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In the 40 years we've resided near Birch Lake, we've sadly watched the wild rice beds on our lake chain from Birch downstream thru White Iron, Garden & Fall Lake steadily diminish. Harvesting the crop each year with our native friends from the Bois Forte band has been a peak summer event for us. But that experience has become increasingly disheartening as the rice beds dwindle away. Residents on our lake chain have long suspected acid mine drainage from Dunka River and Un-named Creek was the culprit. In fact, orange sulfide residue is readily apparent on the rocks of Un-named Creek in Birch Lake's Bob Bay. Sadly, the damage has been done and is presumably beyond remediation. But at least with this proposed impaired waters listing for Birch Lake, it may be less likely that additional point sources of pollution will ever be permitted that might impact our lake chain.