

Kathy Koss

I am a retired public employee. I live in Everett, WA. I have visited friends in Soap Lake and very much enjoy the lake the surrounding environment. I am writing in support of Soap Lake's designation as an Outstanding Resource Water - Tier III(B)., Soap Lake has unique, mineral-rich water created by the geology of the region concentrating the minerals in the water and the mud., This is a regionally unique recreational value and destination for healing nature of water. Used since pre-historic times to heal and rejuvenate people living here., This unique habitat that is a rare example of its kind with bacteria only found in this lake. Researchers with Montana State University have been awarded a series of grants totalling \$6.4 million to identify ways algae can be used for biofuels and other products as it removes carbon dioxide from the air. In addition to other research being conducted on the water and mud in the lake., Helping keep the lake healthy will help the economy of Soap Lake. The minerals keep the water from excess forming toxic algae. The area surrounding Soap Lake is a unique landscape with native wildlife and geology that is difficult to find in any other location. Walking the trails surrounding the lake is not only interesting but an extremely satisfying activity. I've seen reptiles, birds, plants, rocks and stones that I haven't seen in other locations. The water views are also unique in color and geology. It would be a tragedy to lose any of the resources available in this location.