



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
1250 W Alder St • Union Gap, WA 98903-0009 • (509) 575-2490

September 3, 2019

Perry Huston, Director
Okanogan County Planning
123 Fifth Avenue North, Suite 130
Okanogan, WA 98840

Re: Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan Revisions

Dear Director Huston:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan Revisions. We have reviewed the documents and have the following comments.

AIR QUALITY

A portion of the Wildfire Impacts plan discusses fuel reduction work. The Department of Ecology's Air Quality Program encourages non-burning fuel reduction options such as chipping and hauling of vegetative material. Non-burning disposal alternatives present a much lower fire spread risk than burning, and do not produce smoke, which is harmful to human and environmental health.

An emerging challenge that is related to wildfire risk and is critical in its own right is the smoke and air quality impacts risk. An increasing population, especially in rural areas, will ignite additional wildfires and will be increasingly impacted by smoke (particulate matter) from wildfires and other open burns. Regulatory changes involving likely increases in prescribed forest burning and wildfire prevention burning in Urban Growth Areas will further contribute to smoke impacts in communities.

WATER RESOURCES

In the Groundwater Use section that begins on line 642 (p. 20), the County refers to Ecology Publication 18-11-007 as guidance for calculations of water use; the draft EIS then lists their calculations based on a similar methodology. Ecology has questions about the calculations provided. We ask that the County provide their reasoning and/or sources for their calculations. We additionally recommend the County consult with Ecology for further technical assistance.



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Ecology further notes:

1. Line 995 (p. 29) notes "domestic use". Ecology recommends that the line note "single domestic use".
2. Line 1019 (p. 30) appears incomplete and may be missing information.

If you have any questions or would like to respond to these Water Resources comments, please contact **Jolee Ramos** at (509) 454-4173 or email at jolee.ramos@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



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