

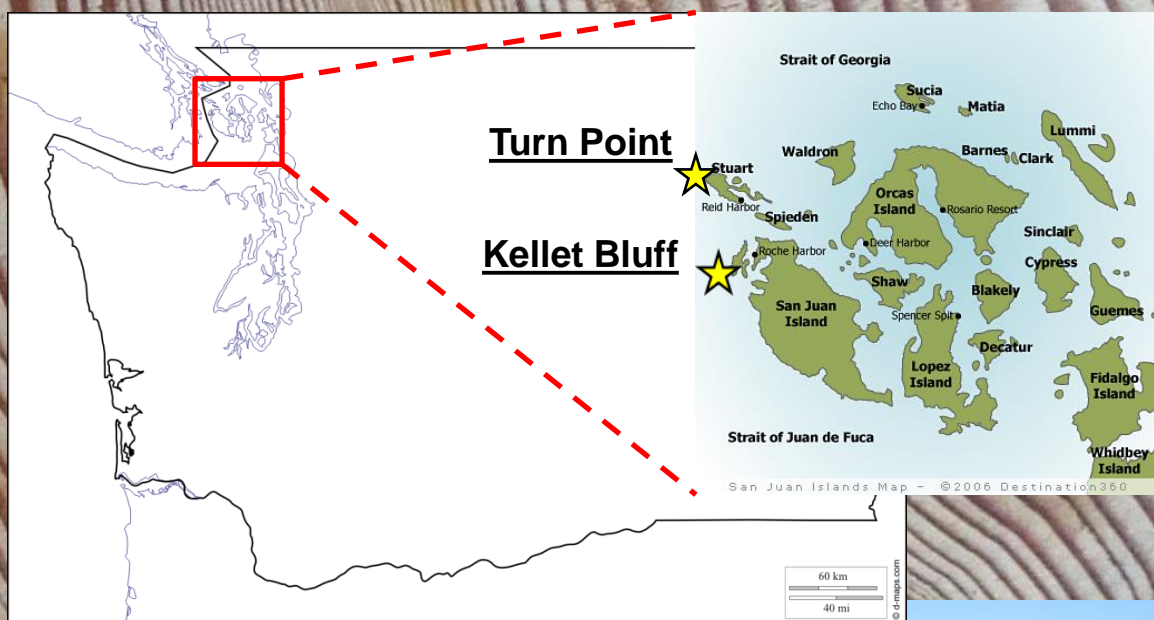
Fire Histories of Turn Point and Kellet Bluff, San Juan Islands, Washington

Project Summary

The goal of this project is to characterize historic fire activity at two sites in the San Juan Islands, Turn Point (Stuart Island) and Kellet Bluff (Henry Island).

Project Objectives:

1. Document the frequency and temporal variability of historic fires
2. Evaluate the extent and spatial patterns of historic fires
3. Determine the seasonality of historic fires



Scar face of sample tree at Kellet Bluff.



Sample cross section marking dates of 10 fire scars.

Methods

A total of 39 trees were sampled. Each sample was sanded, analyzed, and crossdated to assign fire years.

Results

Turn Point

- Earliest fire: 1649
- Last fire: 1913
- Largest fires: 1913, 1896, 1868, 1850, 1839, 1822, 1804
- Historical (1804-1877) mean fire interval: 12.17 yrs.
- Modern (1878- 2010) mean fire interval: 57* yrs.

Kellet Bluff

- Earliest fire: 1549
- Last fire: 1902
- Largest fires: 1902, 1895, 1877, 1868, 1855, 1845
- Historical (1761-1877) mean fire interval: 12.12 yrs.
- Modern (1878- 2011) mean fire interval: 58* yrs.
- Seasonality: Fires typically occurred in the fall

* will increase until next fire occurs



Kellet Bluff, San Juan Islands, WA

Ellen Sherck can be contacted at: esherck@uw.edu

Advisors: Dr. Jon Bakker, Dr. Kern Ewing, and Dr. James Fridley