

Betsy Norton

I am a birder and hiker and concerned about biodiversity amid climate change. I am particularly concerned about accumulations of alum precipitate on lake bottoms and associated cumulative levels of metals, Sulfides and organic chemicals in our lakes and streams over time. The permits should be requiring an analysis and limits to total loading over time, as there are likely critical points of accumulated chemical and precipitate concentrations which will have adverse effects. In addition, I would recommend permitting that is time limited for using chemicals to remove manmade pollutants like excess phosphorous. Ecology should set a timeline for an end to treatment permits (some #of years) to force the locals to clean up their contamination sources. Otherwise these "treatments" become a sisyphian task, and lakes become filled with precipitates which blanket the lakebed and prevent the lake ecosystems from ever being restored.

I also support specific comments from Bonnie Blessing and note regarding ditches that not only extant species, but new species extending range or fleeing climate events are going to need all the aquatic habitat we can provide- and that aquatic habitat needs to provide shade and physical protection as well as nontoxic forage vegetation and invertebrates. Thankyou.