

**Cortney Ingle**

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**From:** Robert Naney <rnaney@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 18, 2019 11:10 AM  
**To:** Cortney Ingle  
**Subject:** Draft Comprehensive Plan  
**Attachments:** comp plan.docx

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Comprehensive Plan. Attached are may comments. Please contact me if you have questions regarding my comments. Bob Naney

Robert Naney, comments on the Okanogan County Draft Comprehensive Plan, Revised 11/05/2018

I have been a resident of Okanogan County (Methow Valley) for 35 years. I am a retired wildlife biologist and worked on the proposed Early Winters Ski area project. During that time I worked on issues related to land development in the Methow that could mitigate effects of that proposal and provided recommendations on various ordinances and policies related to development, e.g. critical area ordinances, streamside management, dog ordinances. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the revised draft comprehensive plan and draft environmental impact statement.

The Okanogan County Draft Comprehensive Plan, Revised 11/05/2018 (Plan) identifies 3 alternatives (including a no action alternative) that will be discussed in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS actually analyses 4 alternatives. Even though alternatives 3 and 4 have similarities, both should be included in the Plan. Alternative 4 provides some specificity to key components that should be included in the Plan: e.g. issues related to water quantity and quality, wildfire preparedness, agricultural and forest land conservation, state land purchases, and Methow Valley watershed provisions.

The Methow Valley More Completely Planned Area including Subunit A (MVMCPA) has been in place for over 40 years. This should be re-adopted in the Comprehensive Plan. It also seems prudent to establish an advisory committee of local citizens in the lower valley to investigate the need to develop a More Completely Planned Area that incorporates the needs of that area. The recent adoption of the interim zoning ordinance covering this area and increasing the lot size to a minimum of 5 acres is a big step forward in the process and should be brought forward in the Plan.

Wildfire has always played a role in the landscapes of Okanogan County. Climate change resulting in warmer summer temperatures and faster spring runoff contributes to conditions conducive to larger and hotter fires. More recently, and especially since the fires in 2014, it is apparent that guidelines for property development and safety must be incorporated in the Draft. These include, but are not limited to, transportation planning and retention of county roads so ingress and egress during fires can safely allow firefighters in and resident's avenues of getting in and out. There has been significant work by agencies and organizations providing advice to individuals developing property to reduce the potential of loss from wildfires. This not only saves on resources that could be lost in fires, it can improve fire fighter safety. This information must be included in the Draft.

The vision statement in the Draft states: "Okanogan County's vast land mass, clean air and water, immense areas of public land, diverse recreational opportunities ...use of natural resources lends itself well to a rural lifestyle. Planning efforts should be made to promote this lifestyle, ... sustainable economy so that future generations may flourish." Fish and wildlife are an important component that supports the vision statement. Guidance on development in the "rural" designation and other similar designations should provide help to maintain productive habitats. Retention of large open spaces with native vegetation, control of pets, especially dogs and cats, to reduce wildlife disturbance and loss, and providing standards for fence construction to allow for wildlife movement (where fences are needed) are a few examples of ways to reduce the effects of development on wildlife.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the development of Okanogan County's comprehensive plan.

Robert H. Naney