

Alison Gooding

As a local resident and preservationist, I support the proposed Outstanding Resource Water Tier III (B) designation that is being considered for Soap Lake.

It's clear from personal knowledge, Ecology's detailed report and many of the individual testimonials submitted during this process that Soap Lake is one of the most unique bodies of water in Washington and meets a majority of the specific requirements needed to qualify for this important protection status.

Understanding the Tier III (B) is mainly focused on maintaining the current water quality of this lake and addressing related issues moving forward, I'm hopeful this level of recognition as an ORW from a government agency will also help elevate awareness of the additional challenges presented when trying to monitor the health and conditions of the lake without official support, and provide guidance for issues beyond quality assurance that contribute to its degradation.

Fortunately, there have been a handful of dedicated volunteers over the years who have worked hard to protect Soap Lake but that isn't a sustainable model in my opinion. We need all interested or invested partners including the City of Soap Lake, Grant County, Bureau of Reclamation, Quincy Irrigation District, Department of Natural Resources and Ecology working together to make sure Soap Lake has the best possible cooperative care to prevent future problems and decline. This designation would be an important first step.

