

Laura Ackerman

I strongly support the nomination by the Soap Lake Conservancy and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Designation Soap Lake for Tier 111 designation. I have read it, and the nomination is well written, researched and most especially it informs us of the importance of the lake to local sovereign nations.

I grew up in Soap Lake and while I don't have a disease that it is famous for mitigating disease symptoms or sometimes curing diseases, I have physically benefited from swimming in the lake. I remember as a child, pow wows on the east beach.

I recently found a second hand book published by the Dept. of Ecology on the Lakes of Washington, Volume 11, Eastern Washington, Second Edition by Ernest E. Wolcott, 1973.

In reading parts of the book about Grant County and surrounding counties, it is easy to see how unique central Washington is and some of the lakes in this area are more saline than others. Soap Lake stands out as the most interesting historically and scientifically. I grew up swimming in all the lakes of the Grand Coulee. My children have swam in the lake, and I don't live there anymore. But that isn't enough to preserve Soap Lake, just because I want it to be preserved. This lake is important and educational in the greater geology of the area, and most especially, it needs to be conserved and designated by DOE because of the thousands of years of use by local tribes.

The unique history and the science of this lake is a natural feature Washingtonians should be proud of and preserve. Thank you for taking comments.