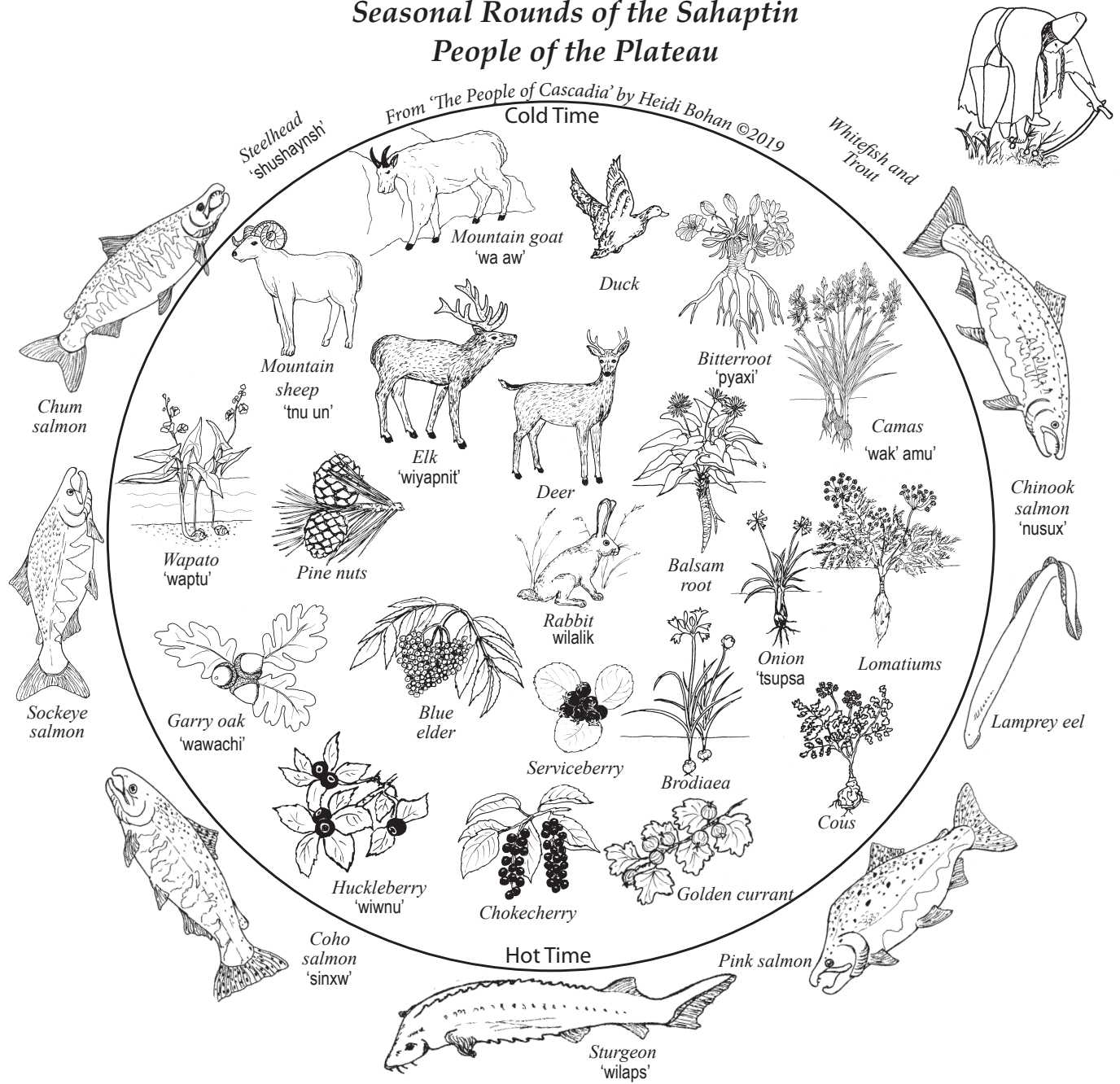


Seasonal Rounds of the Sahaptin People of the Plateau

From 'The People of Cascadia' by Heidi Bohan ©2019
Cold Time



The Seasonal Rounds of the Sahaptin People begins with the first new sprouts of celery-like lomatium, which break ground in late winter. This is a sign that the harvests of bitterroot, balsamroot, wild carrot, onion, cous, camas, brodiaea and other roots will begin.

The first spring runs of salmon arrive at this time, beginning a year-round cycle of salmon runs interspersed with fishing for the highly sought lamprey eel and sturgeon.

The serviceberries ripen in early summer, followed by strawberries, blackberries, currants, black hawthorn, blue elder and chokecherry. By summer's end the important mountain huckleberry is ready for harvest. The people travel far to seasonal berry camps to gather and dry large quantities. This is also the time to harvest acorns from the garry oak, and pine nuts from the whitebark pine. Mountain goat was also hunted at this time.

In the lowlands wapato bulbs are ready to harvest in fall, and the coho, sockeye and chum salmon are making their annual runs. The fish camps are busy with processing and drying salmon. Throughout the seasons the hunters make forays into the mountains and across the prairies to hunt for large game animals: deer and elk for everyday needs; mountain sheep and goat in the mountains, and buffalo to the far east to provide the luxury furs, wool, meat and horn.