

Cortney Ingle

From: Charlene B <okanda22@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 3:59 PM
To: Cortney Ingle
Subject: Comments on draft of comp plan and EIS

My husband and I are submitting these comments as public input to the current Draft Comprehensive Plan and Draft EIS released by Okanogan County. We are very concerned that these drafts fail to serve our county in looking ahead to the challenges of the future. We support the recommendations made by the MV Citizens Council, and thank them for all their hard work in identifying and articulating problems.

Our first comment is to emphasize the need for hiring a qualified professional to assist in drafting the two plans. This job is simply too too complex and too important to be accomplished by community and/or elected individuals.

Topics we both want to emphasize include:

Wildfires: Protection for people and property from wildfires needs to be better addressed with a definite plan. Buildings in forested areas shall not be permitted without an approved wildfire protection plan that includes fire-resistant construction, adequate road access, and defensible space that are consistent with Firewise Guidelines from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Emergency response exercises by government agencies are needed as well as an upgrade of the emergency communication system. The County should adopt and implement a flood hazard plan.

Water: The County should support the development and implementation of an ongoing water quality monitoring plan. It should take a conservative approach to addressing water supplies. New developments shall utilize water conservation measures including, but not limited to gray water recycling, low flow showers and toilets; and drip irrigation or micro sprinkler systems.

Rural Development: New developments should not be permitted unless Project Sponsors can demonstrate an adequate supply of water without degrading existing uses and values. The scale and intensity of new development activities should be consistent with existing neighboring development (i.e. do not put a rock quarry in a residential neighborhood). Do not permit new development that adversely affects designated critical areas, critical fish and wildlife habitat areas, watershed function and/or designated wildlife corridors.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment, and we both thank you for your leadership and work.

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