

Alex Kovach

Adding Soap Lake to the WACs as an ORW with a Tier IIIB Antidegradation designation is recommended and supported from a citizen and planners perspective. The historical scientific and cultural significance of Soap Lake, makes it an Outstanding Resource Water, important to preserve so it provides for continued recreation and education for the public.

The economic benefits to the City of Soap Lake and surrounding areas, are tied to the health of the lake. It's unique mineral content has drawn people to the City for natural healing over the last 100 years (local tribes were drawn to the lake long before), which provides the foundation for the City of Soap Lake being -1-your cure for the ordinary-1-. The City's Comprehensive Plan directs that the City acts as an advocate and champion for the lake, as it is the foundation of the City's identity and culture.

Monitoring the Lakes health has focused its salinity. That is the prime indicator to watch, as freshening of the lake combined with fertilizer run-off could lead to eutrophication of the water. But that variable should be taken into consideration with others, to have a more robust understanding of the Lakes health. The composition and volume of the monimolimnion and overall lake water volume (water elevation) have been recently discussed as additional health indicators. These data point may be appropriate to review in combination with the lakes salinity.

While sampling of the water is mentioned as a means of monitoring potential degradation of water quality, it is not clear on who provides the sampling? Is that relying on the USBR and QCBID as has been done in the past?

Grant County and the City of Soap Lake, may need to revise stormwater run-off policies to assure no further degradation of the lake water.

Thank you for your time,
Alex Kovach