

Jeff Mcgrath

My name is Jeff McGrath, I have been coming to Soap Lake for over 20 years to swim in the mineral waters and enjoy the amazing scenery. I am alarmed at the changes happening to degrade the lake and its unique ecosystem and hope the ORW will help kickstart more protection for the lake.

I support Soap Lake's Tier III(B) Outstanding Resource Water designation.

Soap Lake which was formed following the Ice Age floods is renowned for its exceptional healing properties. The lake has always been an essential destination for indigenous culture gatherings. Also attracting people from across the globe for the lake's unique mineral content, which has relieved various ailments.

The mineral water content and quality is degrading due to environmental challenges, including pollution, climate change, and loss of mineral content. The lake is also shrinking due to increased pumping from the underlying aquifer.

Please help protect the remaining minerals 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.

Some of the algae and bacteria are found nowhere else and are being studied for the ability to capture carbon from the atmosphere among other things. Since the lake does not have fish there is a unique ecosystem of copepods and diatoms.

The shoreline is valuable bird nesting habitat as well as a stop over for migrating species.

People flock to the beaches to enjoy one of the highest concentrations of mineral water and therapeutic black and green muds 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.