

## Ursula Valdez

PNW ecosystems have offered important ecosystem services for centuries, millennia and more. Early human inhabitants of this region, learned so well how to manage their resource use without altering ecosystems in significant ways, and were able to use resources for long times. With the current scientific knowledge and tools that we have today, how is it possible that we keep driving many species of our region and failed at maintaining their habitats and protecting their populations. Considering the importance that iconic species of our region, such as Salmon and Orca whales, why aren't we using the accumulated knowledge to design and support actions that protect these species? Please do use the science, the ancestral knowledge and the vision for the future of our native species and ecosystems. Populations of Pacific salmon and resident Orca Whales need urgent attention and mainly action to stop their concerning decrease. If they go, so many ecosystem services will be negatively affected, not to mention the economic and cultural impact that these species have in the region. Please, it is a moral and intelligent decision to work protecting the habitats and populations of these species, for the future of our region and for our own.