

## Velvet Andrews Smith

Salmon are a critical keystone and foundation species. They act as vital nutrient transporters and food sources that connect ocean and freshwater ecosystems. The salmon (and other species that rely upon them for survival, including the Southern Resident Orcas) are endangered because we have ignored their needs and destroyed their habitat for decades. It's time that we take a stand and prioritize their protection -- that includes preserving salmon habitat along the Chehalis River -- one of the last free-flowing rivers in Washington State. I am firmly opposed to building a flood retention facility and reservoir on the Chehalis River. Let's do the right thing for the future of our salmon and the ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest.