



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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June 1, 2021

Soap Lake Conservancy
Judith Gorman
President
PO Box 65
Soap Lake, WA 98851
Judith.GOrman@icloud.com

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Amelia Marchand
Program Director, CCT Environmental Trust Department
21 Colville Street (SW-2)
Nespelem, WA 99155
Amelia.Marchand@colvilletribes.com

Re: Response to nomination to designate Soap Lake in Grant County
as an Outstanding Resource Water

Dear Judith Gorman and Amelia Marchand:

Thank you for your letter dated April 2, 2021, to nominate Soap Lake as a Tier III(B) Outstanding Resource Water under the Surface Water Quality Standards for the State of Washington, Chapter 173-201A of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). We have reviewed the submitted "Proposal to Apply for Outstanding Resource Water of the State Designation for Soap Lake (Grant County)," and have concluded that the information provided demonstrates that this waterbody meets one or more eligibility requirements under WAC 173-201A-330(1)(a)-(e).

Our next step is to schedule a review of the nominated water for designation as an outstanding resource water. The review will include a public process and consultation with tribes. The Water Quality Standards staff will develop a schedule for this review, and seek the necessary approvals to initiate a rulemaking. We will then consult with the Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology) Director to consider the approval to begin a rulemaking. Ecology plans to conduct a [Triennial Review](#) of our surface water quality standards this year to meet Clean Water Act requirements. As part of the Triennial Review, we will include this nomination in our list of suggested projects to gain public feedback on this and other rulemaking priorities.

Judith Gorman and Amelia Marchand

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I appreciate the thoughtfulness and detail provided in the nomination letter. The Water Quality Standards staff look forward to working with you on this nomination to designate an Outstanding Resource Water in Washington State.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (360) 407-6461, or Marla Koberstein, at marla.koberstein@ecy.wa.gov, or (360) 628-6376.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa G. Gildersleeve". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Melissa Gildersleeve
Watershed Management Section Manager
Water Quality Program

cc: Douglas Marconi, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Brook Beeler, Eastern Regional Office Director, Ecology
Marla Koberstein, Ecology