

## Karen Bertram

As a life-long resident of Puget Sound, I've observed a lot of progress toward cleaning up our lakes, rivers, and Puget Sound, and improving our water treatment methods. But several factors continue to put pressure on our waters. These include the ever-increasing population, lack of environmentally friendly development methods (e.g., replacing trees with lawns), and untreated stormwater runoff. We cannot let down our guard with respect to protecting Puget Sound, so let's make sure we're taking advantage of every possible federal fund to help us mitigate the pressures on our environment. It isn't just about salmon or orca whales. It's about preserving an entire marine system that is the environmental cornerstone of Western Washington. Thank you for listening.