

# Growing the Tribal –Federal Partnership in Land Stewardship



**THE TULALIP- USFS MT. BAKER-SNOQUALMIE MOA  
AND  
TREATY RESERVED GATHERING**

# Presented for "Sustaining Our Culture: Management and Access to Traditional Plants on Public Lands" October 13, 2011



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# In Memory of



Tulalip's ancestors, the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skykomish and other allied tribes and bands signatory to the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott who wisely reserved their rights to continue to fish, hunt and gather on their ceded lands, and

To those who helped to ensure Tulalip peoples never lost their cultural teachings during the most challenging of times.



William Shelton, Tulalip, carving a story pole, ca 1920. PEMCO Webster and Stevens Collection, Mus. Of History and Industry.

# Presentation Outline

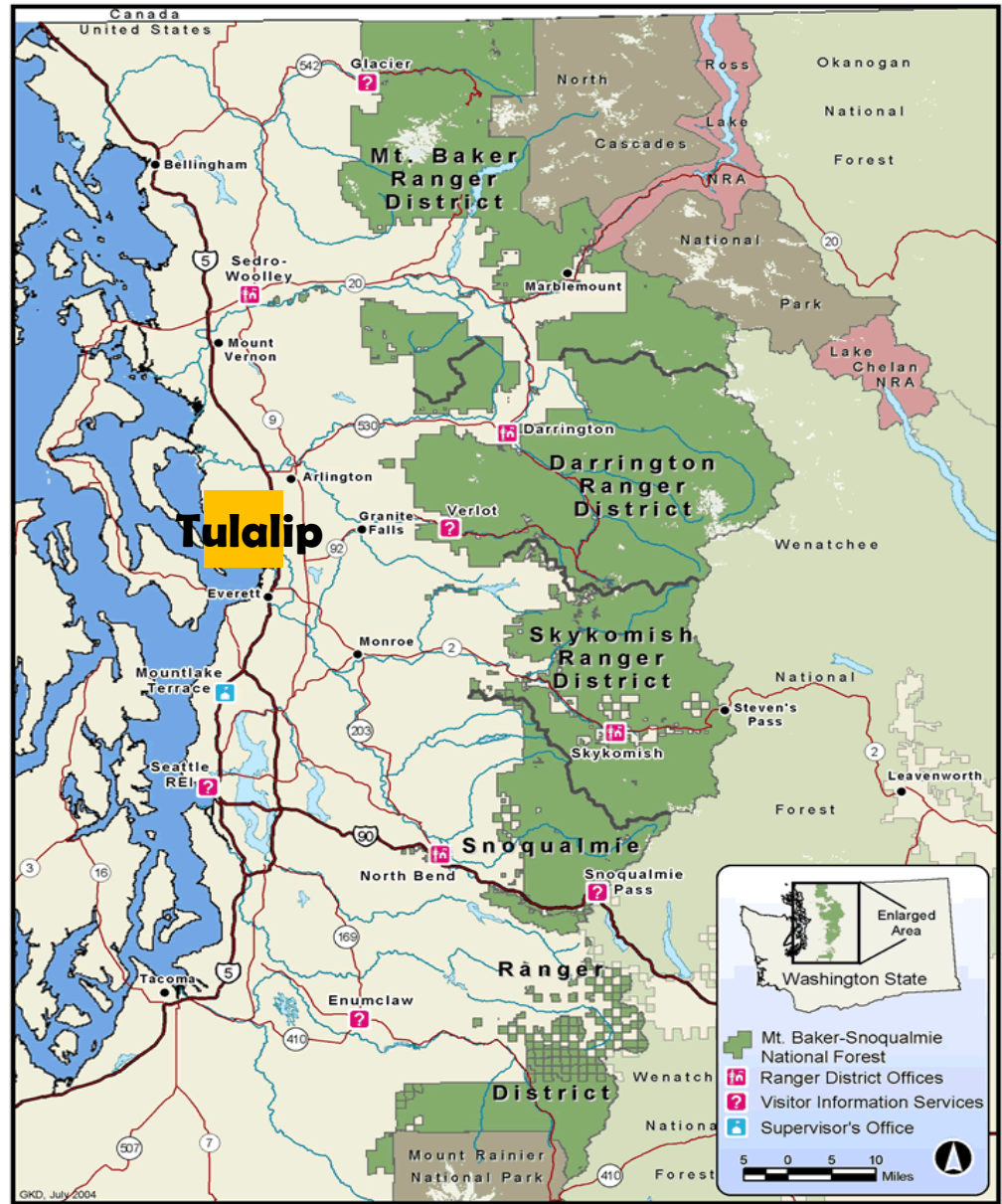


- Purpose of Tulalip-Forest Service MOA on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
- Process of developing MOA
- Progress Report: Fruits of our MOA so far and observations on its success



Skykomish Indians, near Sultan, 1909 (Source: Skykomish Valley Museum Collection)

# Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (MBS)



# Statistics about Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest



- 1,724,229 acres total national forest lands
- 48% designated “Wilderness”
- 37% designated “Late Successional Reserve”
- 681 Special Use Permits, incl. 4 ski areas
- < 3% of MBS lands potentially available for restoration and enhancement for traditional foods , under the Forest Management Plan (“matrix” and Adaptive Management Areas”)





# What was the Impetus for a new Agreement?

- Poor Communication between FS and Tulalip
- Archaeological database access issues
- Concern over competition for plant resources and commercialization
- Tribal member access to areas and resources of the MBS
- New Forest Supervisor who's past work had indicated he was willing to work with tribes, and new nationwide FS policies for working with Tribes



# Purpose of MOA

- To create an improved framework to communicate, protect, and exercise Tulalip's treaty rights on Forest Service lands, and
- Create a forum for, and Forest Service commitment to addressing our specific concerns as they arise
- To develop an effective partnership in stewardship of national forest lands and resources



Snohomish man and woman, Tulalip Indian Reservation 1907. Norman Edson Collection, UW Libraries Special Collection.



# Process of MOA Development

- Internal discussion began in 2003 initiated by the Natural Resources Department with multiple departments, including Cultural Resources, Forestry, Police, and Legal



# Process Cont.



- Contacted Forest Supervisor for Mt Baker-Snoqualmie NF, to meet with Tulalip Tribal staff
- Held two all day “summits” at Tulalip with the Forest Supervisor and his staff
- Frequent additional meetings with his staff for next 18 months to finalize a draft that was mutually agreeable
- Product: 4 years later- *Final MOA* (Nov 2007)



# Key Provisions of MOA



- Commitment to develop protocols and processes to ensure consistent and timely communication between USFS and Tribes on issues of importance to Tribes



- Commitment to ensure Tribal participation in the management of the Mt Baker- Snoqualmie NF when it affects natural, cultural, and archaeological resources of importance to Tribes





- Commitment to provide for the meaningful exercise of Tribes' hunting, fishing and gathering rights.



- Commitment to develop a framework for sharing data and technical expertise

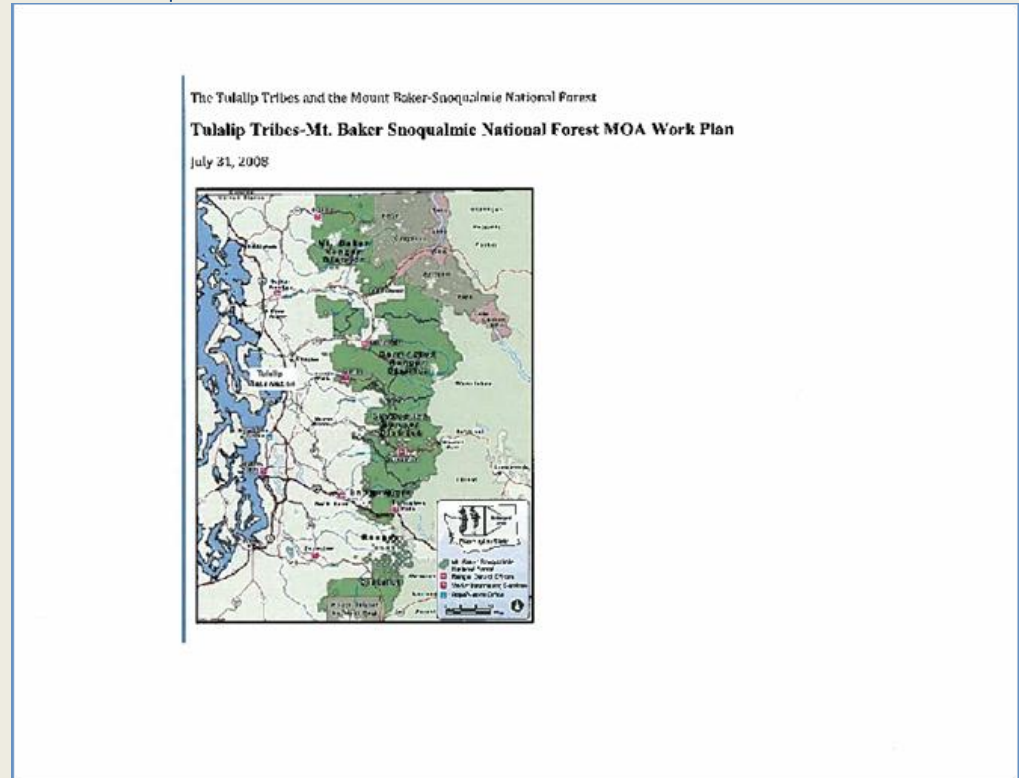




# The “Work Plan”



- Completed six months after signing of MOA; agreed to by both parties
- Outlines specific tasks and timeline to implement MOA



# The “Cedar -Huckleberry Technical Committee”

- First Technical Committee convened pursuant to MOA

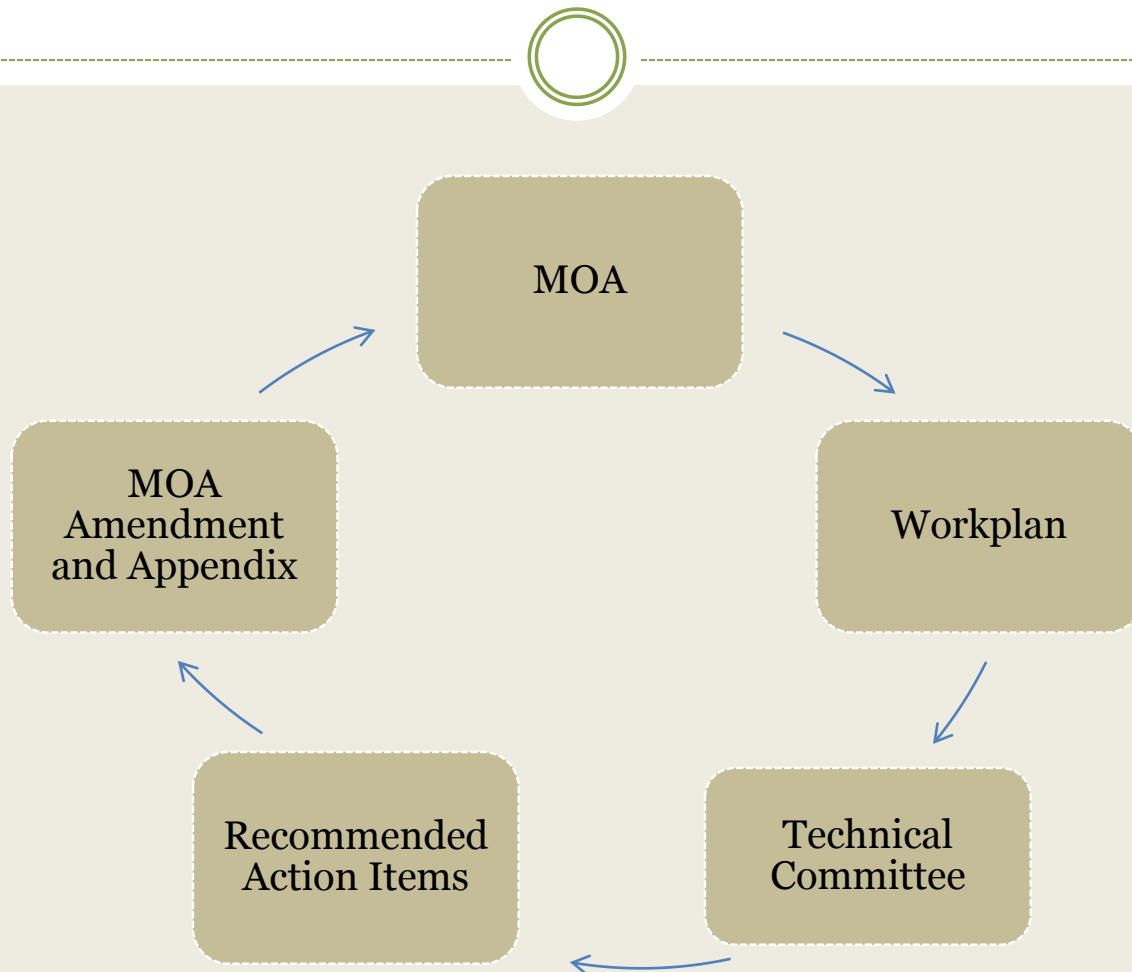


Tulalip Cedar Basket: Hibulb Cultural Center collection, Tulalip, Washington.

- Committee met for one year, monthly meetings of mostly technical staff (biologists, cultural specialists, foresters, policy)
- Co-Chaired by Tulalip and Forest Service
- Produced the Final Cedar-Huckleberry Committee Report of “Action Items”
- Adopted as amendment to MOA, as an Appendix



# Ongoing Process to Implement and Expand MOA



# Outcomes To Date

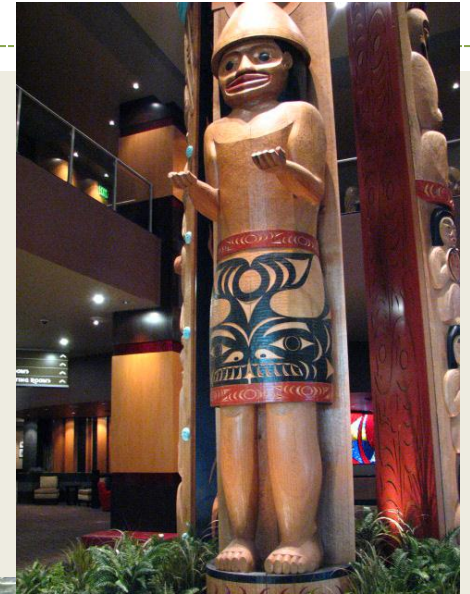


- Improved Communication and personal relationships of staff
- Improved understanding on part of FS staff of tribal treaty rights and culture
- Better tribal understanding of Forest Service regulations, policies and culture
- Ongoing Tulalip-FS Collaborative Projects spawned from MOA, and securing both funding and staff resources





# Cedar Blowdown harvest





# Cedar Bark Peeling



# Collaborative Projects



**SOME EXAMPLES.....**

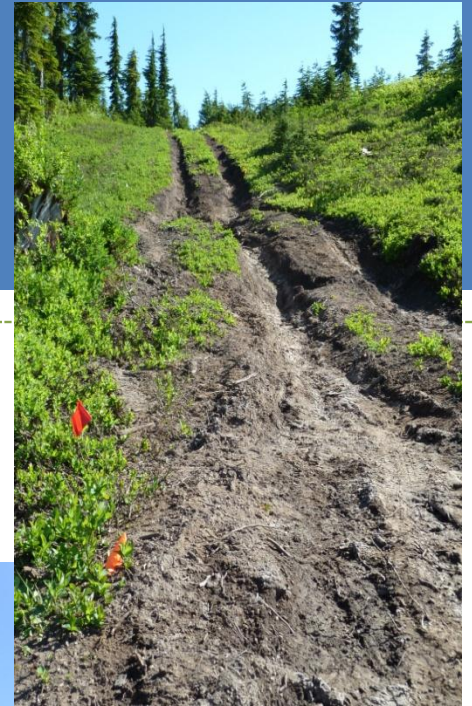


# Mountain Huckleberry Enhancement (Stillaguamish Watershed)





# High Elevation Meadow Restoration (Skykomish Ranger District)





# Huckleberry Distribution Mapping and Harvest Survey in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF



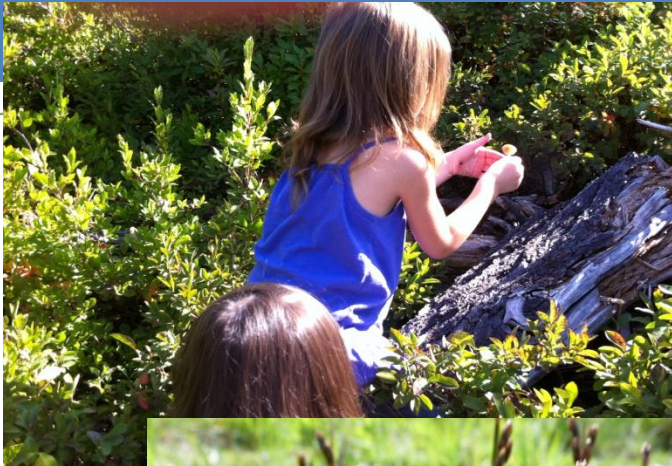
# Tribal History and Treaty Interpretive Signage

**(IN PROGRESS...)  
MT. BAKER-  
SNOQUALMIE NF,  
STEVENS PASS SKI AREA**





# Establishment of Tulalip-Forest Service Co-Stewardship Area-Skykomish Watershed



# Plant Gathering on Public Lands Workshop October 2011

One of the  
recommendations of  
the Cedar-Huckleberry  
Committee...



Workshop Logo design by Jason Gobin, Tulalip, March, 2011.

# Some Reflections....



- MOA is 4 years old --Is it working as intended?
- Continuing Challenges?





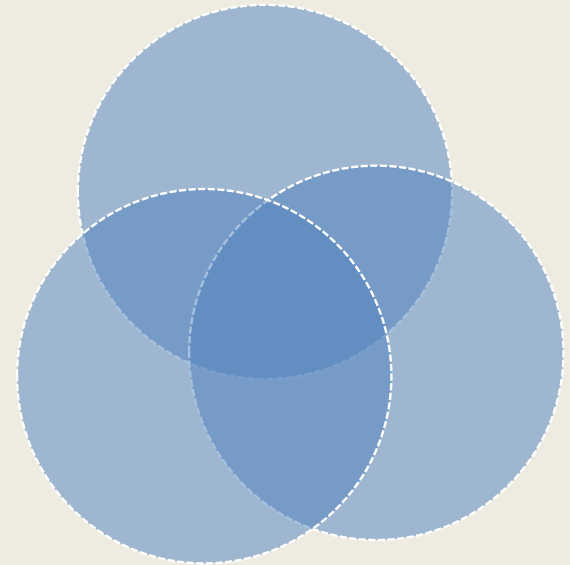
# Importance of Partnerships



## Tulalip Perspective



## Forest Service Perspective



# Vision



- Tulalip?

Getting our people, young and old, out on the land.....

Back on our traditional territories.....

Where there's the possibility of solitude, privacy....

Practicing our culture, in a clean, healthy and diverse landscape.....

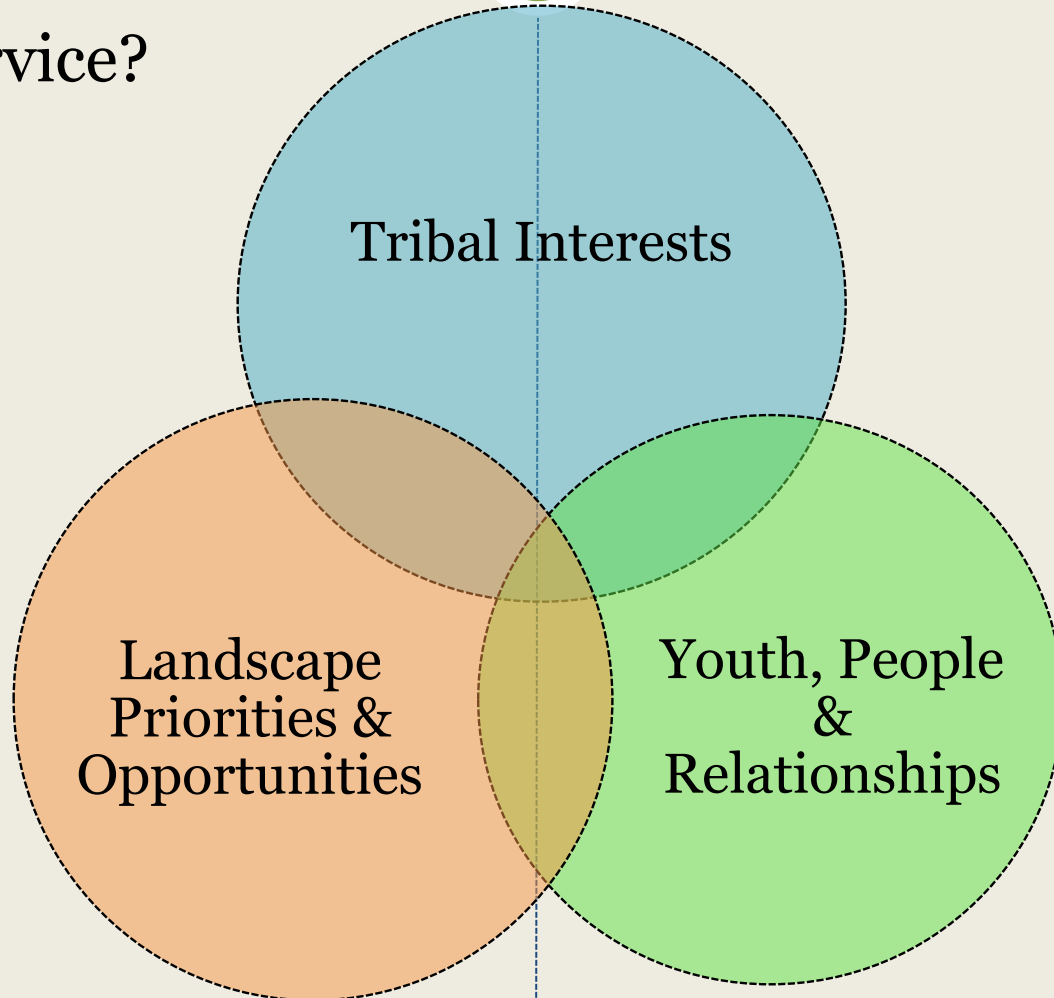
Where we, as tribal people, are once again, actively involved in its stewardship



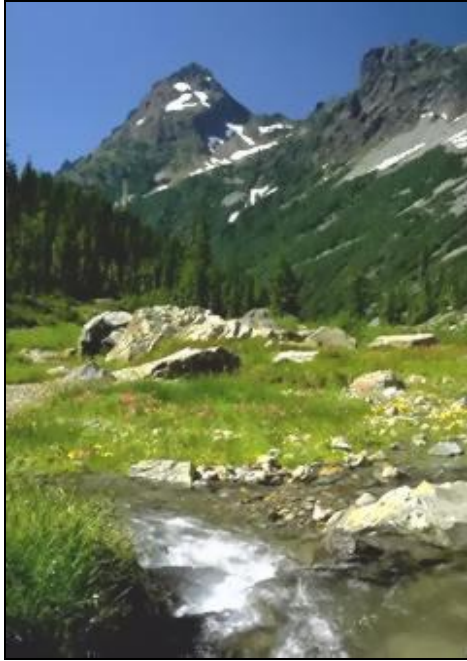
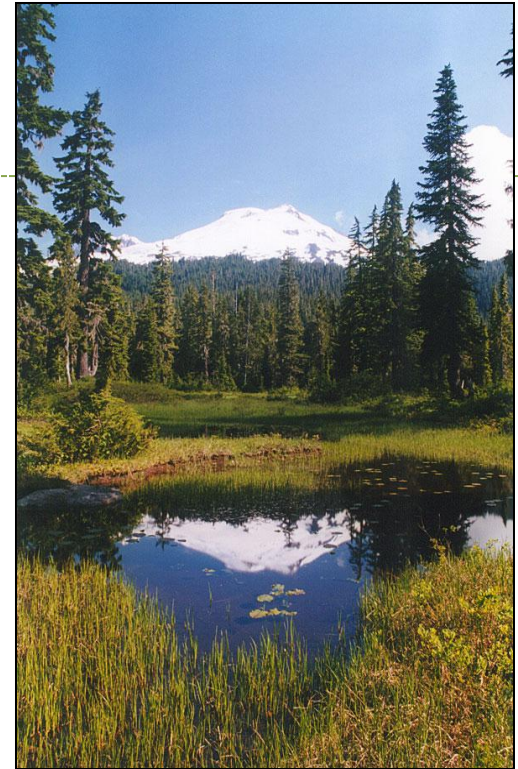
# Vision



- Forest Service?







*Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest*

# In Acknowledgement:



- Tulalip's Board of Directors and leaders, past and present.
- Tulalip's Natural and Cultural Resources Staff (especially Hank Gobin, Inez Bill, Richard Young, Terry Williams, Danny Simpson, Ray Fryberg, and Russell Moses) and Legal Department (Tim Brewer).
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Snohomish couple in temporary summer house, 1905. Norman Edson collection no. 475. Courtesy of Univ. of WA. Libraries, Special Collections Division.



