

Bobbie OLeary

I live in Soap Lake and Place great value on this body of water. 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. "Soap Lake, a highly mineralized lake formed following the Ice Age, is renowned for its exceptional healing properties. The lake has always been an essential destination for indigenous culture and gathering. Also attracting people from across the globe for the lake's unique mineral content, which has relieved various ailments.

The mineral content of Soap Lake is diminishing due to environmental challenges, including pollution, climate change, and loss of mineral content. Please help protect the remaining mineral and mud in the lake. I support the Soap Lake Conservancy and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in taking decisive action to safeguard Soap Lake.

Soap Lake is exceptional because:

1. the unique habitat, which is regionally rare and an exceptional statewide ecological significance
2. value as a recreation destination
3. the distinct mineral content of Soap Lake. One of the highest concentrations of mineral water in the world.

Soap Lake is a remarkable natural treasure, and through collective action and public engagement, we can protect and preserve its unique mineral content and ecological value"