

## Deborah Cerrato

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.