

Cortney Ingle

From: Lynette Westendorf <lynette@lwmusic.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 05, 2019 8:49 AM
To: Cortney Ingle
Subject: Comprehensive Plan/Dark Skies

To Whom It May Concern:

Okanogan County is in a position to make a positive change that will impact future generations. Who among readers of the Comp Plan has not benefited by being able to see and enjoy the immensity of a night time sky? Light pollution cancels out the stars, and even though the stars are still there, it is almost impossible to bring them back once cities, towns, businesses and residences install light polluting fixtures. Furthermore, dark skies fixtures are safer for drivers and pedestrians, because the glare from the light bulbs is covered.

The current Okanogan County code is actually clear on the standard for lighting, but it is obviously not enforced in any meaningful way. I encourage the enforcement of the county's code in this regard, as well as the implementation as stated by the Methow Valley Citizens Council, as follows:

Implementation Measures:

(1) This policy will be implemented by Overlay in the Zone Code. Communities can "opt in" to the Overlay by a process to be determined.

(2) In the event that the citizens of the Methow More Completely Planned Area (MVMCPA) choose to pursue International Dark Sky Association recognition for all or part of their District as a Dark Sky Reserve (which if successful could create the largest Dark Sky Reserve in the United States), adoption of the Overlay will facilitate such a desire in those areas that are controlled by the county, and facilitate discussions with appropriate state and federal agencies that manage tracts of land within the district to obtain their consent.

(3) For each town within the MVMCPA that chooses to pursue International Dark Sky Association recognition as a Dark Sky Community, provide a "Zone of Influence" surrounding the community within which the community's local lighting ordinance shall apply.

Thank you.

Lynette Westendorf
P.O. Box 1066
Winthrop, WA 98862
509-429-2054