

## Peggy Comin

I have lived in Soap Lake since the late 80"s. I currently work at the Soap Lake Visitor Center located on what we refer to as the East Beach. 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. "My Public Comment

I currently work weekends at the Soap Lake Visitor Center. Throughout the day, I see many people out in the Lake playing or soaking up the water and sun.

Many people, on average six per day, stop by to ask various questions about the Lake (and the nearby RV Park),Ä¶What is the origin of the Lake? where could we eat lunch or dinner, shop; and what other activities does Soap Lake have to offer? I always ask visitors where they are from and what brings them to Soap Lake.

Many come here every year. Some just happen to stop by wanting to wade in the lake and cool off. Some people pass by over the years meaning to stop and finally do.

I offer visitors brochures and tell them about the unique qualities of the Lake, that it is one of the most diverse and concentrated mineral profiles of all our planet,Äôs lakes.

These people that come to our Lake every year help support our economy. Without this Lake being healthy, they wouldn,Äôt stop or come back every year. Many even move here to partake of the Lake,Äôs mineral rich water and it,Äôs healing benefits. "