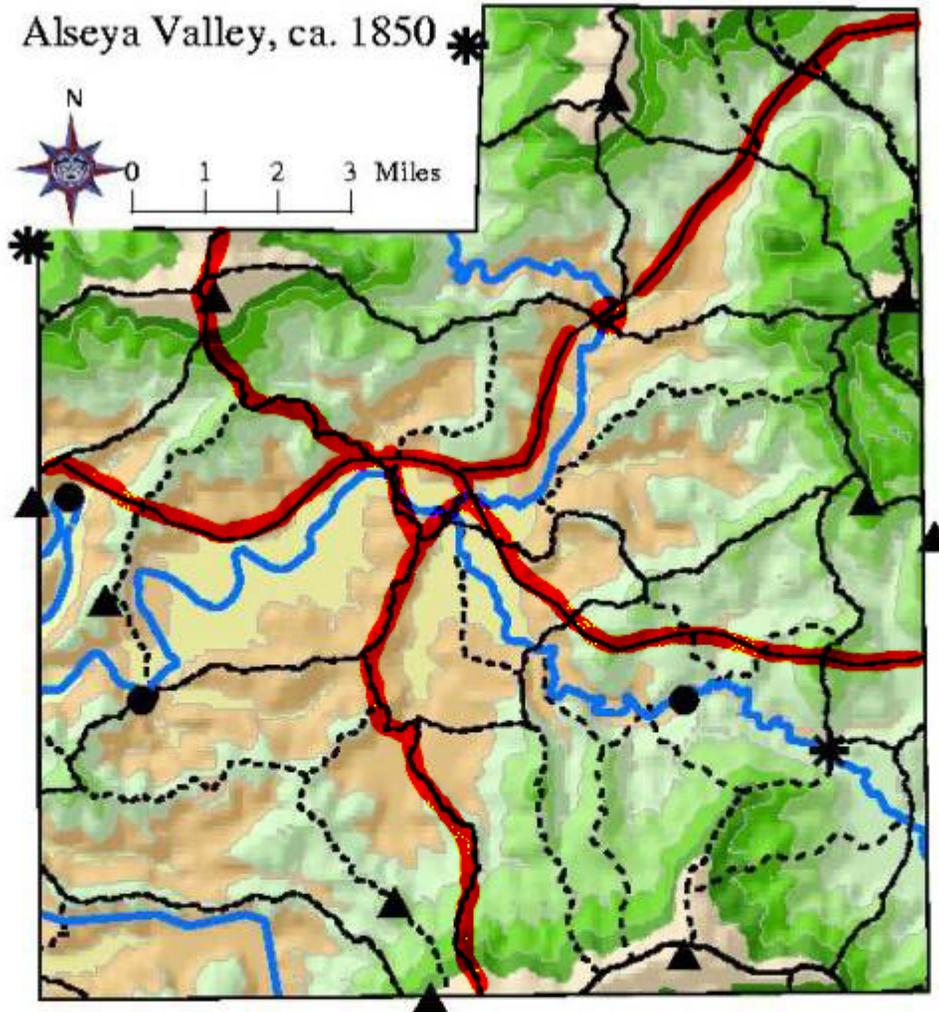


**Alsea Valley North Fork Prairie Trail Network,  
1775-2003**

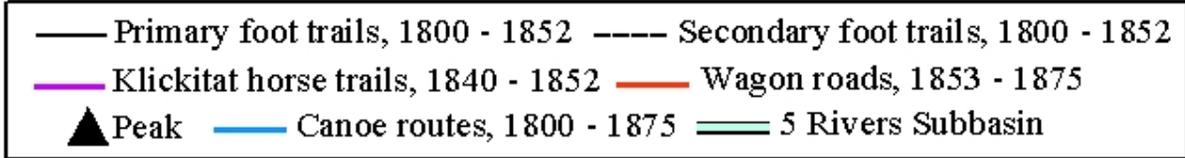
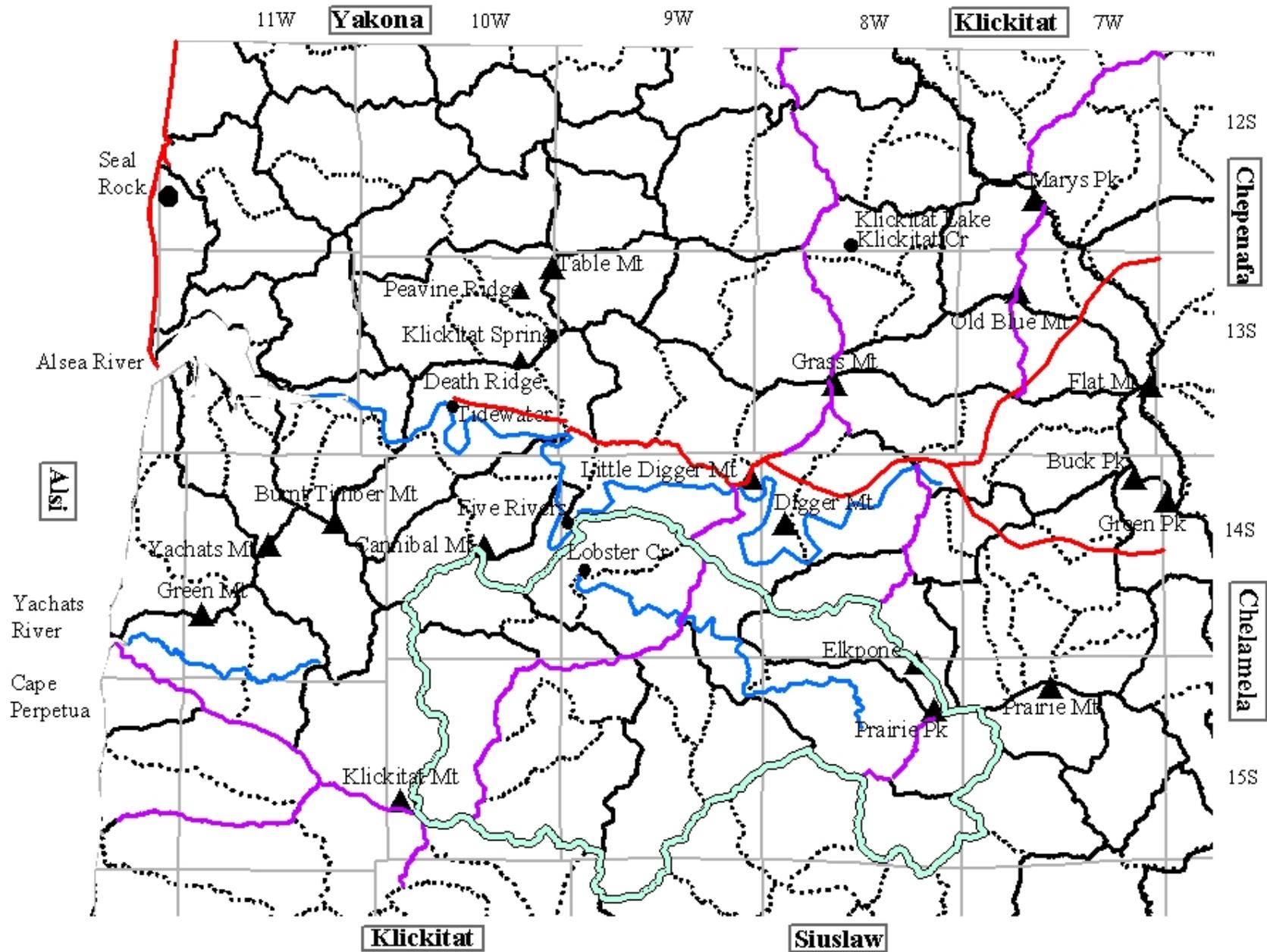
# NF Alsea River Crossing Rock Late Summer, ca. 1800



# Alseya Valley, ca. 1850

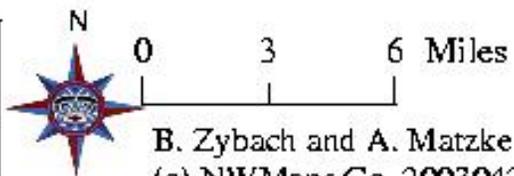
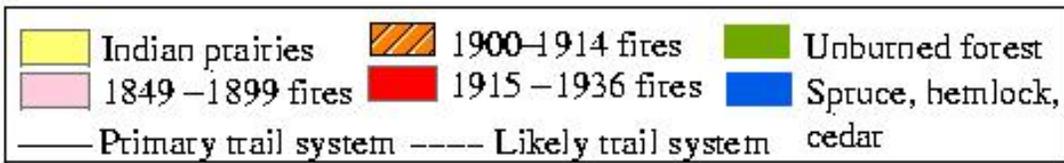
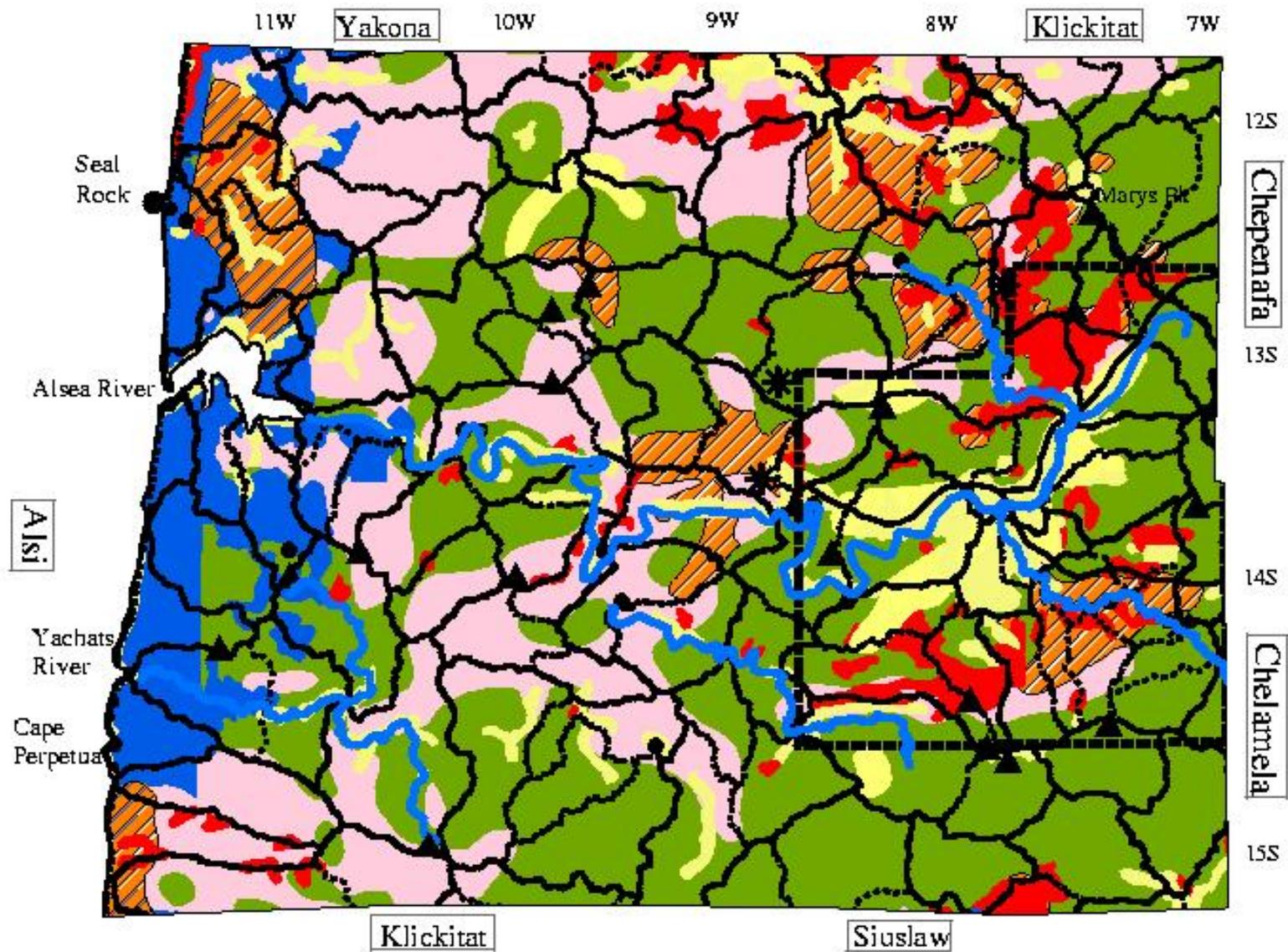


- Bottomland prairies, fields, oak grasslands
- Hillside scatterings, groves, clusters, patches, and thickets
- Low elevation conifer timber, burns, glades, and openings
- Mid elevation conifer timber, burns, glades, and openings
- High elevation conifer timber, burns, brakes, and openings
- Ridgeline conifer timber, burns, brakes, and openings
- Peak and ridgeline brakes, balds, meadows, and prairies
- Waterfall
- River mouth
- Peaks
- Primary trails
- Secondary trails



0 1.5 3 Miles

B. Zybach and A. Matzke  
(c) NWMaps Co. 20040316



***“Alsea Valley (ts !iphaha), back in the coast ranges, was a place to which many people went in summer to harvest camas and other wild crops.” (Drucker 1933)***



# Lobster Valley homestead, ca. 1900



# Aerial Photographs

Alsea, Oregon  
June 29, 1948



# Alsea Valley, 2003



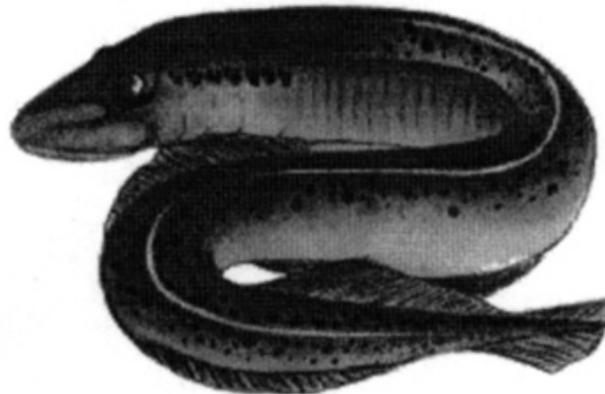




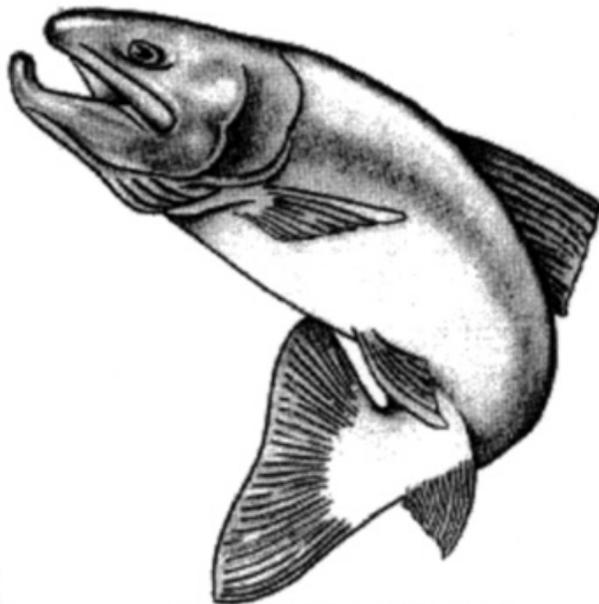
**CHINOOK**



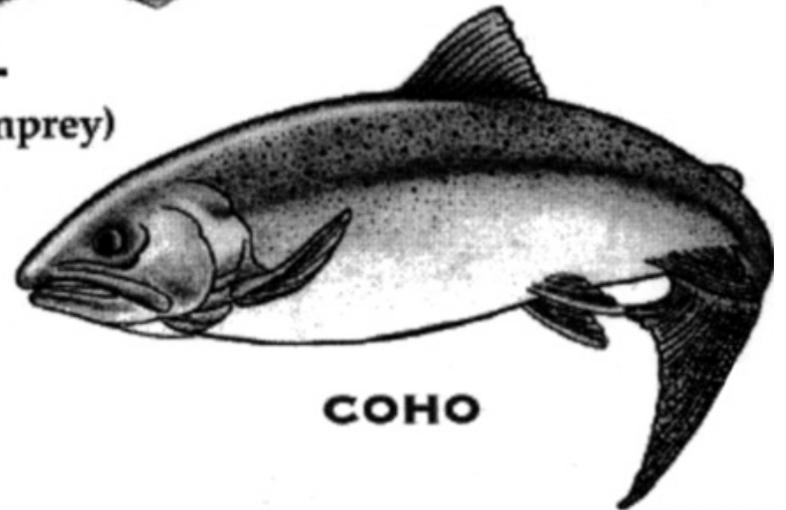
**SOCKEYE**



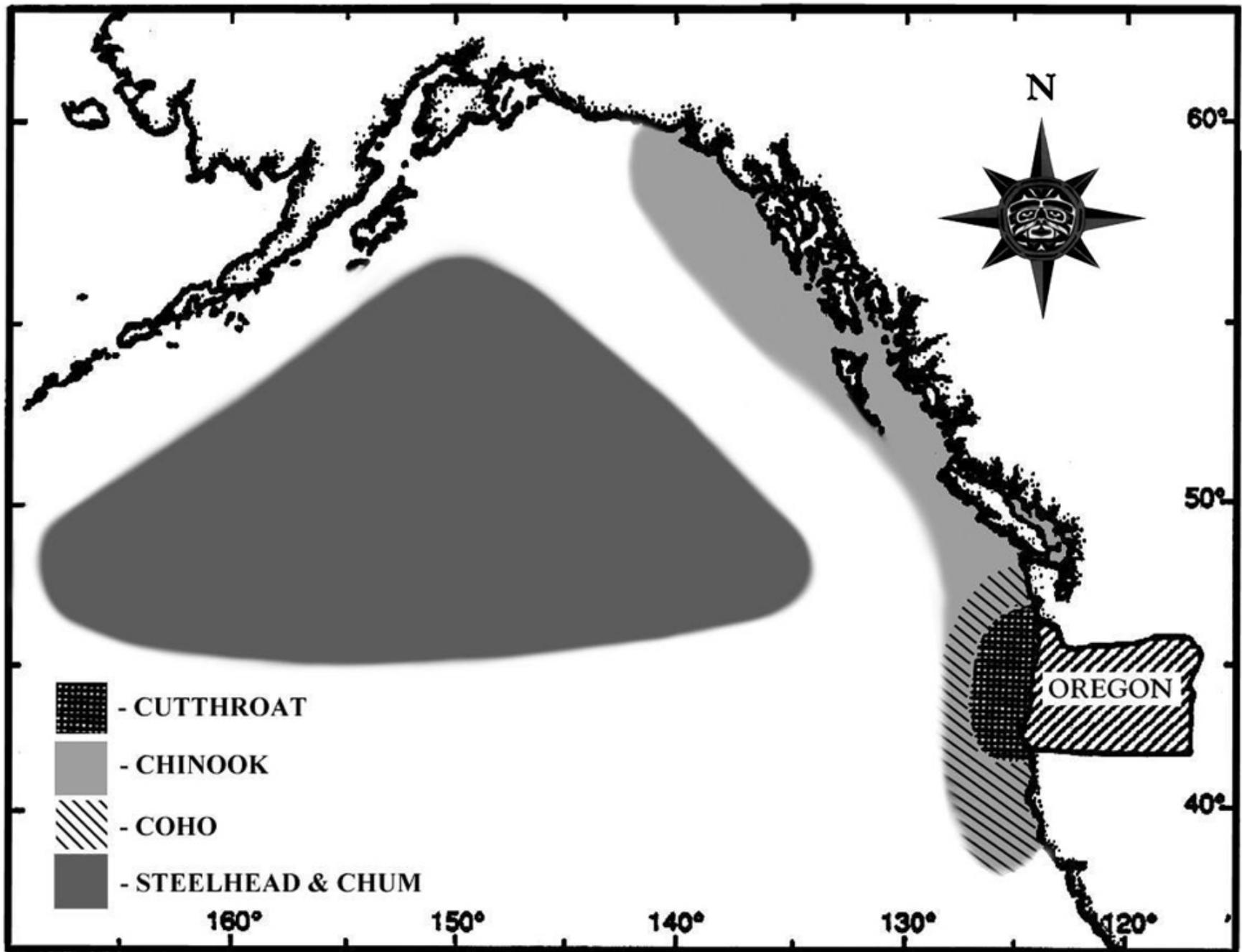
**EEL**  
(Pacific lamprey)



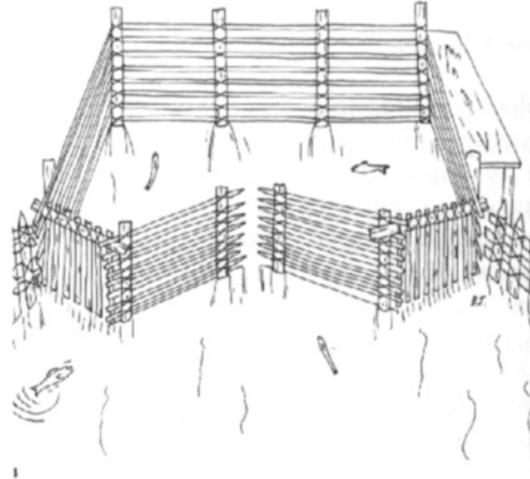
**STEELHEAD**



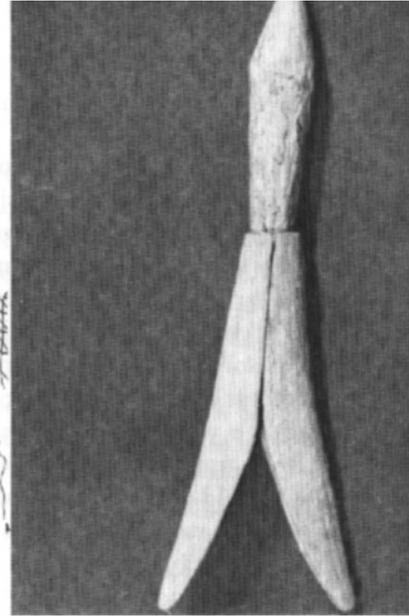
**COHO**



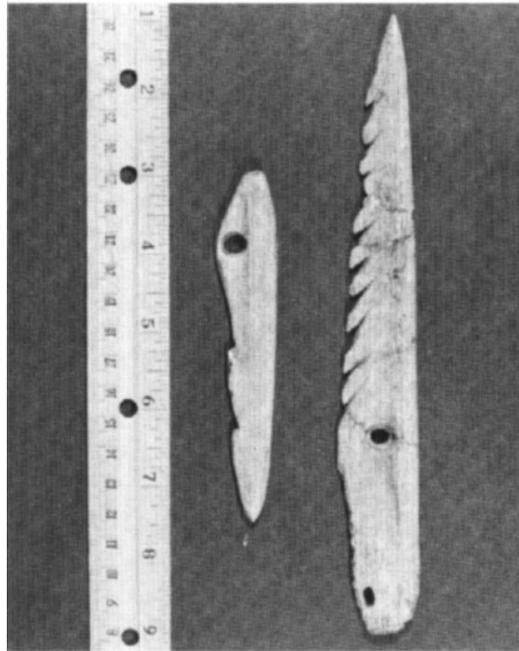




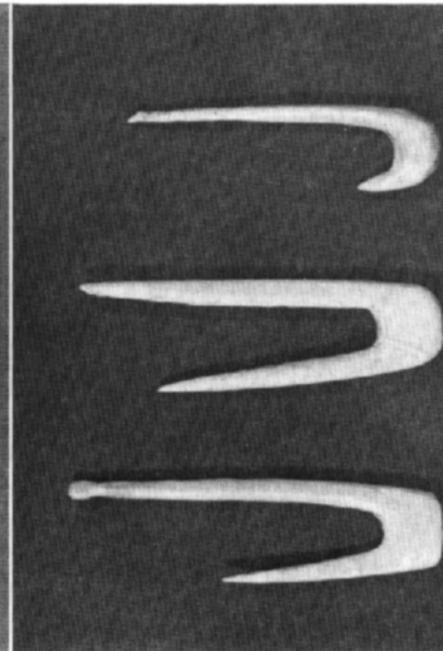
Fish-trap drawing.



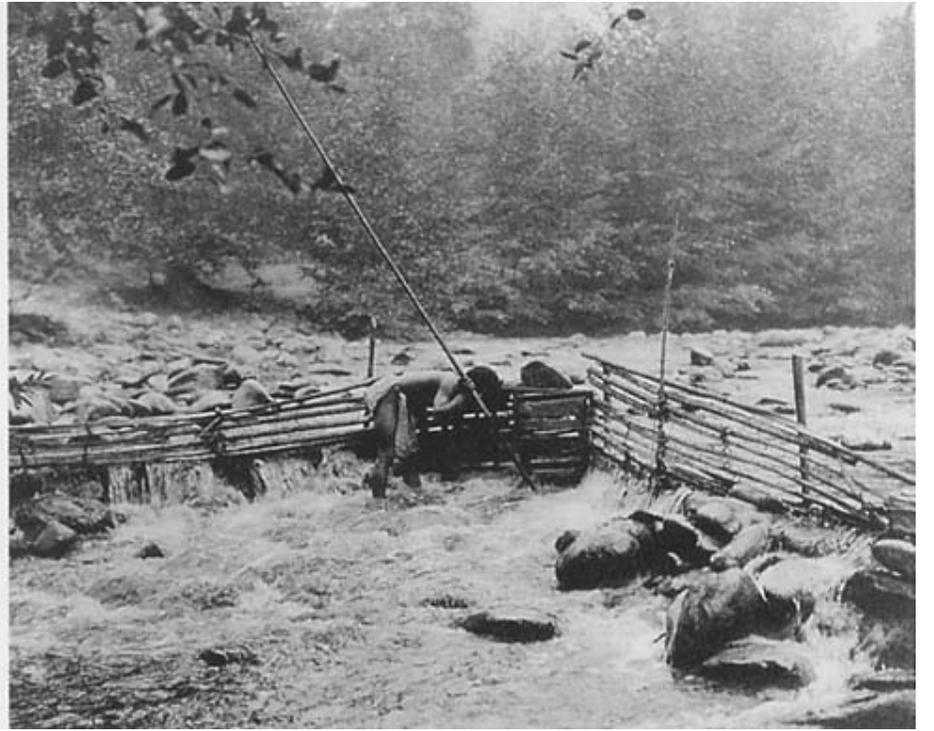
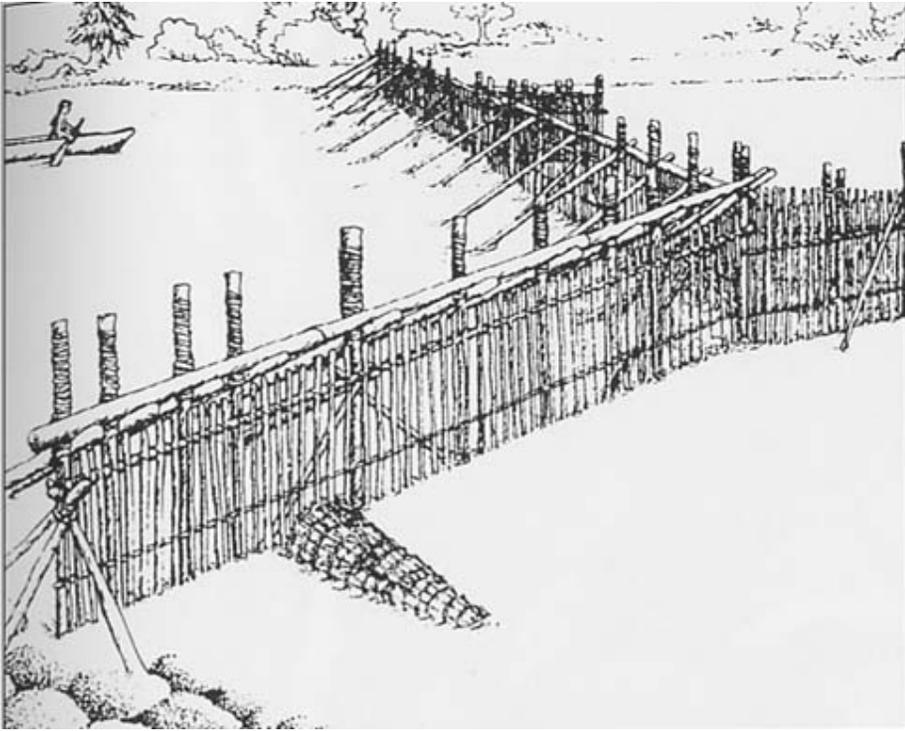
Three-piece bone harpoon head,  
glued together to show original usage.



Solid bone harpoon heads.



Bone fishhooks.



**Another letter has just come to hand from Suislaw which is some thirty five (35) or forty (40) miles lower down on the Coast, stating that there is trouble at that point between the Whites and Indians, relative to the rights of each party about the fishing grounds. As stated, the Indians persist on putting Fish traps along the River and across, thereby preventing the Fish from going up stream and so the supply is cut off from the Whites farther up this water course.**

**E A Swan, U S Indian Agent  
Toledo, Benton Co., Oregon  
July 19, 1879**

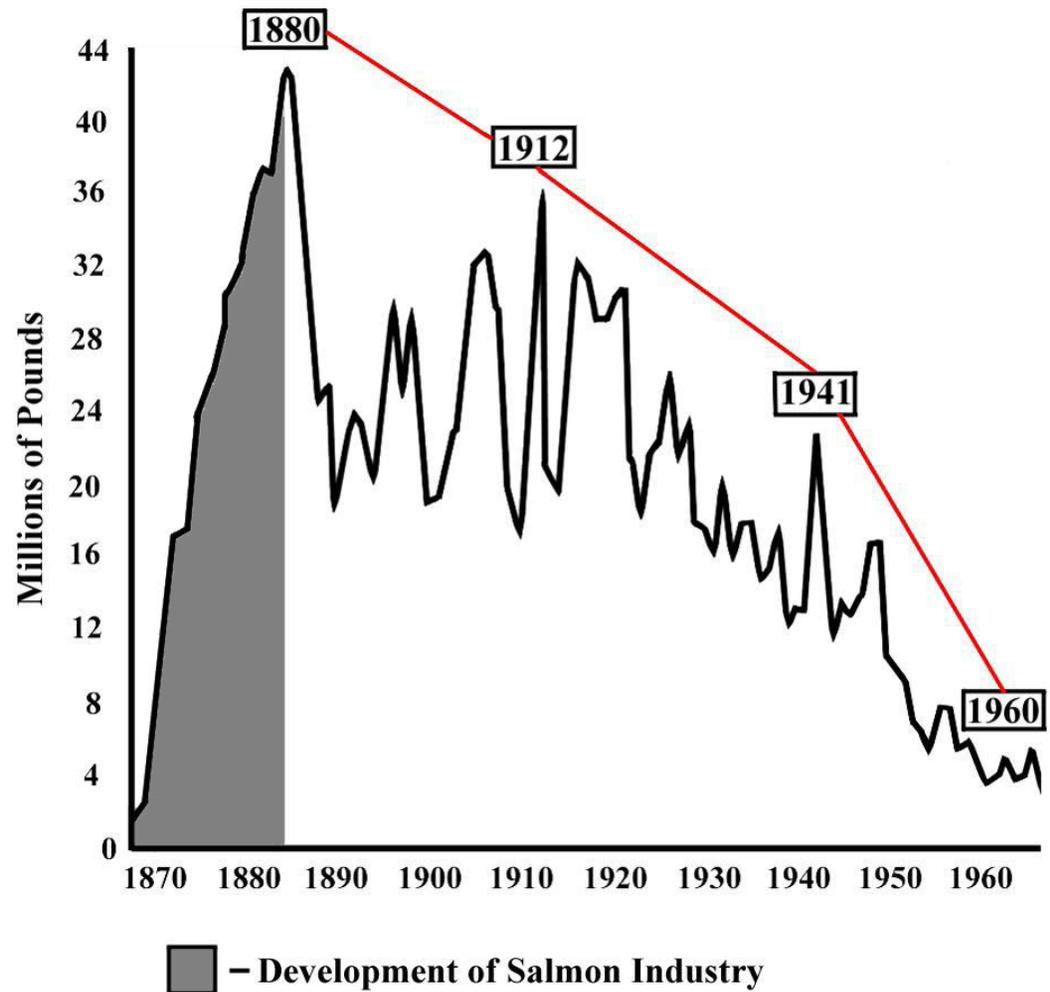
3,000 year old fish weir  
Yaquina Bay, Oregon

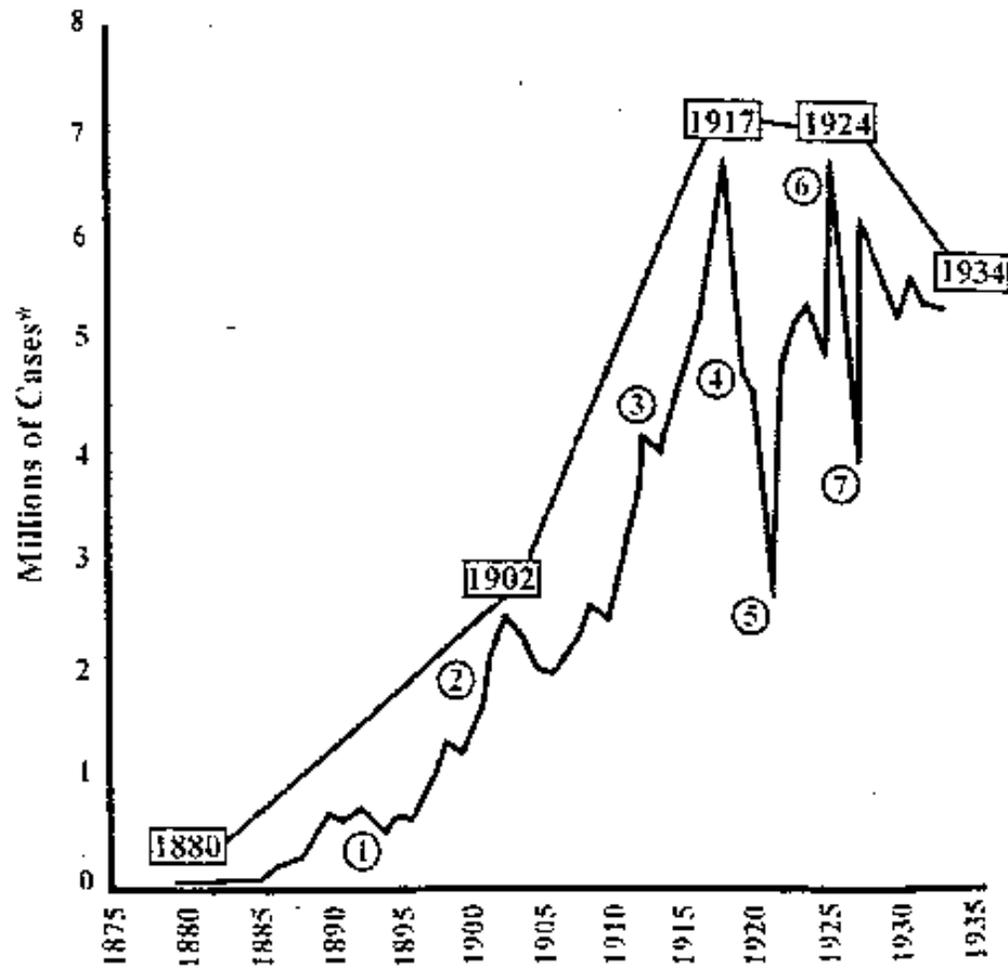




# Chinook Salmon Landings by the Columbia River Commercial Fishery, 1866-1966

(Source: Van Huyning, 1969: 207)





- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1) Economic Depression of 1892        | 5) Drop in Chums and Pinks in Southeastern Alaska |
| 2) Development of Bristol Bay - Reds  | 6) Rise in All Species - biological               |
| 3) Development of Southeastern Alaska | 7) Drop in all Species - biological               |
| 4) Drop in Reds in Western Alaska     |   |

**Figure 3** Fluctuations in Alaska Salmon catch with factors contributing to variations (Source: DeLoach 1934).

## **CONCLUSIONS**

- 1. Riparian areas of the Alsea River have been heavily used and occupied by people for thousands of years.**
- 2. Anadromous fish runs on the Alsea River appear to be affected to a far more significant degree by ocean conditions than by human land use patterns.**

# Oregon Websites and Watersheds Project, Inc.



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