

## Tanya Hovi

Besides sulfates in waters, climate change is further damaging wild rice in Big Rice Lake in St. Louis County through drought, engendering lower water levels. Aquatic pickerelweed has been flourishing at the expense of wild rice beds, leading to a yearly effort by the MN DNR to mow down the weed down by boat, using two power boats, at a great cost in gasoline with resulting engine emissions. Sulfates released through mining go hand in hand with releases of carbon from the earth, exacerbating climate upheaval. The wild rice standard is a measure of common sense toward protecting our lakes' integrity and the climate both at once.