

## Rocky Robbins

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**From:** Katherine Haven <krhaven@seanet.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 18, 2019 12:00 PM  
**To:** Rocky Robbins  
**Subject:** Comments for Comp plan EIS scoping  
**Attachments:** comp plan scoping comments 1-18-19.pdf

Good Morning Rocky-

Please find attached my comments on EIS scoping for the Comprehensive plan. Please let me know that they have been received.

Thank You-

Katie Haven

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January 18, 2019

Dear Commissioners-

Thank you for allowing the public the opportunity to comment on the scope of the Comprehensive Plan EIS. All of us have a keen interest in what our county will look like in the future.

While I belong to several organizations that may submit comments, I would like to share my ideas as an individual.

The Comprehensive plan will guide us in planning our growth for the coming decades, and as such I believe it should have a forward thinking approach. We are living in a time where science has revealed that the climate is changing at a more rapid pace than ever before. We may not all agree on the cause of this, but it is pretty much universally accepted that it is happening. The changes affect many aspects of our life, from water to fires to agriculture and more. Being pro-active and adopting policies that will help to reverse the trend is the best case, but that requires a major shift in thinking. Short of that, we will need to plan for the changes we know are coming regardless of whether we change our habits.

With that in mind, here are the things I think should be considered in the Comprehensive Plan EIS:

- **Water quality and quantity.** The quantity of water has become a high profile issue since the State Legislature has passed laws requiring the counties to take action. It appears that our county is doing so, although progress is slow. I have not heard much discussion about the quality of the water in our streams and rivers. How development is managed can have a big impact on keeping our waters clean and free from pollution. I believe that the Comprehensive plan should be a vision of what we want our County to be in the future, and should be used as a tool to support the decisions that will need to be made to get us there.
- **Wildfire exposure.** It seems that wildfires are becoming a more frequent fact of life here, and will most likely continue to be an issue due to the changing climate. The issue of how to protect structures, providing legal and safe egress from areas where people live, and managing our forests to minimize the effect of the fires are all things that need to be looked at.

- **Health and safety of citizens.** This covers a broad range of things from air and water quality to access to health care and emergency services.
- **Supporting sustainable agriculture, particularly small farms.** Keeping our food sources local is a small way that we can reduce our impact on the climate, and any plan needs to think about development and how it impacts the ability for small family farms to exist.
- **Economic impact.** A large part of the economy in our county comes from tourism. People love to visit here to take advantage of the access to public lands and all the natural beauty that surrounds us. The Comprehensive Plan needs to ensure that there is a good balance between growth and preserving the features that are so valued, by both visitors and residents alike. Open space and dark night skies are a couple of things that come to mind.
- **Support and encouragement for transitioning to non-fossil fuel transportation .** Planning for growth in a way that will allow safe access for pedestrians and bicycles to get to needed services, and encouraging electric vehicles is a good start.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Katie Haven