

Soap Lake Natural Spa & Resort

Dear Washington State Department of Ecology,

I am writing to you today on behalf of Soap Lake Natural Spa & Resort LLC to express our strong support for the designation of Soap Lake as an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) of the State of Washington.

Soap Lake is a unique and irreplaceable natural resource that is essential to our community. It is one of the most diverse and highest-concentrated mineral lakes in the world, and its unique ecosystem contains species that are exclusive to its environment. The lake is also an important spot for scientific research, and dozens of significant discoveries have been made there, including the NSF Microbial Observatory.

The designation of Soap Lake as an ORW would provide several benefits for our community, including:

Protecting the lake from further pollution. Soap Lake has no outlet, so anything that enters the lake stays there. This makes it vulnerable to pollution from chemicals, sewage, litter, and other pollutants. An ORW designation would give the state more power to regulate activities that could pollute the lake. This would help to ensure that Soap Lake remains a clean and healthy place for people to enjoy.

Promoting tourism. Soap Lake is already a popular tourist destination, but the ORW designation would make it even more attractive to visitors. This would boost the local economy and create jobs. The healing properties of the Soap Lake water have been the primary attraction for Soap Lake to become a popular tourist destination. The ORW designation would further enhance the lake's reputation as a premier destination for health and wellness tourism.

Protecting the lake's unique ecosystem. The ORW designation would give the state the authority to take steps to protect the lake's plants and animals. This would ensure that the lake remains a valuable resource for future generations. The lake's unique ecosystem is home to a variety of rare and endangered species, and the ORW designation would help to protect these species from harm.

We believe that the designation of Soap Lake as an ORW is a critical step in protecting this important natural resource. We urge you to support this designation and help us to ensure that Soap Lake remains a healthy and vibrant part of our community for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sherry Xiao, Principal, Soap Lake Natural Spa & Resort LLC