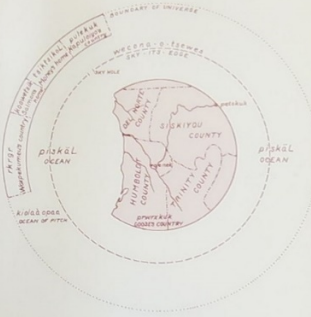


# YUROK GEOGRAPHY



BY  
T.T. WATERMAN

## Indigenous People's Perspectives on Geographic Location

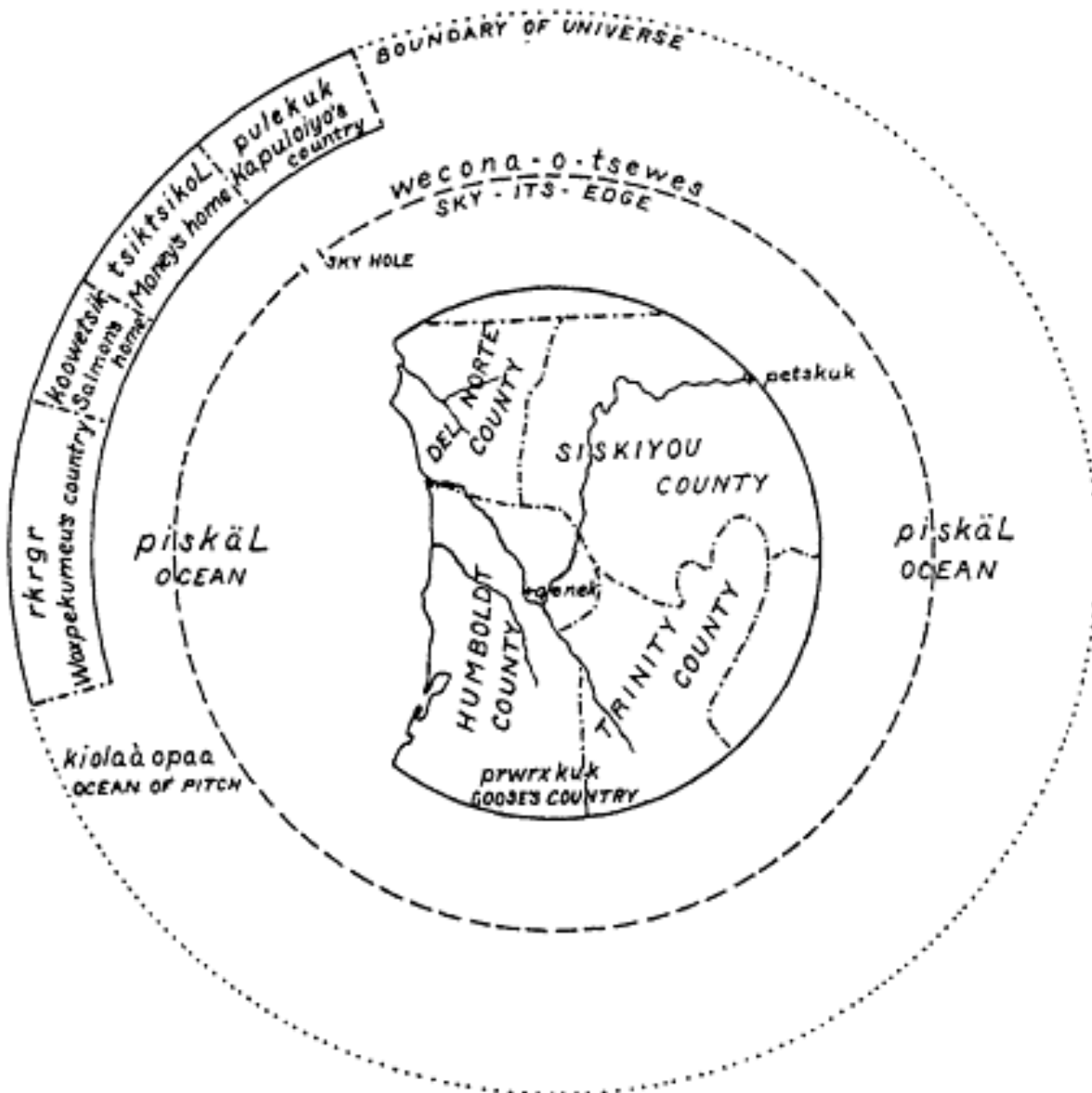
(extracted from Thomas Waterman's 1920 text on the Yurok people on the Klamath River of Northern California).

Sometimes called 'native peoples' perspectives and including Mātauranga Māori.

*'Ka mau tonu nga taonga tapu o nga matua tupuna Koinei nga taonga i tuku iho, na te ātua'*

*Hold fast to the treasures of the ancestors, for they are the treasures that have been handed down to us by God.*

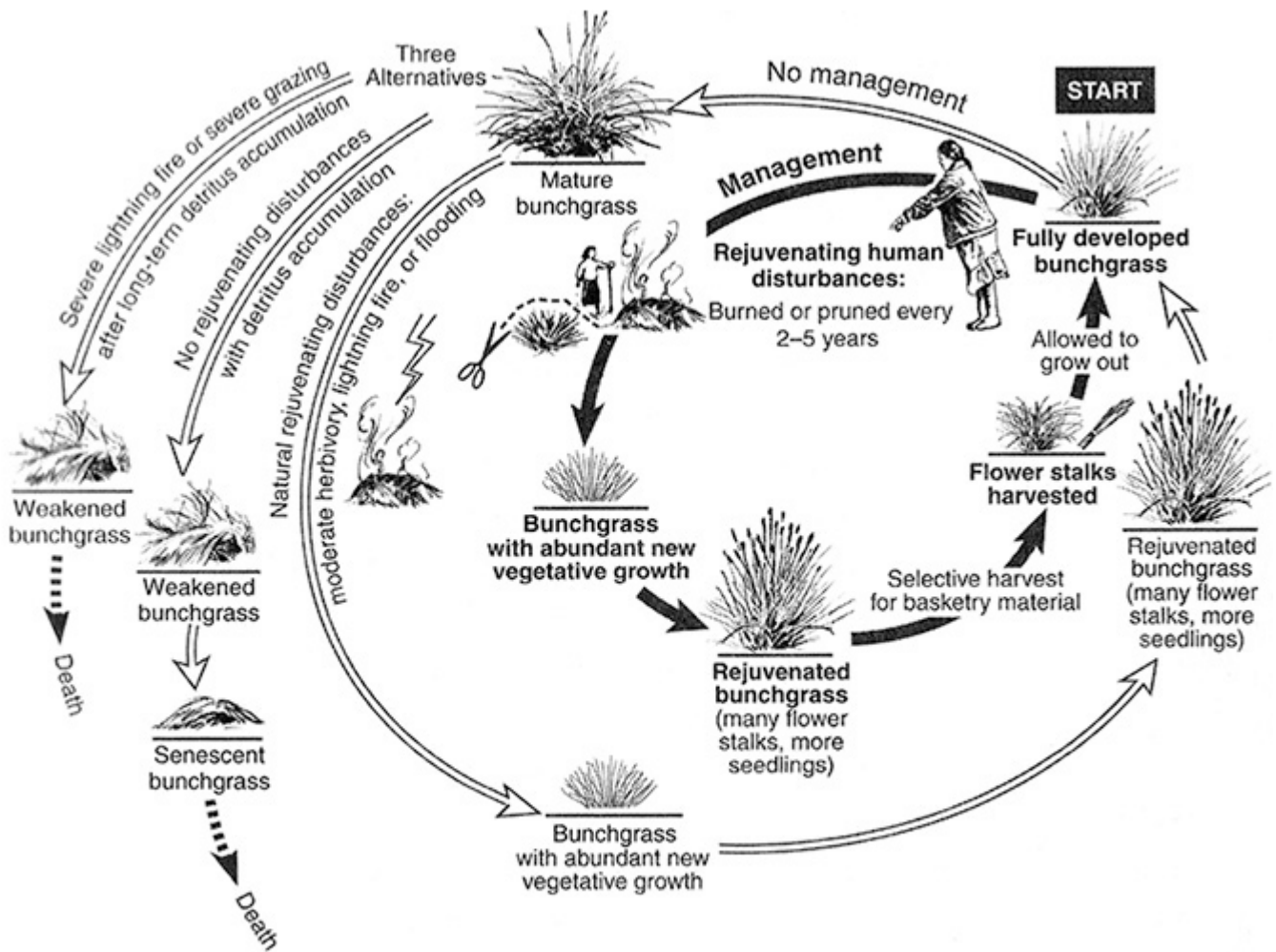
Yurok indians have an ethnocentric rather than Cartesian view of the geographic locations they inhabit



## Indigenous Resource Management

Resource management is not a modern invention. Indigenous people in California and elsewhere have practiced the roots of this applied discipline for millennia. California landscapes, a reflection of historical processes, both natural and cultural, bear the indelible imprint of a medley of management techniques.

The foundation of native peoples' management of plants and animals was a collective storehouse of knowledge about the natural world, acquired over hundreds of years through direct experience and contact with the environment. The rich knowledge of how nature works and how to judiciously harvest and steward its plants and animals without destroying them was hard-earned; it was the product of keen observation, patience, experimentation, and long-term relationships with plants and animals. It was a knowledge built on a history, gained through many generations of learning passed down by elders about practical as well as spiritual practices. This knowledge today is commonly called "traditional ecological knowledge".



Traditional deergrass management built on natural processes that resulted in healthier plants. | Illustration from: *Tending the Wild* by M. Kat Anderson