

Cortney Ingle

From: Michael Liu <liuchunghow@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 08, 2019 6:50 PM
To: Cortney Ingle
Subject: Comprehensive Plan Comments for Planning Commission

Please accept the following comments to the Comprehensive Plan. I am a ten year resident of Okanogan County and I recently retired from being the District Ranger for the Methow Valley Ranger District, USDA Forest Service. I am very familiar with land management and planning issues and I am currently a board member of Methow Trails.

I want to first thank you for extending the comment period to allow more opportunity for meaningful public engagement. As a guiding document for the future of the County, it is important to hear from the County's residents. It is equally important to prepare and present a clear, concise, and complete Comprehensive Plan. With that in mind, I urge you to hire a qualified professional to assist in writing and editing the Final Comp. Plan and FEIS. The draft plan would benefit from better organization and clearer summaries for each alternative which help facilitate comparisons between alternatives. Using management indicators and comparison tables might help.

As the district ranger for the Methow Valley, it was clear to see that many of the social and cultural values of the Methow Valley were unique and distinct from the Okanogan Valley. It was also clear that recreation, natural resources, and local agriculture all contributed to the economic vitality of the Methow. As such, I believe the Comp. Plan should better address these areas. Specifically:

- There should be clearer support for the Methow Valley More Competely Planned Area and sub plans and recognition of the work that has been completed to date.
- Recreation should be more prominent as a clear emphasis/priority for the county. This would include support for open spaces, conservation easements, and trails. Specific mention of the value of trails and a trail connection between Winthrop and Twisp (with a link to the school) would also reflect recent survey results conducted by Methow Trails. Such a trail could also serve as an additional safe commuter option for cyclists.
- The plan should support conservation of natural resources into the future by better addressing water needs and recognizing the need for protecting water quality and quantity through encouraging better and more efficient water management, including the need for aquifer recharge, protection and management of ground water, and considering whole watersheds.
- Support for local agriculture, concentration of growth near existing towns and communities, and identification and protection of important wildlife corridors and linkages would also demonstrate the county's desire to manage and conserve the rich natural resources we have in a sustainable manner.
- Finally, critical infrastructure and wildfire mitigation should be clearly described demonstrate the County's interest and commitment to this nimportant issue.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to comment, I look forward to the completion of a meaningful Comprehensive Plan that charts a vision for the future of our County and reflects the values of its residents.

Sincerely, Michael Liu
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Twisp, WA



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