Carla Lange

I would like to comment on a few areas.

Risks to public health - in the past few years my dragon boat club planned fundraising events to support veterans, cancer patients, and other vulnerable populations. Large events with many teams registered showed an anticipation of not only showcasing the beauty of the lake, but bringing in money to the community. Sadly, due to water conditions the events had to be cancelled. Not only healthy athletes were impacted by not being able to boat in the water, but vulnerable people who had planned on being honored by the event had to stay clear of the poor conditions. This is impacted not only the support money that could have been raised, but lowered the spirits of groups hoping for a unique and edifying experience. As a cancer survivor I started out paddling with excitement and healing the water sport gave me. I now paddle less due to conditions, and am worried every time I get splashed on my face. The lake has changed from a healing element to a health risk for my fellow survivors who desire to gain their vigor back.

Risks to threatened and endangered species
Vulnerability of water bodies to degradation - in my years paddling on the lake I've witnessed eagles, seals, osprey, cranes, fish, beaver, and ducks all sharing the water's bounty and ecosystem. The backdrop is a glorious view of 5 mountain peaks I've witnessed both in stunning sunrises and sunsets. Water quality has impacted not only human but all local species. Fish are clogged from swimming, duck counts have diminished, and predator birds are reduced to very few. Humans are the least impacted - so many species are getting choked out of their home.

The lake is the only regional venue in Southwest Washington for rowing and paddling teams. It's also a place to meet neighbors for picnics, hikes, hunting, and a gorgeous view away from the city. There lake is in severe decline, and it's bringing physical and mental consequences to the people and animals of our area. Please prioritize taking care of the lake!