

Curtis Dotson

I Have lived in Grant County (Soap Lake/Ephrata) for 59 years. Am employed by Grant County PUD as a Fisheries Scientist for 28 years.

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., 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.

It is the uniqueness of the water quality/chemistry of Soap Lake that make it very worthy of protection.