

Cortney Ingle

From: David Clement <david.m.clement@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 08, 2019 1:47 PM
To: Cortney Ingle
Subject: Comments on Okanogan Comprehensive Plan

David Clement
7 Tranquility Way
Winthrop, WA. 98862
David.m.clement@gmail.com
8 September 2019

Dear Planning Commission,

I am writing with my thoughts on the ongoing attempts to come up with a Comprehensive Plan for Okanogan County. Having attended the Planning Commission meeting in Okanogan in August, and done enough of my own research on the issues, I have specific suggestions which I hope you will find useful.

First and foremost, the County, Planning Commission and Commissioners need to get the expertise of someone who understands Washington State Comprehensive Plans, has experience designing such plans, and knows how to write a functional Comprehensive Plan that meets the legal requirements in Washington. The primary author of previous versions of the Comprehensive Plan apparently was unable to prepare an adequate plan, and he has left anyway, leaving the County without the needed expertise. The Planning Commission has hard-working and excellent commissioners, but they lack the expertise (they did not even know how to extend the comment period for the Comprehensive Plan at their August public meeting).

My other general comment is to try to come up with a plan that will provide guidance in the future for as many of the difficult issues as possible, including wildfires, zoning, water, development and protection of traditional uses. Don't go for a plan that does the bare minimum, leaving hard decisions to the future. Go for a plan that truly provides guidance that future generations will find useful and help the County cope with increasingly difficult situations.

Thank you and good luck on your difficult task,

David Clement

cc. Andy Hover, Commissioner

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David Clement
7 Tranquility Way
Winthrop, WA 98862
207-299-2485 (mobile)