

Cortney Ingle

From: Kurt Snover <kasnover@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 12:47 PM
To: Cortney Ingle
Cc: Andy Hover
Subject: Comments on Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan

Dear Okanogan County Planning Commission,

I feel it is time to take stock in the current condition of the Plan and realize that there is a great deal left to do to bring it into a respectable form. I respectfully ask that you hire an outside professional expert charged with guiding further work on the Plan, and ensuring that you meet a "drop dead" deadline that you set for completion of the Plan. This includes making the Plan compatible with State requirements, which it currently is not.

The Plan needs to highlight recreation. Our County businesses derive a large and important income from recreational tourism, including hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and winter cross country skiing. This requires maintaining the excellent land, water and air quality that we currently have, as well as maintaining open space. These should be stated goals in the Plan. Tourists can easily decide to go spend their \$\$ elsewhere if we fall behind on providing first class opportunities here for these activities. Accordingly, in the Plan, please support the efforts of Methow Trails to enhance both winter and summer recreation in our County.

I also urge you to incorporate the projected effects of climate change in the Plan. As a side note, the U.S. Forest Service now includes climate change in their planning. If they can do it, then surely we can also. Nowhere is this issue more important than in water quality and availability, as climate change will greatly reduce late Summer/early Fall instream water flows. Water storage is an important and difficult, related issue. The Methow Watershed Council has tasked themselves with these issues. Please follow their work with an eye towards incorporating their wisdom in the Plan.

The absence, or perhaps a confusing possible inclusion of the Methow Valley MCPA in the Plan is frustrating. This document is difficult to locate and ascertain its contents. I suggest that our County open a new regional Vision Statement (sub-area planning) solicitation so that each area of the Country wishing to make its own case for exceptions to the current Plan be allowed to do so, with a commitment by the Planning Commission to include these Statements in the Plan. Most other counties in the State are doing so. Why should we be an exception?

I would also like the County to include Alternative 4 in the Plan.

In my opinion the Methow Valley Citizens Council has been exceptionally diligent in carefully analyzing the Plan and making important suggestions. I support their efforts and suggestions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Plan.

Sincerely,

Kurt Snover
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