

Ice Age Floods Institute

Lower Grand Coulee Chapter

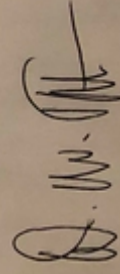
To: Marla Koberstein (ECY)
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We are writing to inform you of our organization's support for the Department of Ecology (DOE) nomination and approval to designate Soap Lake as a Washington State Outstanding Resource Water (ORW).

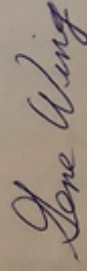
Our organization includes the goal of public education regarding the formation of the upper and lower Grand Coulees. Soap Lake is an ancient lake formed during these ice age floods thousands of years ago. Soap Lake is a unique and key component of the ice age floods formation of the Lower Grand Coulee.

Soap Lake is a rare meromictic mineral lake that is located at the south end of the Grand Coulee. The lake has attracted indigenous people for thousands of years who as a part of their cycle of moving across the scablands and coulees would stop on the shores of Soap Lake for recreation and healing themselves and their animals. The lake continues to attract people from around the country and the world who seek its unique mineral waters for healing purposes, and unique recreational value. Soap Lake continues to provide unique and regionally rare habitat as well as statewide ecological significance, which we highly value.

Our organization supports the efforts of the DOE to preserve the lake's qualities and ask the DOE to grant the requested designation by the applicants.



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