

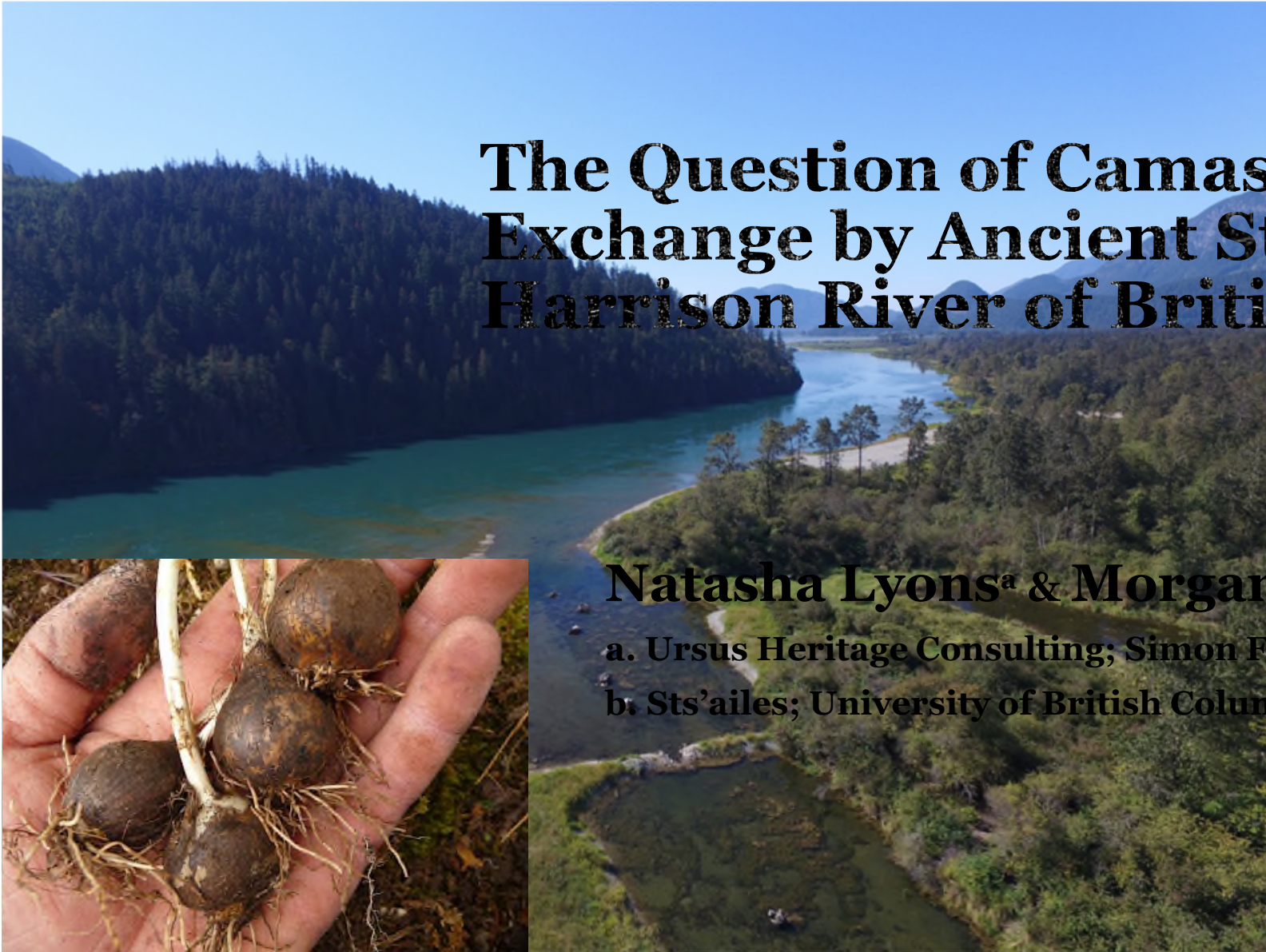
The Question of Camas Production & Exchange by Ancient Sts'ailes on the Harrison River of British Columbia

Natasha Lyons^a & Morgan Ritchie^b

a. Ursus Heritage Consulting; Simon Fraser University

b. Sts'ailes; University of British Columbia

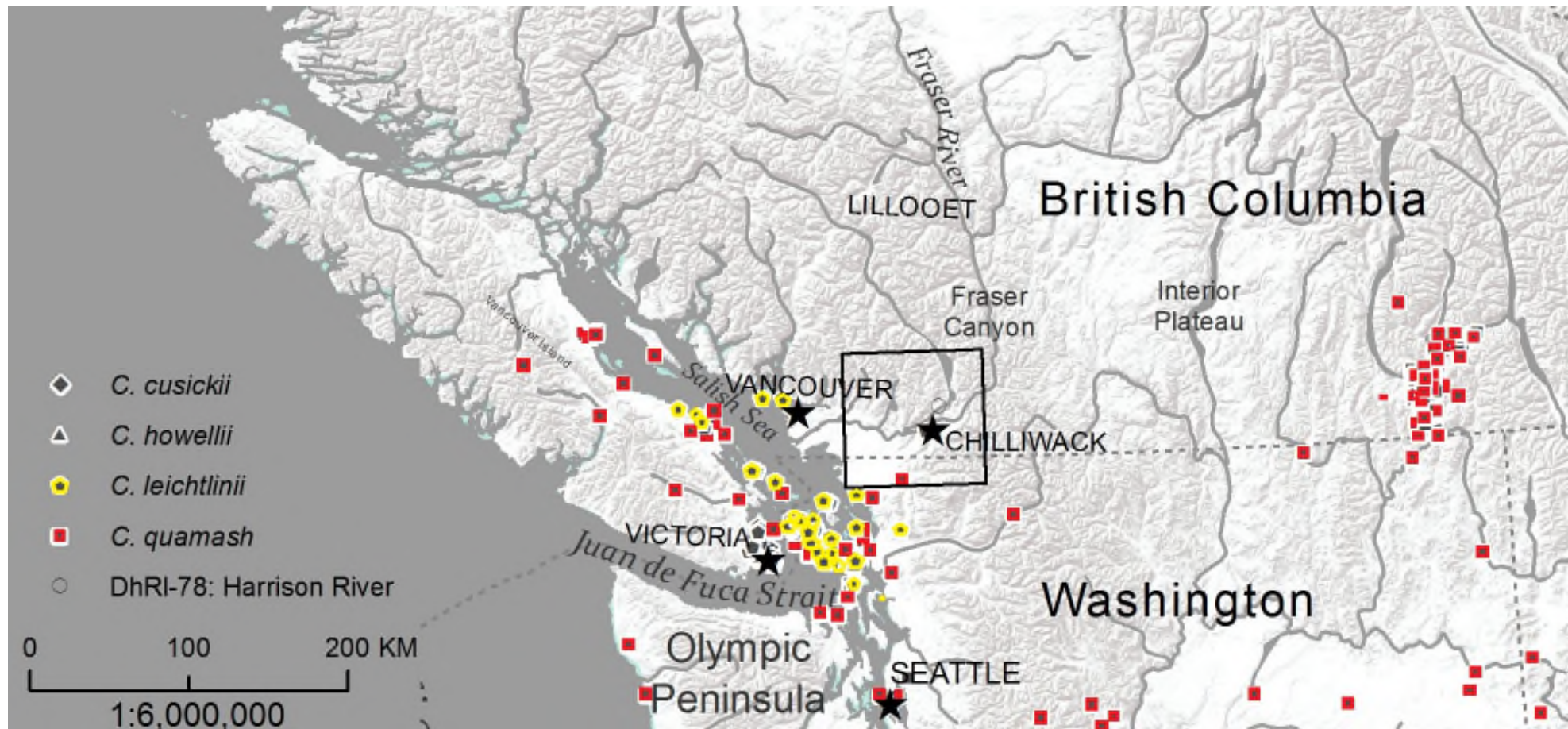
*Jimmy Charlie Slough, Sts'ailes
territory; camas bulbs at left
(UVic collections)*





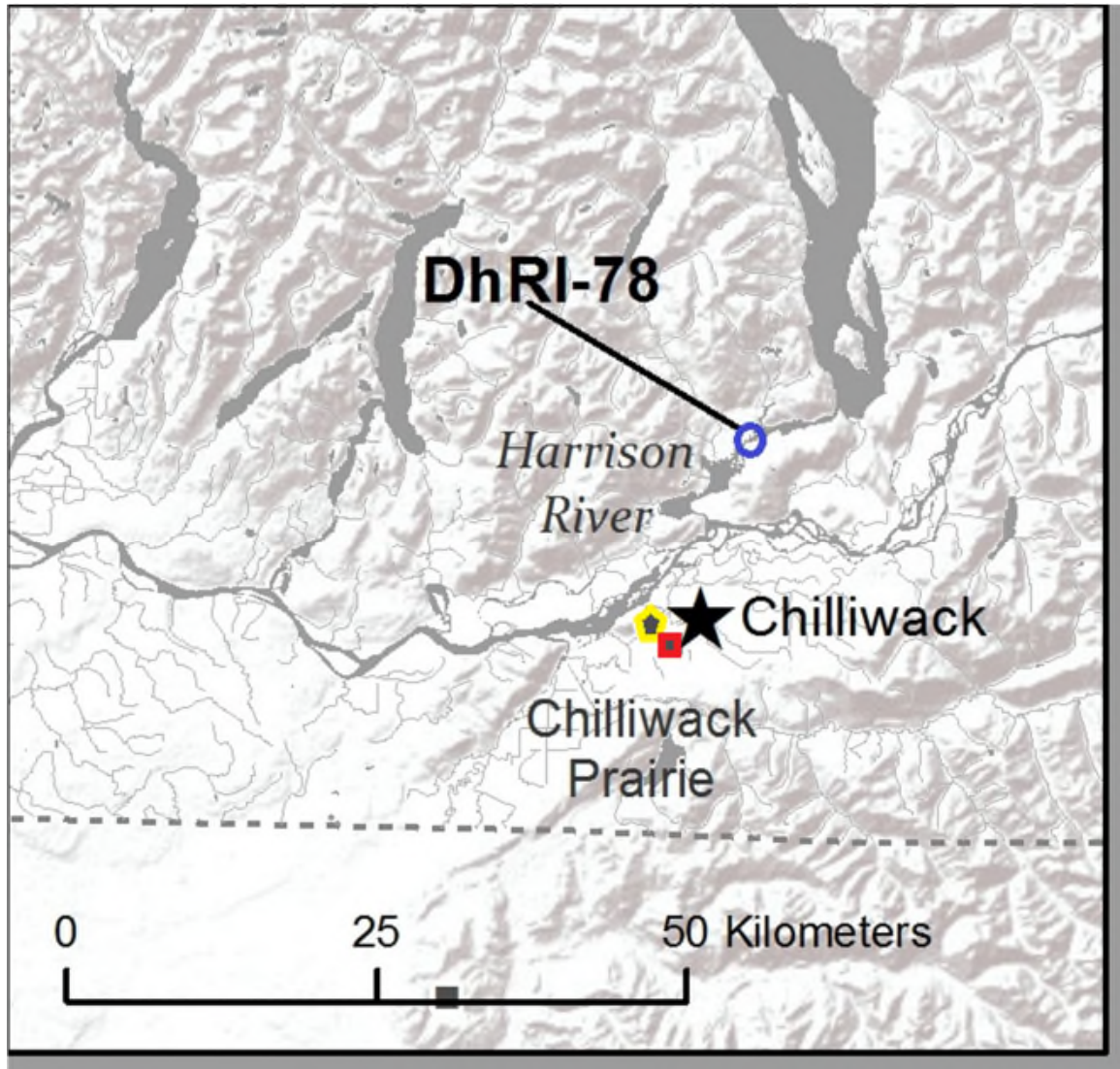
Distribution of common camas species in the Pacific Northwest: *Camassia cusickii*, *C. howellii*, *C. leichtlinii* and *C. quamash*.





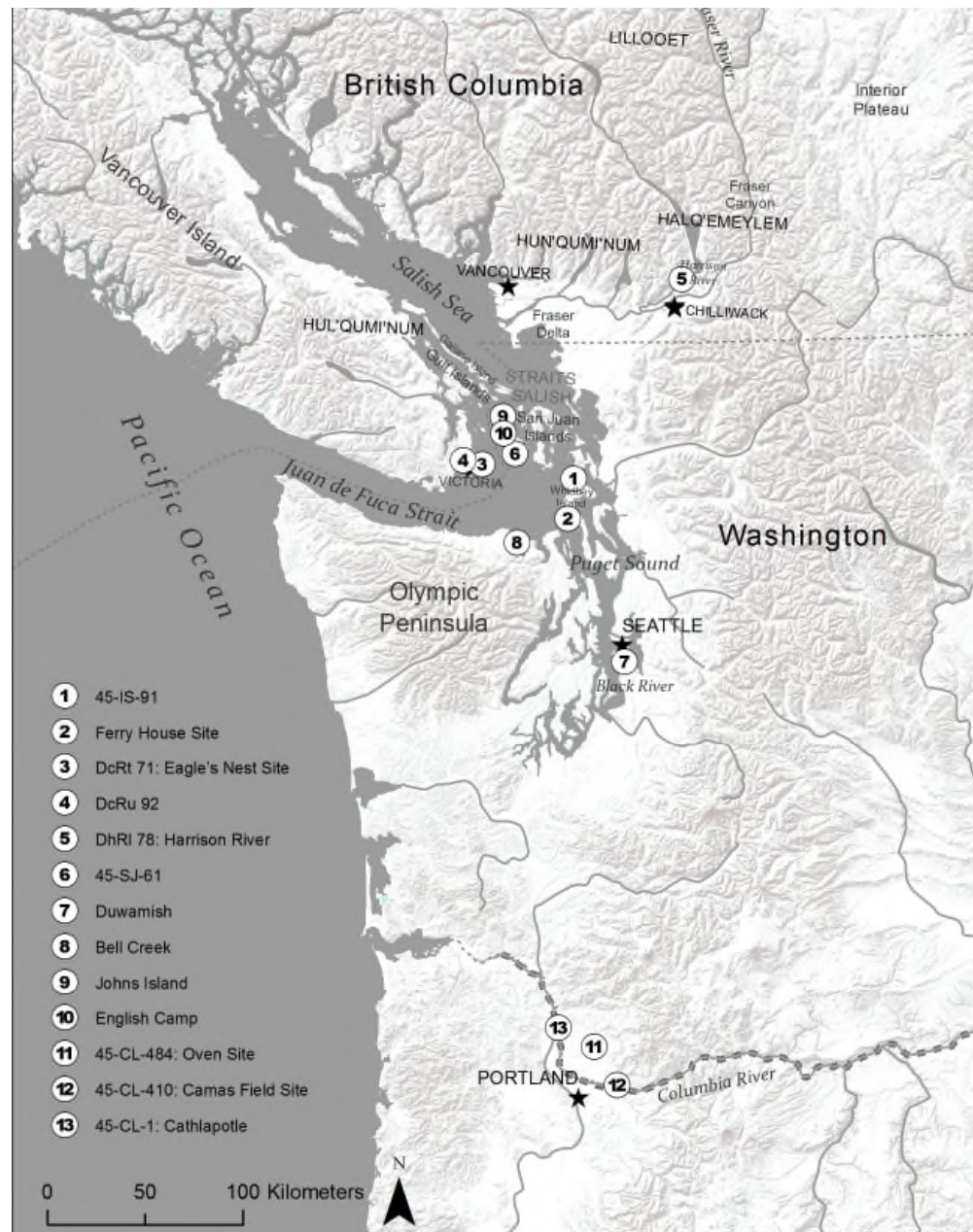
Distribution of camas species in British Columbia





Chilliwack Prairie camas voucher specimens collected by J. Macoun, 1901, on Chilliwack Prairie, in Upper Fraser Valley, and 10 km from archaeological site DhRI 78. This region is 150 km outside the historical and modern range of camas.

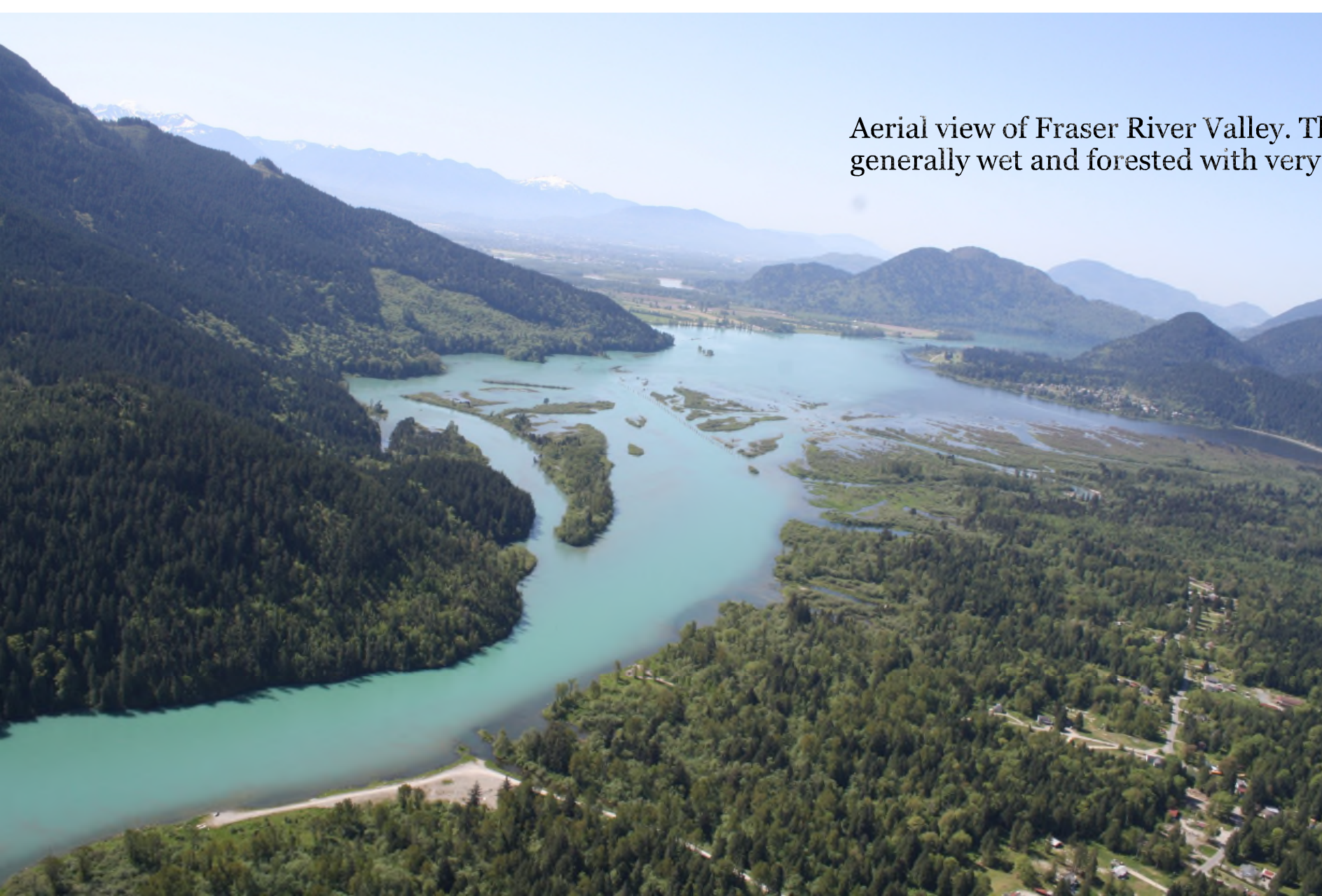




Left: **Coastal** archaeological sites with camas in the Pacific Northwest. Top: root digger, Edward Curtis.



Aerial view of Fraser River Valley. The Valley is generally wet and forested with very few prairies





Root foods historically cultivated by Coast Salish communities of the Fraser Valley: bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*, left), wild onion (*Allium* spp., below) and wild carrots (or yampah, *Perideridia gairdneri*), and the Fraser Delta: wapato (*Sagittaria latifolia*) and rice-root (*Fritillaria* spp.)

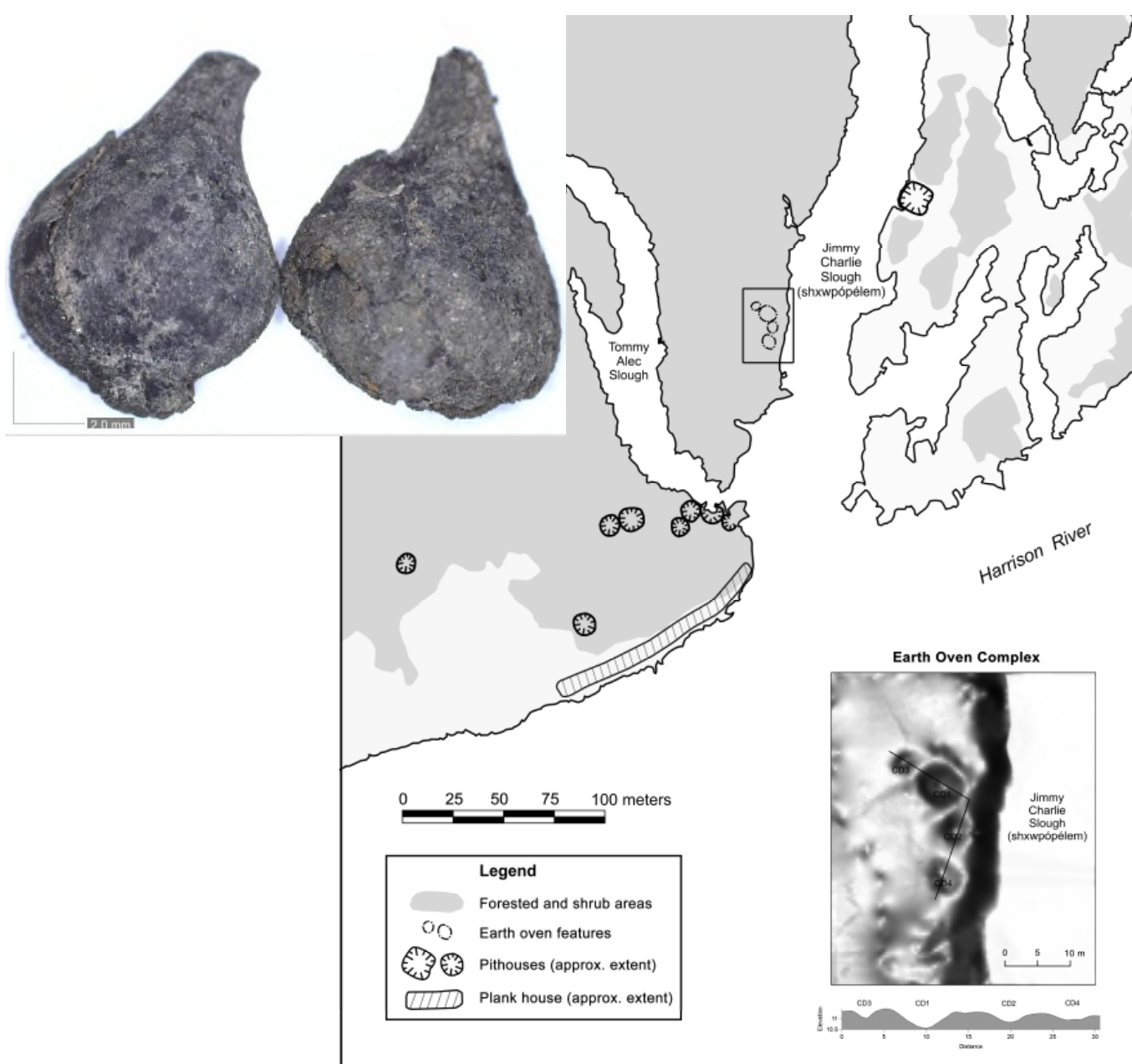


Components of site DhRI-78 on the Harrison River

Earth oven
complex and
"Forest Garden"

Village





Left to Right: 1500+ camas bulbs and parts identified at DhRl-78, Harrison River, BC; Earth oven complex on site dated 1200-200 BP, showing many re-uses; Morgan & crew trenching an earth oven on site.





*Local & non-local plant food production and exchange practiced by Coast Salish of the Lower Fraser River Region (and beyond!): camas, bog cranberries (*Oxycoccus oxycoccus*) and wapato*





*Overlain here with their
archaeobotanical counterparts*



Discussion:

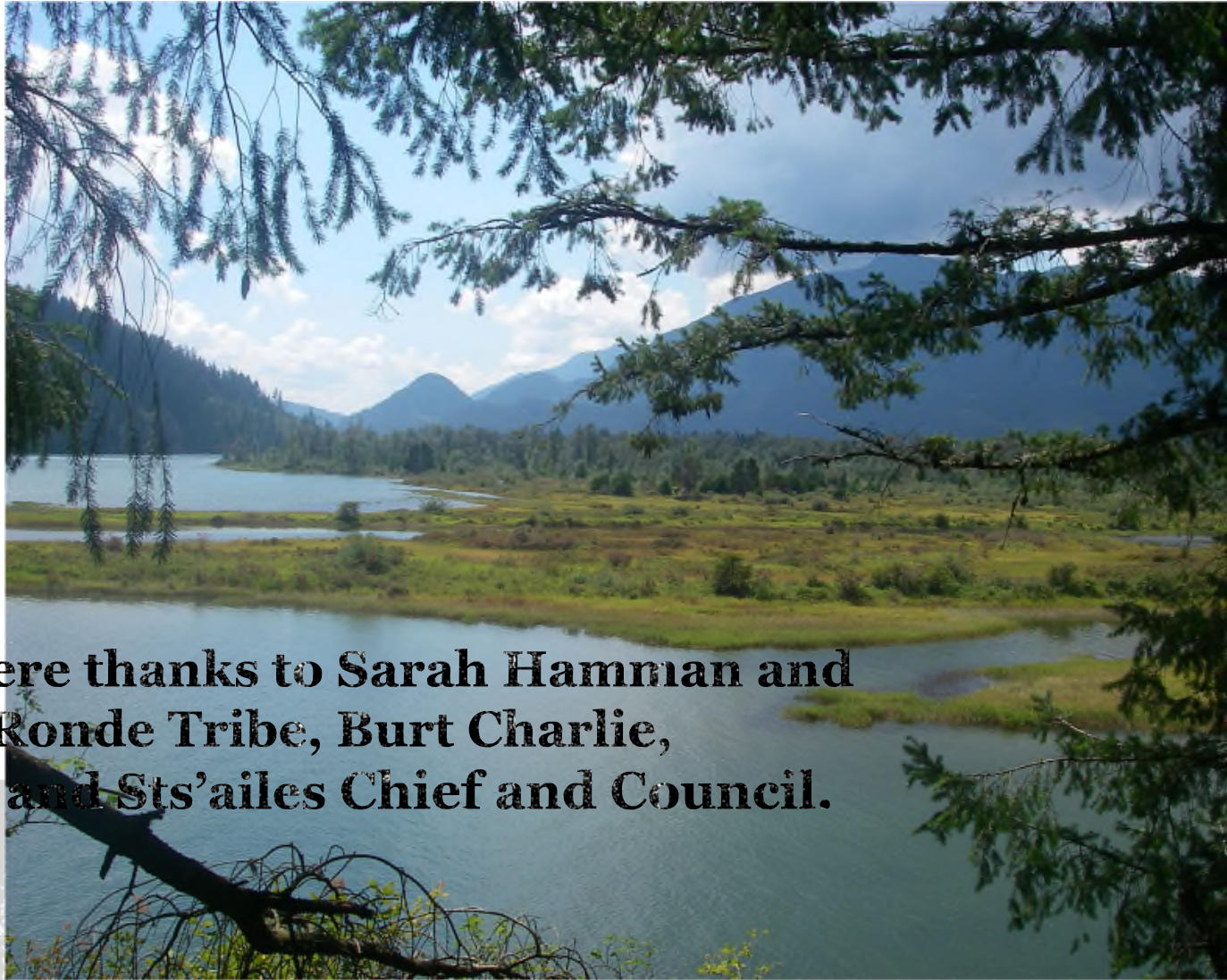


Sts'ailes

- ◆ **Role of Sts'ailes and broader network of Coast Salish communities in shaping ancient and historical landscapes;**
- ◆ **Importance of Harrison River landscape to the wellbeing of contemporary Sts'ailes community: food security, fishing, livelihood, ritual practice; plant medicines;**
- ◆ **Conservation and management protocols being developed through draft Sts'ailes Land Code**



Acknowledgements: Our sincere thanks to Sarah Hamman and Joyce LeCompte, the Grande Ronde Tribe, Burt Charlie, Chelsey Armstrong and crew, and Sts'ailes Chief and Council.



For photos: arcadianabe.blogspot.ca; arcoftaste.slowfood.ca

Resources of Interest--Papers:

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Natasha Lyons and Morgan Ritchie (2017). The Archaeology of Camas Production and Exchange on the Northwest Coast: with Evidence from a Sts'ailes (Chehalis) Village on the Harrison River, BC. *Journal of Ethnobiology* 37(2): 346-367.

Natasha Lyons, Tanja Hoffmann, Debbie Miller, Stephanie Huddleston, Roma Leon and Kelly Squires (2018). Katzie and the Wapato: An Archaeological Love Story. *Archaeologies* in press, doi.org/10.1007/s11759-018-9333-2

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Morgan Ritchie, Dana Lepofsky, Sue Formosa, Marko Porcic, and Keyan Edinborough (2016) Beyond Culture History: Coast Salish Settlement Patterning and Demography in the Fraser Valley, B.C. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*, 43 (2016) 140-154.

Community-driven heritage websites:

www.digitalsqewlets.ca

www.inuvialuitlivinghistory.ca

Please feel free to contact us with questions, comments or requests for pdfs: Natasha@ursus-heritage.ca, morgan.ritchie@stsailles.com

