



**Okanogan County**  
**Department of**  
**Public Works**

1234A Second Avenue South  
Okanogan, WA 98840  
(509) 422-7300 FAX (509) 422-7301

*Robert Parten*  
*Director*

*Josh Thomson P.E.*  
*County Engineer*

July 1, 2015

Mr. Ben Rough  
Okanogan County Planning Dept.  
123 5<sup>th</sup> Ave N Suite 130  
Okanogan, WA 98840

RE: Methow Valley Zoning Regarding Gravel Pits

Dear Ben:

While the Okanogan County Zoning Code, Title 17 is under review for future revision and adoption we wanted to take this opportunity to submit comment regarding zoning and gravel pits within the greater Methow Valley area.

Aggregate sources are extremely important to Okanogan County Public Works and are vital in our operations to construct, repair and maintain county roads. During winter roadway maintenance activity we use thousands of cubic yards of sand each year to enhance traction for motorists on ice and snow covered roads. During the roadway maintenance season we use thousands of cubic yards of aggregate material for uses such as manufacturing cold mix asphalt that we use for pre-level during our chip seal program, coverstone for our chip seal program, other aggregate for roadway shoulder widening and repair, washout erosion repair, improving travel lanes on gravel roads and many other activities.

Current land use regulations in the Okanogan County Zoning Code precludes creation of new gravel pit sites in much of the Methow Valley. The Low Density Residential and Rural Residential District Zones only allow continued use of any existing gravel pits and prohibits any new gravel pits being developed. The Special Review Commercial, Neighborhood Use, Urban Residential and Airport Development Zoning Districts out right prohibit gravel pits. The only Zoning Districts that allows for the application of new gravel pits is the Methow Review District.



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With hauling costs including a 10 yard dump truck, pup trailer and truck driver of approximately \$91.00 per hour it's important to have aggregate sources within reasonable proximity to where it's needed to be used.

We respectfully request "gravel pit use" to be included and allowed by Conditional Use Permit in more Zoning Districts of the Methow Valley including the Upper Methow Valley, Mazama Area. Thanks you for your time and consideration to our request.

If you have questions or need any additional information, please call me at (509) 422-7317.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J Thomson".

Josh Thomson  
County Engineer  
Okanogan County Public Works  
509/422-7317  
[jthomson@co.okanogan.wa.us](mailto:jthomson@co.okanogan.wa.us)