For thousands of years “swədaʔx̌”, or Big Huckleberry has served as an important food, medicine and trade good to the Coast Salish peoples. Big Huckleberry is most abundant in the middle to upper mountain elevations, and favors open conditions following disturbances like fire or logging. Prior to European settlement, native peoples managed the land by setting fire and by other means to create or maintain huckleberry habitat and gathering areas.

In 2016, The Tulalip Tribes began working cooperatively with the U.S. Forest Service to sustain huckleberries at swədaʔx̌ali. Tribal youth, working with staff from the Tribe’s Natural Resources Department and the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, removed or pruned some of the emerging conifer trees that would eventually shade out the huckleberry. The Tulalip Tribes and the Forest Service will continue to work throughout the swədaʔx̌ali area and monitor the results of our efforts.