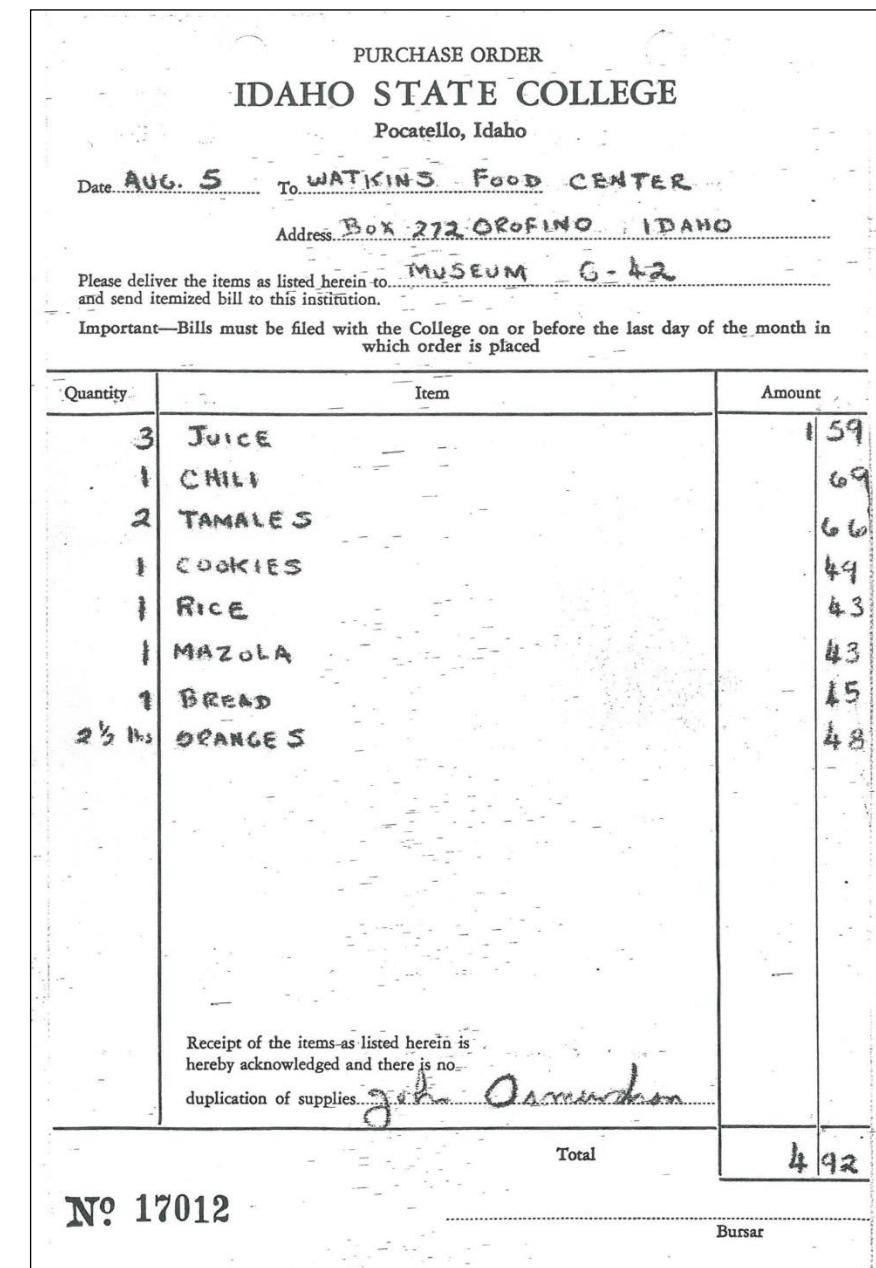


Field Staples: A Look at the Subsistence Patterns of Archaeological Workers

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Introduction and Methodology

- We present a comparative analysis of the items that archaeological workers purchased and consumed during three projects, the 1961 Bruce's Eddy archaeological survey and 1963 data recovery conducted by the Idaho State College, and the 2015 Big Eddy-Knight data recovery conducted by WillametteCRA.
- Our work focused on trends in field consumption, analyzing hundreds of receipts and entering item descriptions, quantities, and prices into a database.
- Items procured for field work are split into 6 broad categories; food items, auto repair, gasoline, equipment, hygiene, and miscellaneous. Food items are further analyzed to determine the popularity of certain foods, the amount of fresh produce consumed, and the amount of prepared purchased foods for each project.



- Analysis is focused solely on receipts acquired during in-field work, and do not cover post-field receipts for things like photo development, report production, etc.
- Data extracted from these receipts highlight the prominent resources we as archaeologists purchase and consume in the field today, and identify differences and similarities between what was purchased for field projects over fifty years ago.

The Archaeologist's Diet: Then and Now

Key Food Items

1961 Survey

Juice (13.7%) including fruit, vegetable juices, and kool-aid.
Meat (12.7%) including steaks, tuna fish, canned meat, ground beef, bacon, bacon rind.
Produce (10.6%) including tomatoes, plums, pineapple, pears, peaches, onions, oranges, lima beans, grapefruit, asparagus, etc.

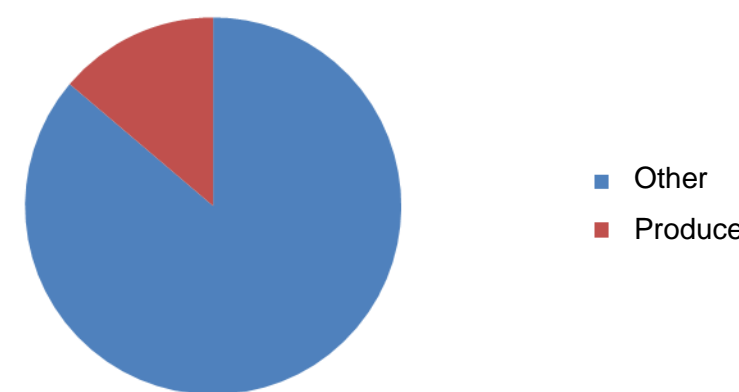
1963 Data Recovery

Meat (40.8%) including lunch meat, weinies, bacon, liver sausage, hamburger, whole chickens, etc.
Produce (18.3%) including oranges, turnips, onions, carrots, lettuce, etc.
Bread (5.6%) and cheese (3.4%)

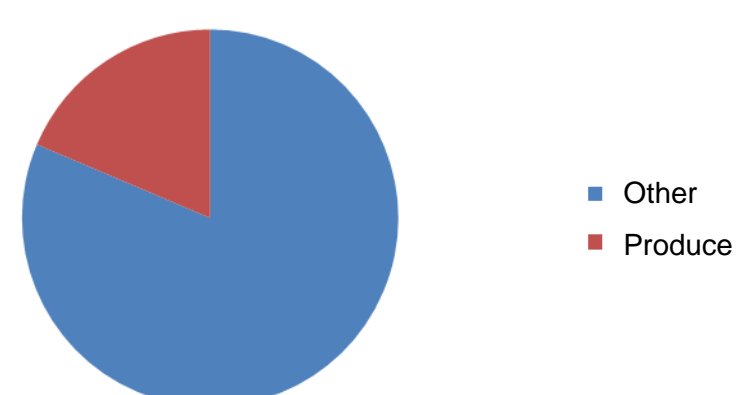
2015 Data Recovery

"Grab and Go" (26%) including Starbucks items (croissants, scones, etc.), deli items (chicken strips, deli panini), Lunchables, and pre-made salads.
Produce (10.5%) including blueberries, mandarins, apples, strawberries, salad greens, etc.
Meat (8%) including deli meats, chicken sausage, and whole rotisserie chickens.
Coffee and tea (6.9%) Starbucks drinks, instant coffee.

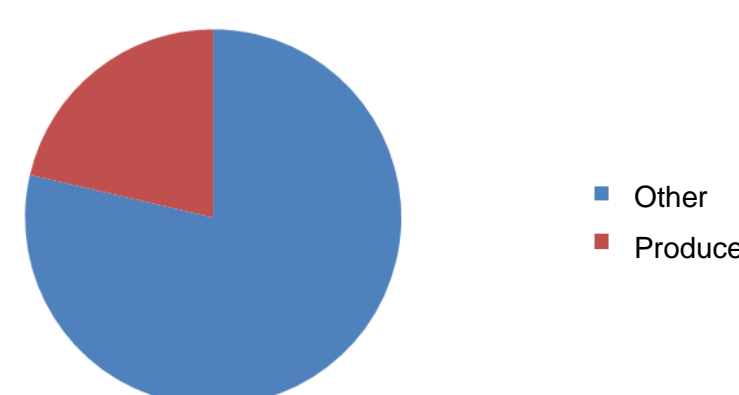
1961 Percentage of Produce Purchased



1963 Percentage of Produce Purchased

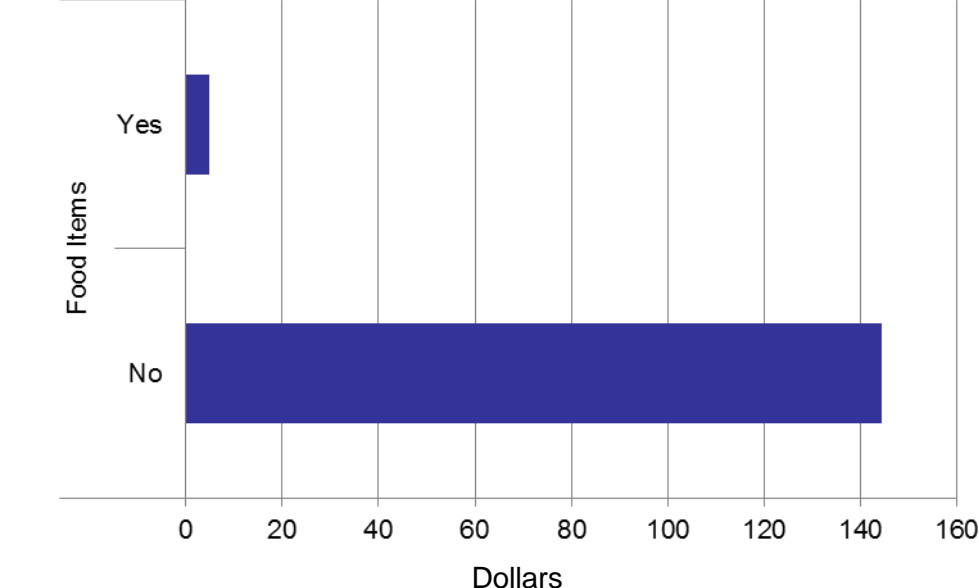


2015 Percentage of Produce Purchased

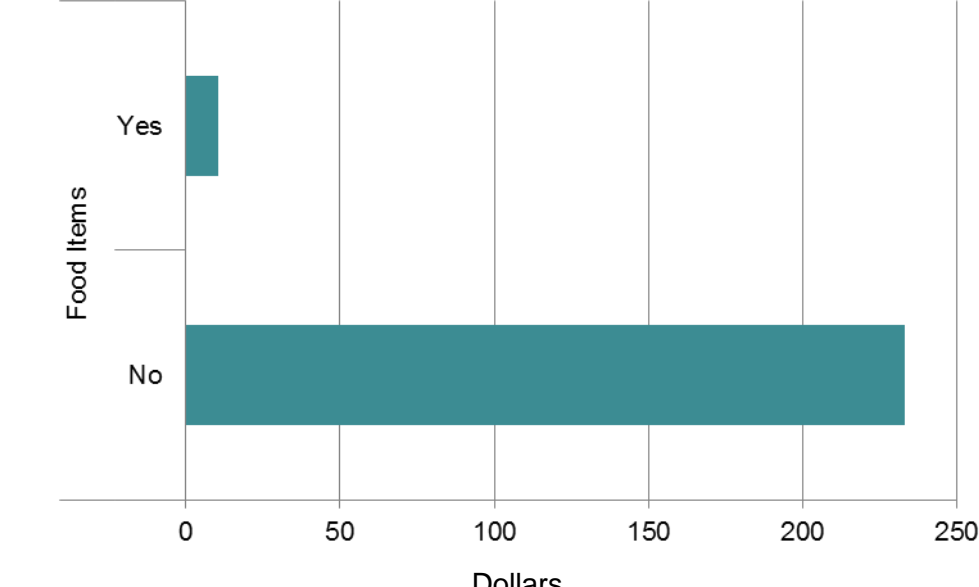


Note: does not include restaurant purchases

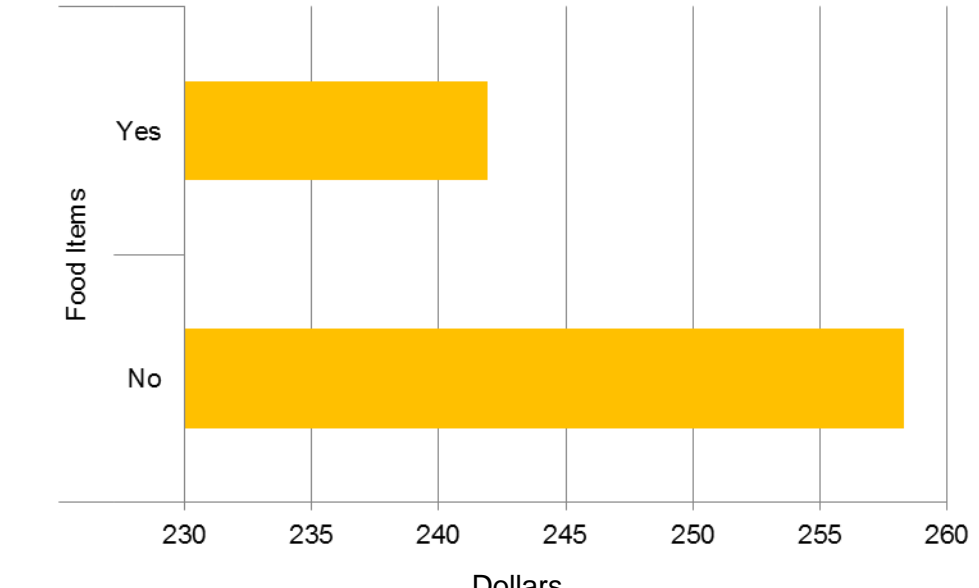
1961 Prepared Foods Purchased



1963 Prepared Foods Purchased



2015 Prepared Foods Purchased



Note: includes restaurant meals and prepared grocery items

Trends in Food Procurement & Consumption



- The institutionalized nature of food procurement for the 1961 and 1963 field work led to less variety in the items purchased, as the whims of multiple individuals were not a factor, and purchasing decisions were more utilitarian and did not include excise items such as alcohol or tobacco.
- A substantial difference in the consumption of "grab and go" and prepared (restaurant/grocery) items can be seen between the 1960s projects and the 2015 project.
- Of total food purchased, the 2015 crew consumed more fresh produce than the 1960s crews.
- The 2015 crew consumed substantially less meat, roughly 8%, whereas meat accounted for 40.8% of total food items purchased for the 1963 crew.

Discussion

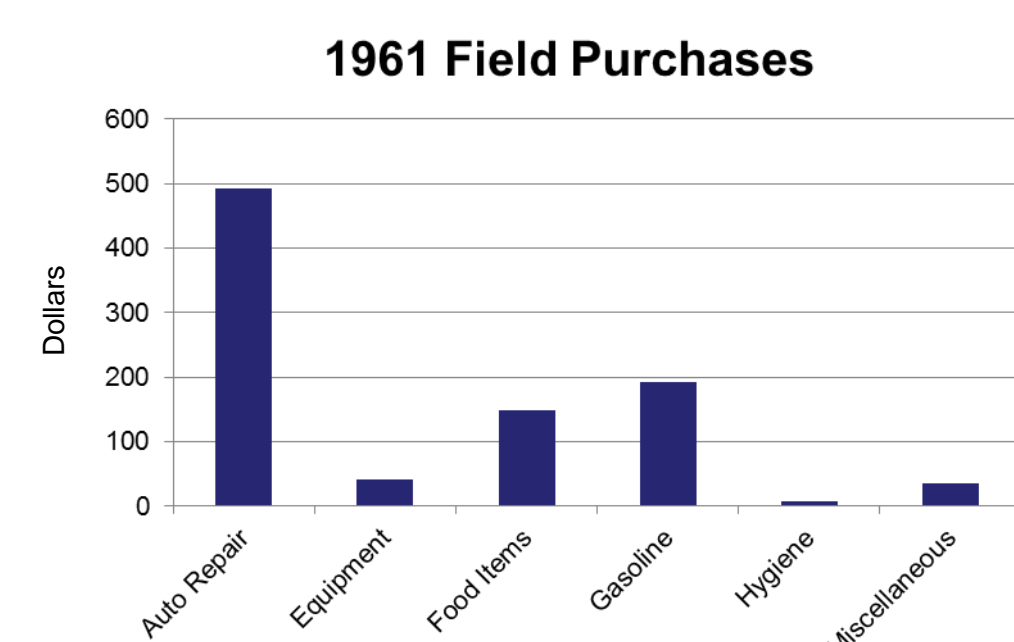
Similar to food procurement throughout human history, the places at which crew provisions were purchased in both 2015 and 1961/1963 were spatially determined by the location of the work at hand. The remote nature of fieldwork caused the Bruce's Eddy crew to travel to various small towns to purchase food. The 2015 crew solved the problem by stopping in The Dalles, a semi-urban area that is conveniently located on the interstate highway en route to the project area.

Individual provisioning in 2015 led to a greater variety in foods and supplies purchased and allowed for the inclusion of excise items. Changes in the way food is sold and the nature of field accommodations led to a heavy reliance on "grab and go" pre-prepared items that were not available at grocery stores in the 1960's. Additionally, nearly 6.9% of all food items purchased in 2015 were prepared coffee and tea drinks, indicating a newfound reliance on the grab and go caffeine fix for field workers.

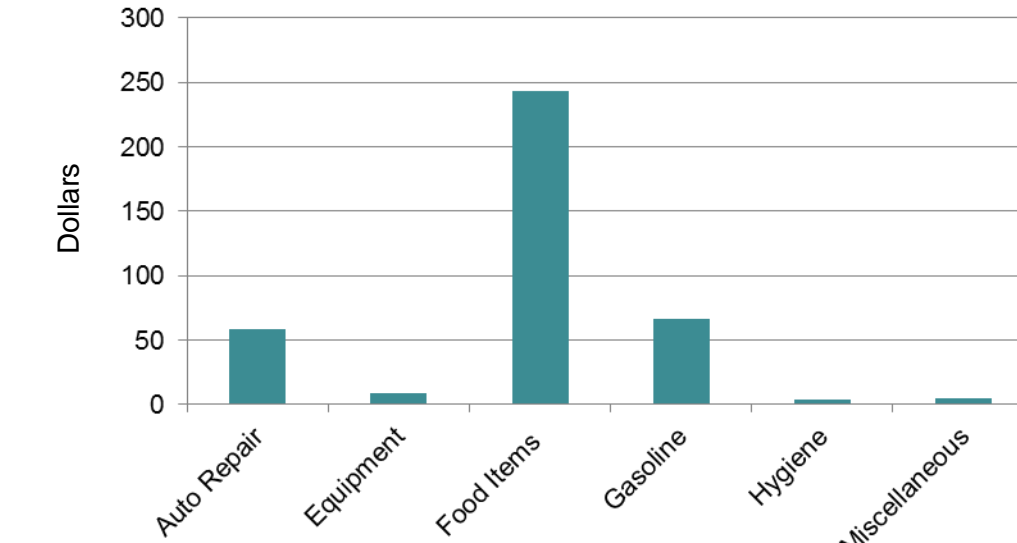
Interestingly, of total food items purchased, more fresh produce was purchased by the 2015 crew than 1961 and 1963 crews, suggesting that although modern crews depend heavily on "grab and go" items, they were also more conscious about including fresh foods in their diet. Additionally, this may suggest that individual choice actually leads to a generally healthier field subsistence.

Field Necessities: A Categorical Breakdown of Purchases

In 1961, The Idaho State College submitted 9 weeks of field receipts for the Bruce's Eddy archaeological survey in Clearwater County, Idaho. Receipts represent items purchased for a crew of 4 archaeologists.

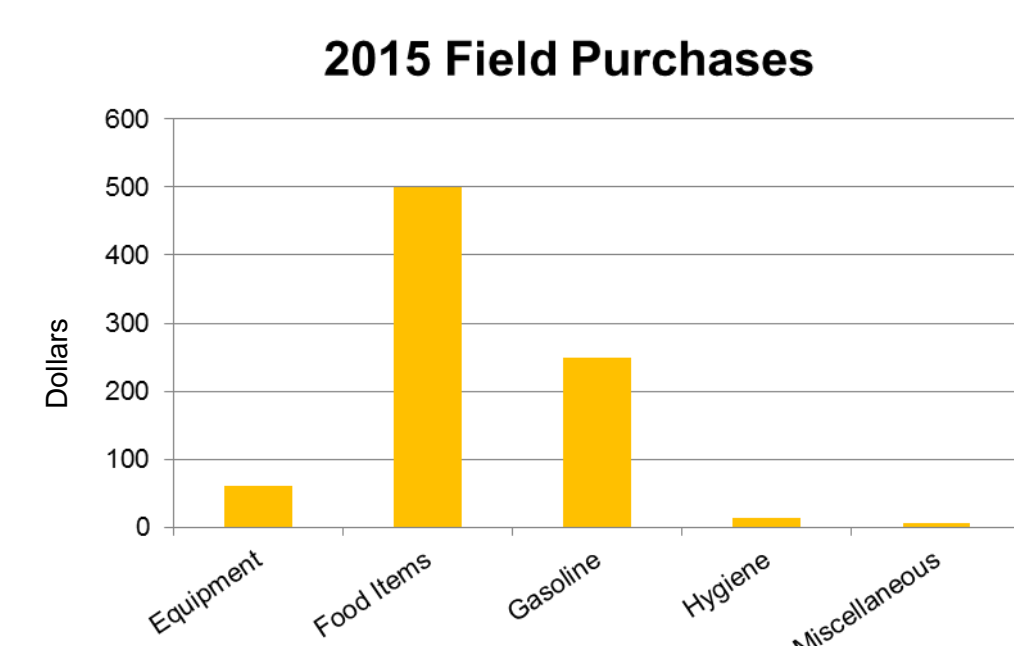


1963 Field Purchases



In 1963, 6 weeks of field receipts were submitted for the data recovery phase of Bruce's Eddy. Receipts represent items purchased for a student crew of 7 under the supervision of a field director. Food Items were likely purchased by one person for the group.

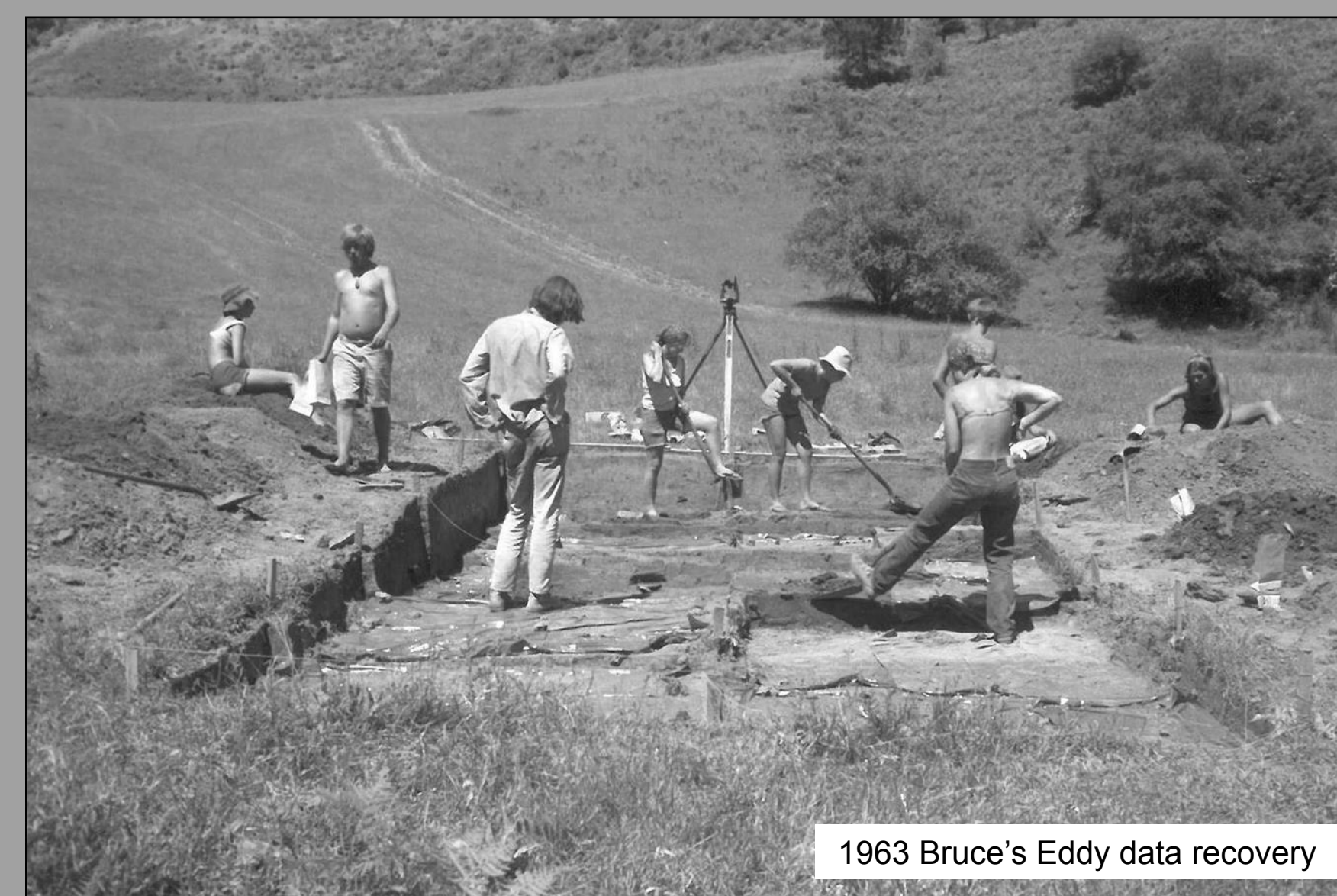
In 2015, 7 WillametteCRA archaeological technicians spent 2 sessions (9 days) in Klickitat County, Washington, conducting excavations for the Big Eddy-Knight data recovery. Crew members kept their receipts for individual purchases. Gasoline and other project receipts were compiled by the field director.



2015 Big Eddy-Knight data recovery



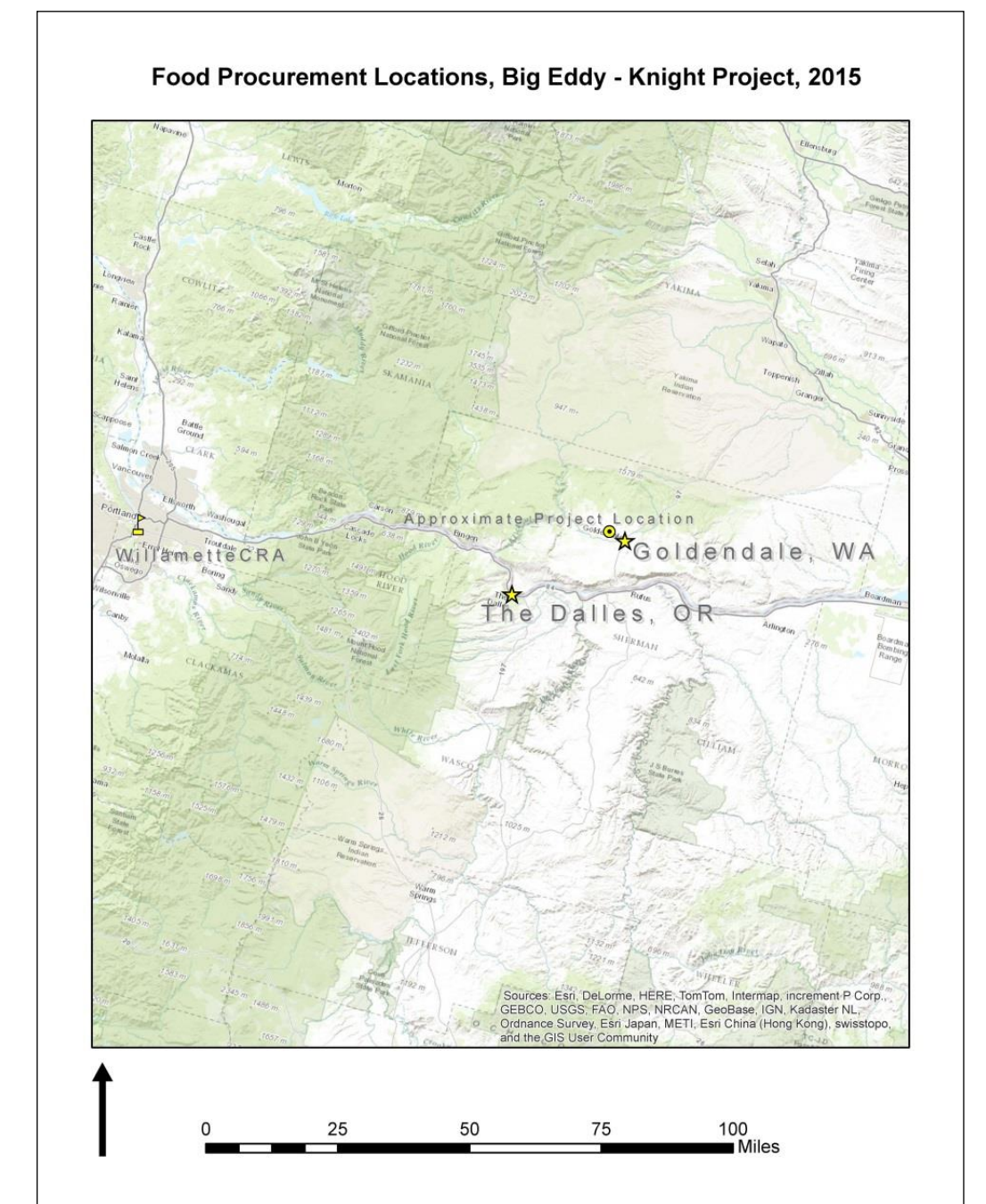
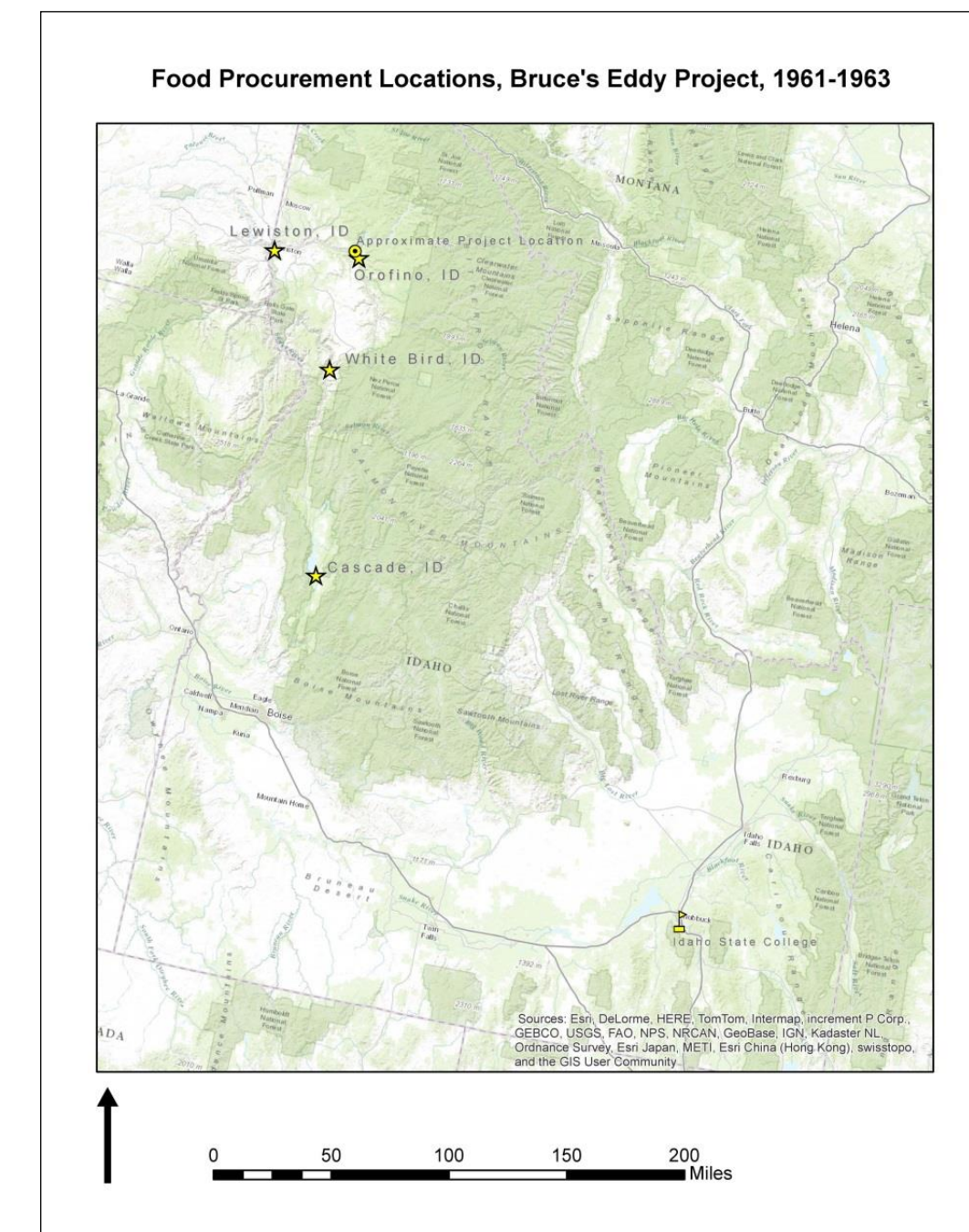
1963 Bruce's Eddy data recovery



1963 Bruce's Eddy data recovery



2015 Big Eddy-Knight data recovery



References/Acknowledgements

Images courtesy of: The Idaho State College, WillametteCRA, and ESRI Digital Globe.

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