

Deborah Myers

I have lived "downstream" from the fish farm for almost 25 years. I oppose the application to allow for the raising of Steelhead in Rich Passage. I am deeply concerned about water quality in Rich passage. Over the many years, I have observed a succession of several companies take over the operation of the fish farm. One thing they all had in common is that each and every company was sloppy and negligent in their operations. Just by fish farming, they contribute to water pollution. Fish food, fish feces and other contaminants empty empty into Rich Passage on a daily basis. Additionally, their negligent operations also pollute. I have watched viral infections (we always knew when the fish had a virus because they would attach a long fire hose to the fire hydrant in the street). I have observed the improper cleaning of equipment and the storage of questionable items over the water. They have been cited for the same violations repeatedly. Frequently, they stop doing a prohibited activity for a time, after being cited, but eventually they always start right back in again. I think we can expect more of the same in the future.

As a mother, the pollutants in the water concerned me and I never allowed my children to play in the water. The kids would ask me why and I would always tell them the water is too polluted. This is a shame in such a beautiful area. Please do not allow this polluting operation to continue in Rich Passage.