

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

AUG 02 2023

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

July 31, 2023

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SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation/Soap Lake Conservancy Nomination to Designate Soap Lake as an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW)

The Coulee Corridor Consortium (CCC) fully supports the joint efforts of the Soap Lake Conservancy and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to secure an Outstanding Resource Waters designation for Soap Lake in Grant County, Washington through the Department of Ecology. The CCC are active proponents of educating the public about the therapeutic, physical/geological and mineralogical characteristics of the lake. And, we respect and support efforts of Native American tribes and the city of Soap Lake to keep the lake as pristine and contaminant free as possible both to help retain its medicinal qualities, high water quality including aquatic habitats, and ecological and recreational values. The lake has been culturally significant for thousands of years and the traditions associated with it will be compromised by current and future uses without the requested designation. These actions are necessary to ensure that the resource is maintained for traditional and contemporary users now and in the future. We understand that the unique meromictic alkaline qualities of the lake make it rare in the world. Without the additional statewide designation and controls, continued dilution of the lake will destroy/degrade its characteristics which are irreplaceable. The CCC is, therefore, pleased to support these efforts to preserve the lake's qualities and ask that DOE to grant the requested designation.

The Coulee Corridor Consortium (CCC), a 501c (3) nonprofit corporation, promotes the education, planning, development and implementation of programs that enhance the preservation and promotion of the intrinsic qualities of the 150-mile-long Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway which runs between Omak and Othello and includes Soap Lake.

Sincerely,



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