

## Kristen Pilgrim

I have spent my life in Washington and Oregon. Our irreplaceable waters, ecosystems, plants, and animals are constantly at risk of being destroyed or are in the process of being destroyed. These lands belong to the indigenous peoples since time immemorial and since colonization we have displaced, killed, ignored, and invaded the cultures of these lands, waters, and ecosystems while simultaneously destroying them. We are at a critical juncture in this country and globally because we continue to destroy and weaken our environment, which ironically is needed for human survival and security. We need to learn and practice reciprocity - the taking care of our land, ecosystems, plants, animals, and waters so that they thrive so that we humans can also thrive. We need the waters flowing and flooding; we need the birds, mammals, fish, insects, and plant and water nutrients; and we need the salmon for indigenous and all peoples health and wellbeing. Moreover our current administration is slashing all environmental protections, expanding fossil fuels and coal, eliminating public lands and waterways, denying green energy, and increasing its military and carbon emissions. We desperately desperately desperately need Washington state, the west coast, and the nation to step up to commit to the protection of this free watershed for our immediate wellbeing. The removal of a dam along the Klamath river in Oregon is returning salmon and the environment to health and showing us that we need to follow similar indigenous practices and protect our rivers and habitats, not ruin them by dams.