

## Valerie Bondarenko

Soap Lake is a scientific marvel created by the geological processes of the region over millions of years, concentrating the minerals in this ancient lake which has no inlet or outlet. The Lake is a “unique and regionally rare habitat.” Soap Lake is and has been, a regionally valuable recreational destination since prehistoric times to modern times. It continues to provide “unique recreational value” for Washington State residents as well as for travelers around the globe seeking the lakes’ unique mineral waters, the migratory birds who nest in the shoreline habitat, and geological uniqueness of the area. Soap Lake offers “statewide ecological significance.” The unique rare habitat of the lake includes previously undiscovered bacteria, for which scientists have been awarded grants for further study. Helping to keep the lake healthy and stopping further degradation of the lake will assist the local economy of the City of Soap Lake.