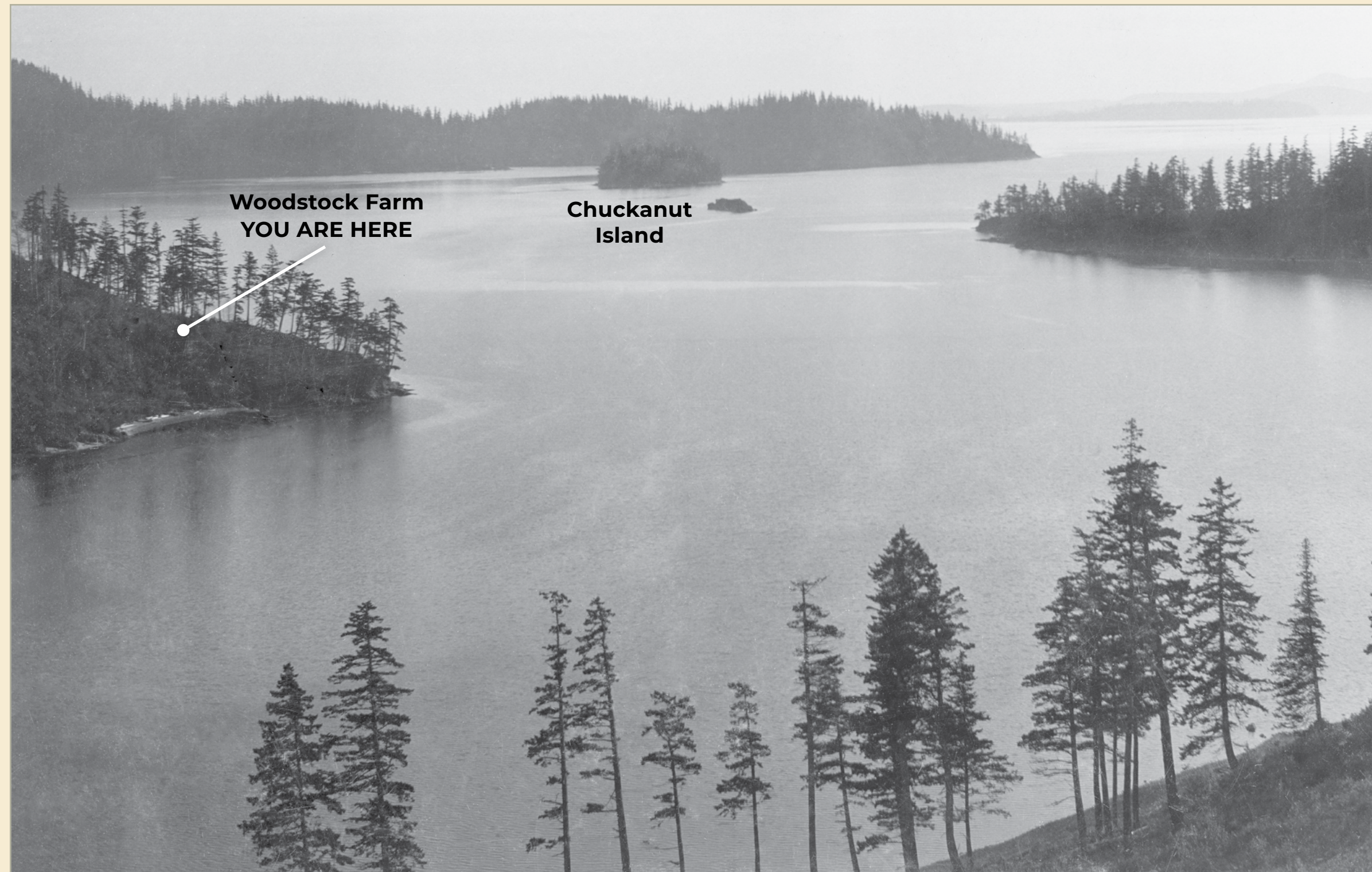
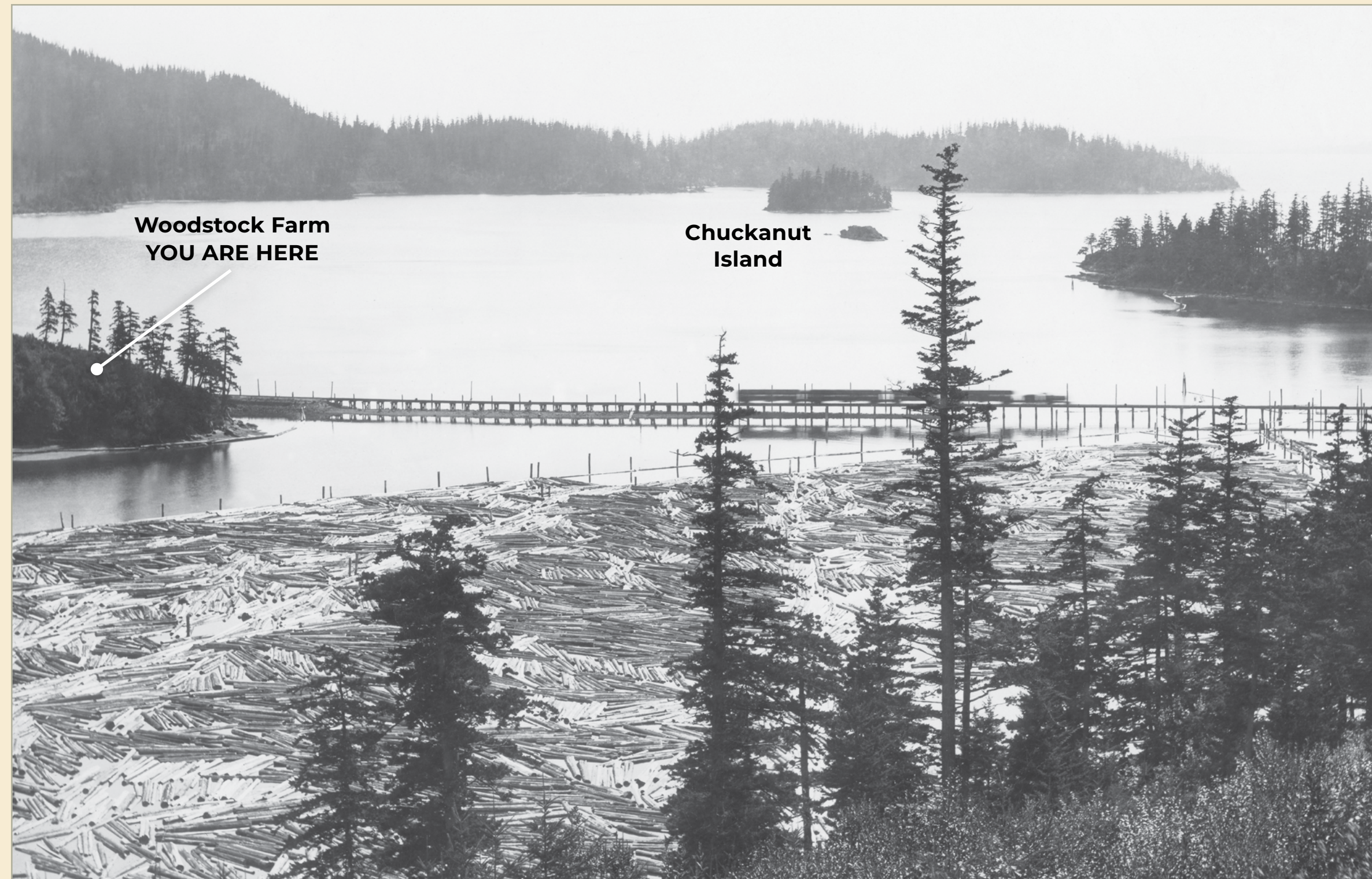


MUD BAY & CHUCKANUT CREEK ESTUARY

# Changes Over Time



**Photo at left:** Chuckanut Bay in 1897, before the railroad trestle was built, looking south toward Chuckanut Island (the ~~Cyrus Gates Memorial Preserve~~).



**Photo at right:** Same viewpoint circa 1905 with railroad trestle and the estuary full of logs. Woodstock Farm is located on the bluff at left. Clark's Point is on the right.

- Photos courtesy of Whatcom Museum



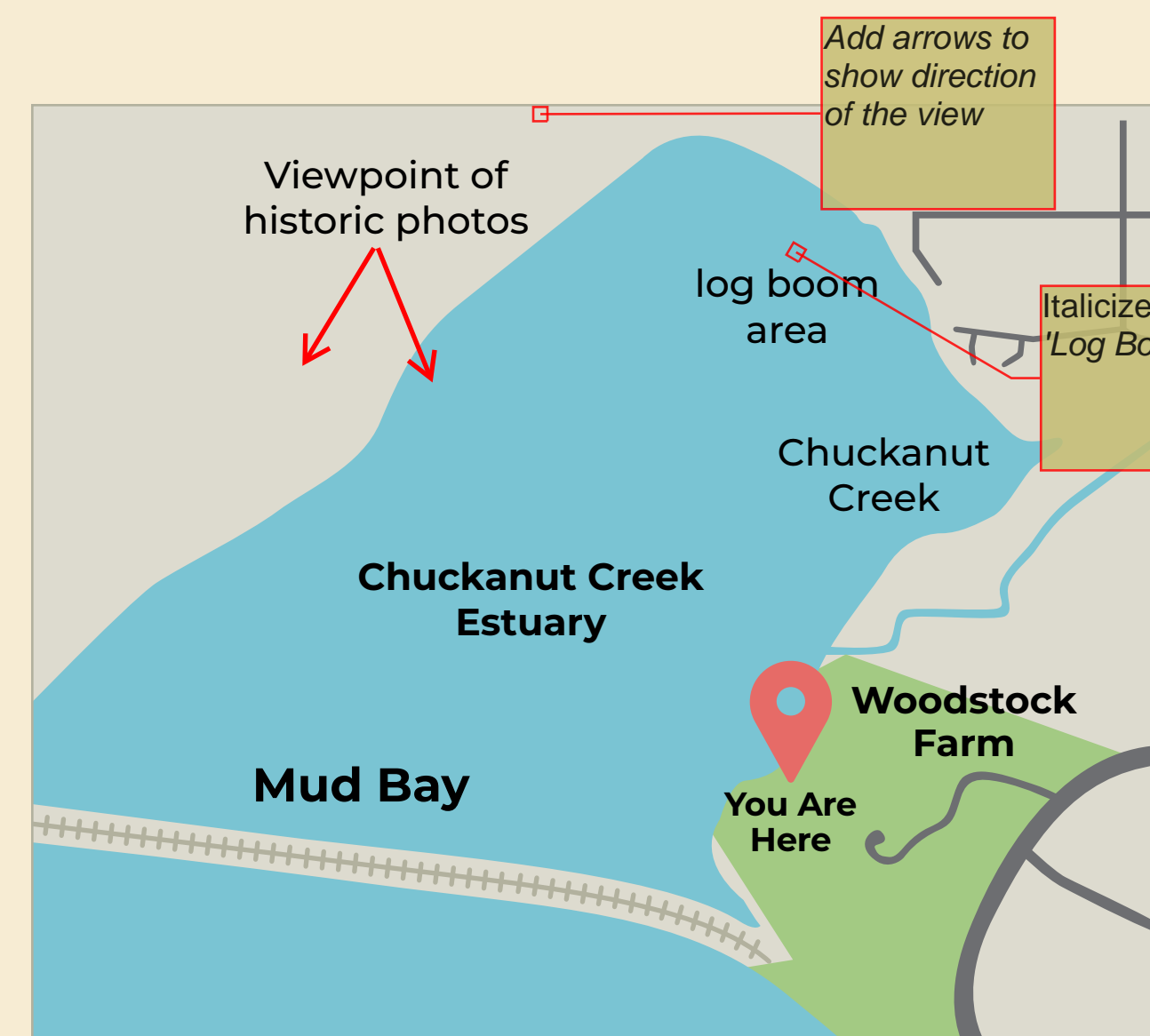
## THE RAILROAD

In 1902 the Great Northern Railway built a trestle across Chuckanut Bay and bore a tunnel through Clark's Point. Both are visible from Woodstock Farm. The line remains in daily use by Burlington Northern San Francisco freight trains and Amtrak passenger trains. Teredos ("water termites") undermined the trestle's wood pilings, requiring the bridge be filled in with riprap to make the causeway we see today. The obstruction to free-flowing water led to siltation of the Chuckanut Creek estuary and resultant "Mud Bay."

- Photo courtesy of Whatcom Museum

## CHANGING HABITAT

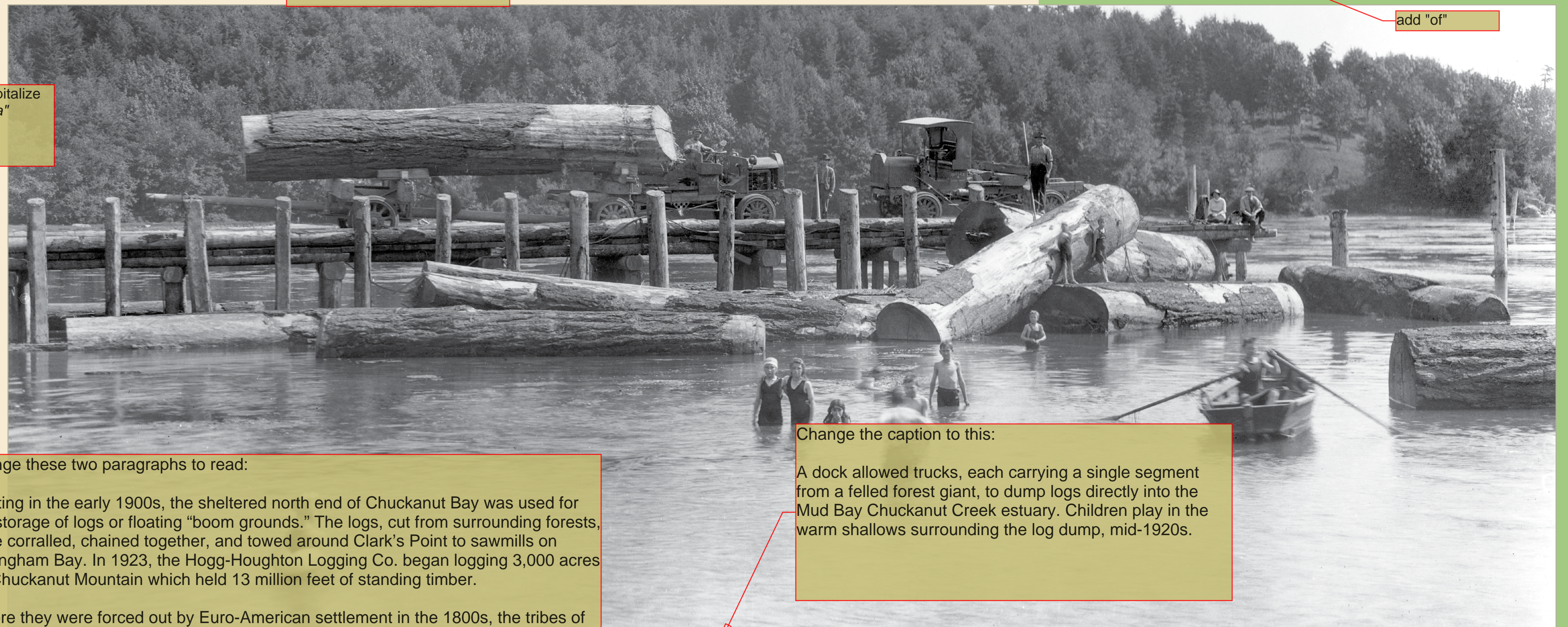
Rich in marine life, Mud Bay's tidal zone nurtured the seasonal Nooksack home of Chukwenet, 'where the beach goes way out,' at the mouth of Chuckanut Creek, once one of the area's most productive salmon streams. The protected estuary continues to be an important nursery habitat for young fish and shellfish beds.



## THE LOGGING INDUSTRY

~~Starting in the early 1900s, the sheltered north end of Chuckanut Bay was used for the storage of logs or floating "boom grounds." The logs, cut from surrounding forests, were corralled, chained together, and towed around Clark's Point to sawmills on Bellingham Bay.~~

~~In 1923, the Hogg-Houghton Logging Co. began logging 3,000 acres on Chuckanut Mountain which held 13 million feet of standing timber. The company estimated it would take nearly a decade to cut the trees. A dock allowed trucks, each carrying a single segment from a felled forest giant, to dump logs directly into the Mud Bay Chuckanut Creek estuary.~~



change these two paragraphs to read:

Starting in the early 1900s, the sheltered north end of Chuckanut Bay was used for the storage of logs or floating "boom grounds." The logs, cut from surrounding forests, were corralled, chained together, and towed around Clark's Point to sawmills on Bellingham Bay. In 1923, the Hogg-Houghton Logging Co. began logging 3,000 acres on Chuckanut Mountain which held 13 million feet of standing timber.

Before they were forced out by Euro-American settlement in the 1800s, the tribes of the Coast Salish region inhabited and cared for these lands and waters. Our industrial past was built on their homelands and territories, and the logging industry, as well as transportation and development, has adversely affected the natural habitat of this and other areas. For years, the City of Bellingham has worked to restore the health of the Chuckanut Creek Estuary to improve the ability of fish to grow and spawn.

Change the caption to this:

A dock allowed trucks, each carrying a single segment from a felled forest giant, to dump logs directly into the Mud Bay Chuckanut Creek estuary. Children play in the warm shallows surrounding the log dump, mid-1920s.

**in the Chuckanut Creek estuary, mid-1920s**