

Cortney Ingle

From: Annie's Home <annie@anniekennedy.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 2:59 PM
To: Cortney Ingle
Cc: Andy Hover
Subject: County Comprehensive Plan Comments

Mailed to: cingle@co.okanogan.wa.us

Cc: Andy.hover@co.okanogan.wa.us

Dear Okanogan County Regional Planning Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on our county plan. It is of vital importance to have a coherent Plan to articulate a clear vision for the Methow Valley.

First, I urge you to re-read the community feedback that has been received in the past two to three years. I believe that if respect had been given for the time, intelligence and energy which citizens already put into thoughtfully giving their opinions on the previous iterations of the comp plan, we would undoubtedly have a coherent and useful plan in place for the future.

Second, hire an experienced professional to write the plan in an organized way, with a basic Table of Contents that follows the existing laws. This will simplify keeping it up to date, avoiding costly legal actions in the future.

In regard to the extremely important issue of water availability, the existing plan does not in anyway allow for adequate water in the valley in the future. Our Comp Plan at the very least could simply follow the Methow in-stream flow rule that is already state law. A good model is the important work that the Watershed Council and Ecology are currently doing towards this important issue, starting with getting community input, and hope the knowledge they acquire will be helpful to all organizations going forward, including our County Commissioners.

Essential to the comprehensive plan is:

- A thoughtful Land Use Element to guide future zoning and permitting, along with a clearing and grading ordinance that is actually enforced.
- Sub-area planning should be an important element to the plan. Plenty of input has already been given by some of the areas, but has been ignored.
- Address the real threat of wildfire including protections for people and property.
- Address economic development, including recreation which is a critical element of the county's economy.

The current draft, which I believe is woefully inadequate, must be rewritten by a professional taking into account past and present input from the public.

Thank you for your consideration,
-Annie Kennedy
Twisp