

IT'S MORE THAN JUST A TREE.

(It's a keystone species)

The Garry oak (Quercus garryana) is much more than a lovely tree. It is a keystone species that plays a critical role in maintaining the structure of an ecological community. Nearly 200 different species, including native wildlife and many rare plants, depend on the Garry oak and its associated ecosystems for survival. However, these species are increasingly at risk as Garry oak habitat in our islands has shrunk to less than 1% of its historic range. If you are fortunate to have Garry oak on your property, we would like to help you to contribute to the biodiversity of our islands. For more information about Garry oak habitat management, including restoration assistance, contact Dean Dougherty, Director of Stewardship, at 360.376.7133 or <u>deand@sipt.org</u>. (photo by John Dustrude)