

## judith gorman

I am the current President of Soap Lake Conservancy. I am one of the co-authors of the Co-application by the Colville Confederated Tribes and the Soap Lake Conservancy which was accepted by the Department Of Ecology June 1, 2021 as meeting three of the four criteria for the State Outstanding Resource Water tier 111b category of DOE-1 ( the one the Lake does not meet?...the lake is no longer pristine).

The Outstanding Resource Water attributes of Soap Lake upon which the DOE has proposed designating Soap Lake are:

1. Soap lake is a unique and regionally rare habitat, (migratory birds, bacteria unknown to exist anywhere else in the world)
2. Soap Lake has unique recreational value ( basically in all the world!)
3. Soap Lake is of statewide ecological significance (and I'd add from my perspective the world.... as research papers describe which you can find on [www.thelake.org](http://www.thelake.org) The Soap Lake Conservancy web site)

I fully support and agree with these above attributes!--although I also think there are additional Outstanding and Unique attributes as well which I will comment on at a later date )

I am actively involved with supporting the DOE approval of Soap Lake for the ORW tier 111b protections.

I would like to copy here, for sharing purposes, as a part of my comment two previous comments found in this DOE prior to this comment stream of comments. These below 2 comments I have copied her, I agree with and support, as they speak to important qualities which I also value, and which are already recognized by the DOE as fitting the ORW protection criteria.

They also emphasize the extensive draw of people to Soap Lake for a variety of reasons: the natural uniqueness of Soap Lake in the world, and historical precedent for both healing and natural geological uniqueness for study and learning; and the uniqueness of the recreational value the lake provides --all creatures great and small--.

Soap Lake is indeed not only unique but also precious and if not protected NOW from further deterioration, degradation and pollution, the lake will be a unique in the world treasure, which will be gone forever. I definitely support the DOE in awarding final approval at the end of Public Comment for Soap Lake to be acknowledged as a Washington State Outstanding Resource Water with all the protection that status warrants going forward.

The two Public Comments which are profound from my perspective and their content regarding the lake qualities to which I agree; They can be found in the stream but are copied below for your convenience.

The first copied public comment is below:

1.) uploaded -1-August 2, 2023 from Coulee Corridor Consortium ( Mark Amara )

[written]  
-1-July 31, 2023

Mark Amara  
Acting Chair  
Coulee Corridor Consortium  
PO Box 123  
Grand Coulee, WA 99133  
(509) 760-7859  
Email: mark\_amara@live.com

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation/Soap Lake Conservancy Nomination to Designate Soap Lake as an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW)

The Coulee Corridor Consortium (CCC) fully supports the joint efforts of the Soap Lake Conservancy and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to secure an Outstanding Resource Waters designation for Soap Lake in Grant County, Washington through the Department of Ecology. The CCC are active proponents of educating the public about the therapeutic, physical/geological and mineralogical characteristics of the lake. And, we respect and support efforts of Native American tribes and the city of Soap Lake to keep the lake as pristine and contaminant free as possible both to help retain its medicinal qualities, high water quality including aquatic habitats, and ecological and recreational values. The lake has been culturally significant for thousands of years and the traditions associated with it will be compromised by current and future uses without the requested designation. These actions are necessary to ensure that the resource is maintained for traditional and contemporary users now and in the future. We understand that the unique meromictic alkaline qualities of the lake make it rare in the world. Without the additional statewide designation and controls, continued dilution of the lake will destroy/degrade its characteristics which are irreplaceable. The CCC is, therefore, pleased to support these efforts to preserve the lake's qualities and ask that DOE to grant the requested designation.

The Coulee Corridor Consortium (CCC), a 501c (3) nonprofit corporation, promotes the education, planning, development and implementation of programs that enhance the preservation and promotion of the intrinsic qualities of the 150-mile-long Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway which runs between Omak and Othello and includes Soap Lake.

Sincerely,  
Mark Amara  
Acting Chair  
Coulee Corridor Consortium  
PO Box 123  
Grand Coulee, WA 99133  
(509) 760-7859  
Email: mark\_amara@live.com-1-

2) this second public comment ( below ) was written and submitted by Deborah Cerrato, It follows here in quotations.

-1-On behalf of the nomination to designate Soap Lake as an Outstanding Resource Water, I would like to add support for this motion from the perspective of the general public. I lived in the state of Washington in my youth and greatly appreciate and value its beauty. As well, from a scientific perspective, there are things about Soap Lake which place it in a very unique category. Besides its unique mineral makeup and ecosystem, it is a treasure that cannot be re-created or easily restored. It is well documented that the construction of canals has already diluted the mineral content of this lake. Further unchecked activities could permanently destroy what is now the most highly diverse mineral-rich body of water in the world.

I currently live in Arkansas and visit its natural thermal springs in Hot Springs. Thankfully these are at least managed in order to preserve some of the natural wonder. Projecting my appreciation for this local preservation, I would only hope that the decision to protect the rarity of Soap Lake is approved thereby safeguarding its unrivaled uniqueness.

Please do the right and responsible thing.

Sincerely,

Deborah Cerrato M.D-1-

end of my comment.

Thanks to both Deborah Cerrato and Mark Amara for your articulate and meaningful heart felt comments. I fully support all of your comments and indeed are pleased to support along with you each, the DOE efforts to preserve Soap Lake's unique qualities, and ask the DOE to grant the requested designation.-1-