

## Ranae Hanson

Birch Lake near Babbitt, MN, is now on the impaired waters list for sulfate. I grew up on Finn Bay of Birch Lake and return there several times a year to care for the shoreline of my family's property. It is essential that the waters of the lake are able to sustain wild rice and other life forms that also could be affected by sulfate. Birch Lake feeds into the Boundary Waters. My family has dedicated itself to care for these waters. My environmental-engineer brother, out of a life-long passion for these waters, has spent decades developing a system to remove the sulfate because he has understood that taconite mine tailings could leach sulfate into our lake. I urge you to implement Jeff Hanson's Clearwater Biologics process that can remove the sulfate from the streams that are polluting our lake. When someone who loves this lake devotes his life to caring for it, his work should be seriously considered - however, that isn't the important thing. When a cost-effective, functioning method is developed to protect all life forms on the lake, it should be implemented.