

Cortney Ingle

From: Beverly Zwar <bevzwar@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 10:09 AM
To: Cortney Ingle
Subject: Comments for the Comprehensive Plan
Attachments: comp plan comments.docx

Thank you for your service. Please notify me of any other deadlines concerning the Comp plan please.

Beverly Zwar

Dear County Planning Commissioners,

Thank you for your willingness to tackle this very important document

I strongly support the 2008 Methow Valley Advisory Groups vision statement submitted in 2008. The Okanogan Comprehensive Plan must reflex those values. The work done by that group and advisory groups all over the County was arbitrarily ignored by the County Commissioners at the time. That was nothing short of the desecration of the democratic process!

The Vision Statement Reads as follows:

In the next 20 years, the community of the Lower Methow Valley will be a model for people living in harmony with their environment, a community where people's needs for services, social interaction, agriculture, business, housing, recreation, and education are in balance with the ecosystem we inhabit. By carefully blending the natural, human and economic environments, we will pass on to future generations a landscape as rich and beautiful as the one we now enjoy.

It is of great value to the residents of the Lower Methow Valley to protect the many benefits of low population density in a small, well-defined area of tremendous natural beauty still possessing clean air, clean water, natural and working forests, small scale agriculture, open fields, and abundant wildlife. Each of these elements is an important part of the whole and serves to preserve both the peace of mind that the quiet of the Valley encourages and the rural spaces, and to trust one's neighbors are of paramount importance to the citizens who embark upon this planning process and are the filter through which we consider and address future development.

Since that statement was written the Lower Valley endured the Carlton Complex Fire. The consequences are still being borne from the fire as flooding and weed infestations, from disturbed soils, must be dealt with on a personal level. This has been a huge financial loss for us and many other land owners. We need a clearing and grading permitting system run by people understand of fragile nature of our semi-arid environ. In particular erosion due to wildfire soil vulnerability could be better managed and would go a long way to help property owners and the County.

Since we are faced with increased over allocation of the lower reach of the Methow River I fully support five acre minimums lot sizes or greater and 20 acres in the dry highlands. This measure will help to assure the State required minimum flows of the Lower Methow River for recreation and wildlife. These are the fundamental truths that MUST occur to assure slower, predictable and sustainable land use.

The Lower Methow must have its own sub-area to address its unique set of circumstances while working in conjunction with all the sub-area planning groups to secure a clean and viable river ecosystem.

All the creeks tributaries waters of the Lower Methow River are fully allocated and this must be reflected in the Comp Plan.

In order to achieve a properly written Comprehensive Plan, I request the County hire a professional planner with technical writing skills. This is paramount to assembling a good plan that addresses the complex diversity of such a huge County and the equally complicated people who inhabit it.

Sincerely Yours,

Beverly Zwar
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