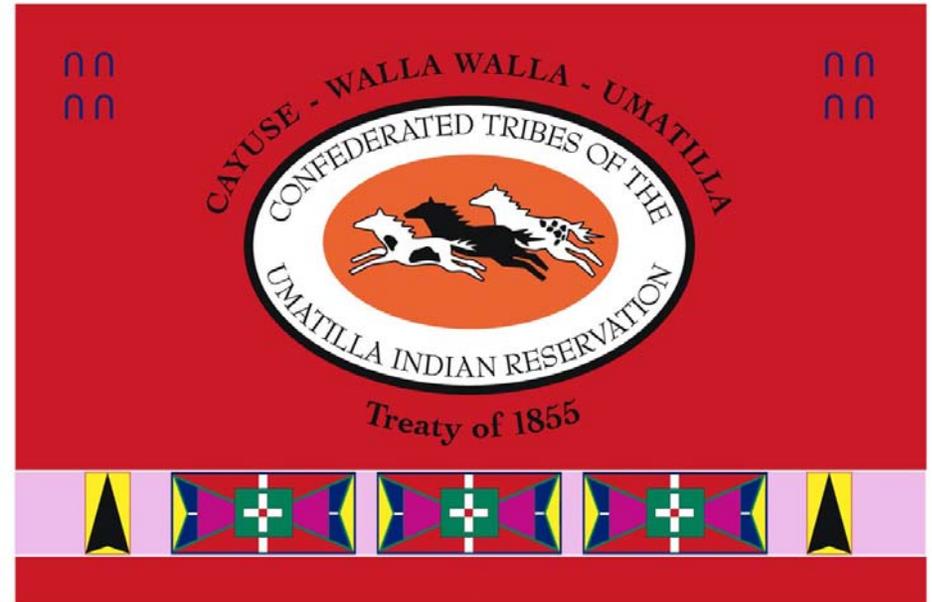


# Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

## The Freshwater Mussel and a Tribal Culture



“In the traditional mid-Columbia Plateau tribal worldview, animals, plants, water, rocks, etc. are believed to have a shukwat (spirit) and a conscience . This worldview promotes respect for all things in nature...”

-- Close et al. (2002): Fisheries





**Archeological  
record of harvest  
goes back over  
10,000 years**



David Thompson (Tyrrell 1916:520) reported that the people he met did not care for mussels, but that they ate them when they were hungry. The locale was probably at Indian Rapids near Squally Hook on the Middle Columbia.



There is archeological evidence that shellfish were an important food in the McNary Dam area and elsewhere along the Columbia (Osborne 1957:140)



“Furthermore, it should be noted that the rapids on the Columbia immediately upstream of the Umatilla was called "muscle shell rapids" by Lewis and Clark.”

--Teara Farrow, Cultural Resources Protection Program, CTUIR



**1955 Celilo Salmon Feast**

# First Foods Feast

- Offering of the first nosux, kasuyas, owinat, wa wuxyai, couse, pyaxi, and wiyno.





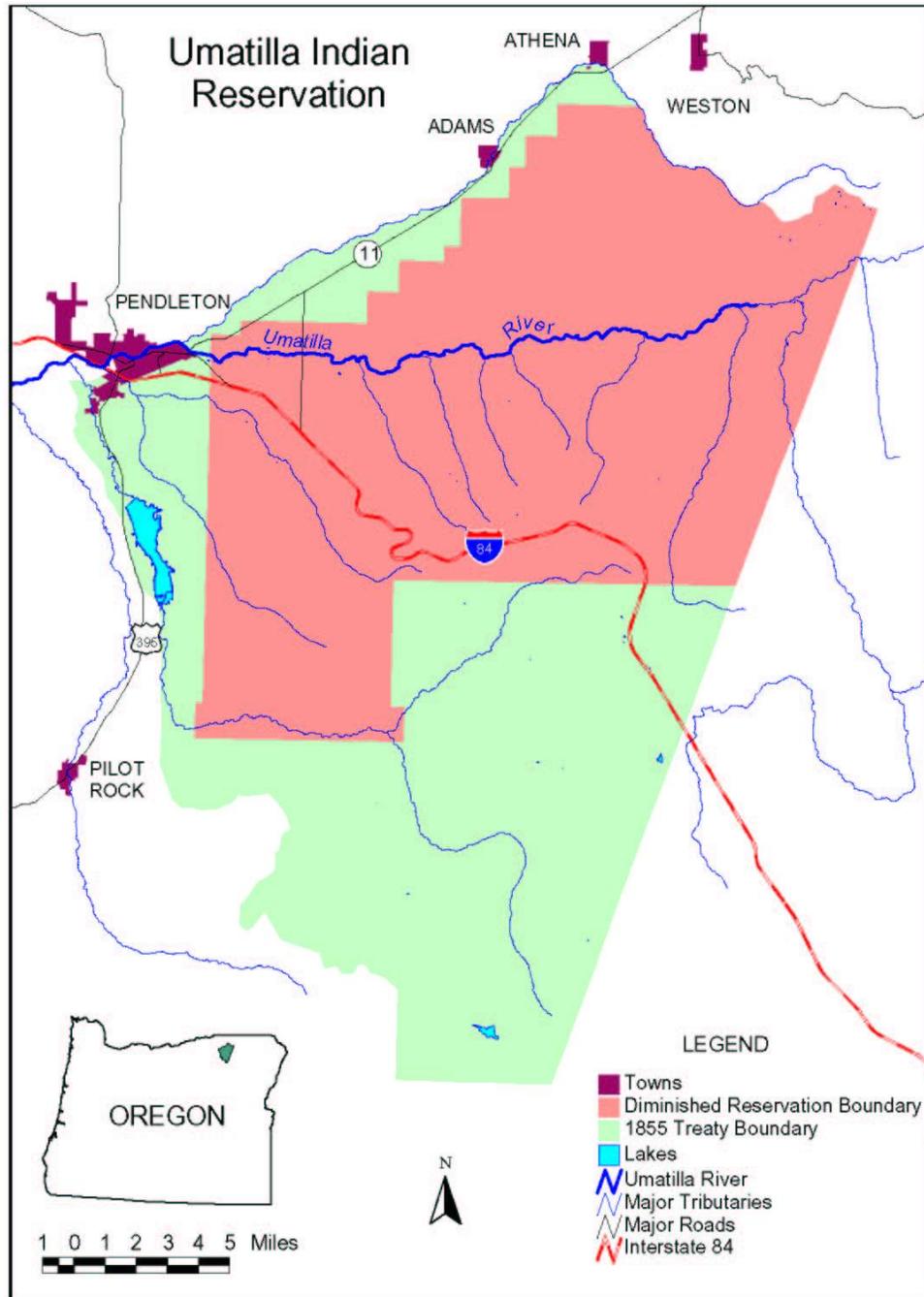
“The great spirit, in placing men on the earth, desired them to take good care of the ground and to do each other no harm...”

**-- Young Chief, 1855 Treaty Council**

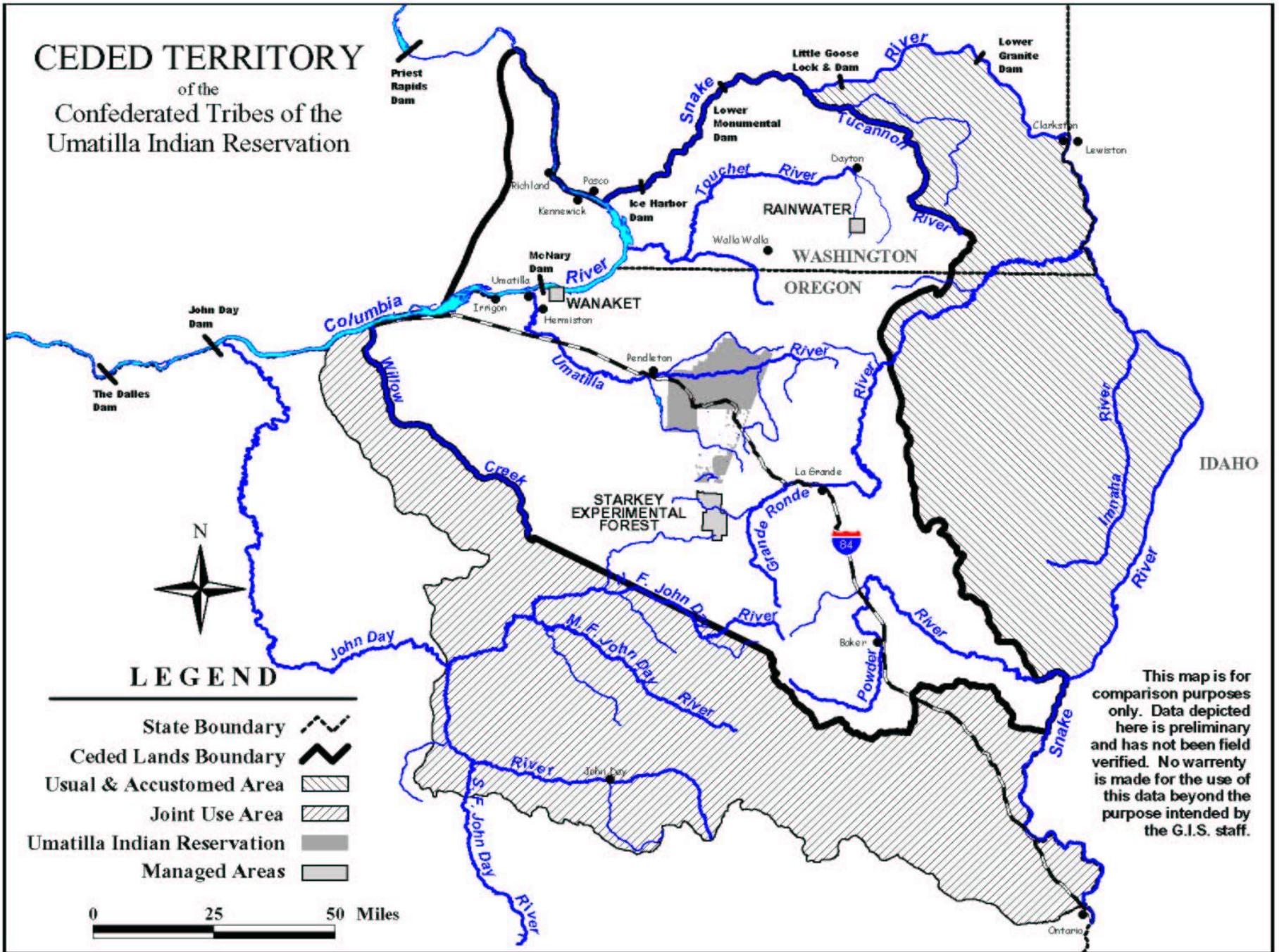
# Freshwater Mussels – CTUIR, Tribal Culture

- Written and oral history tells us that this was one of our foods.
- It's a reserved right per 12 Statute 945
- Food source that the is being studied in hopes of restoring
- It's a part of our culture





# CEDED TERRITORY of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation



## LEGEND

- State Boundary 
- Ceded Lands Boundary 
- Usual & Accustomed Area 
- Joint Use Area 
- Umatilla Indian Reservation 
- Managed Areas 

0 25 50 Miles

This map is for comparison purposes only. Data depicted here is preliminary and has not been field verified. No warranty is made for the use of this data beyond the purpose intended by the G.I.S. staff.