

Janet Leonard

I have lived in this area since the mid sixties. I attended and graduated from the Soap Lake School system. In 1973 I became "Miss Soap Lake" and represented Soap Lake around this state and Oregon and Canada. I am proud to be living in this area and not in some huge metropolis that does not understand what it means to be in nature. 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., The layers of water that do not mix in Soap Lake. This is unique. The chemically stratified layer of naturally formed meromictic lakes ... has evolved uniquely adapted species., 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. I was a contestant for "Miss Soap Lake" in 1973 and we were informed that there were 28 different chemicals in the water that made it unique now in 2023 I am told there are only 17. This change in this unique lake is upsetting to me and many others who have lived here for a long time. This area has depended on the lake for many reasons so as it degrades the community it supports degrades. The lake no longer creates the suds that were the cause of the name and it no longer attracts outsiders from around the world. Since this lake is only two of a kind in the world and few know about the other one it is very important to protect this lake for visitors and scientist.