

Cortney Ingle

From: Peter Vogt <peterjohnvogt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2019 4:59 PM
To: Cortney Ingle
Subject: comprehensive plan

Dear Okanogan County,

Thank you for all your work regarding the prospective comp plan.

Having talked with neighbors and other people around the Methow Valley I feel compelled to ask you to work harder and dig deeper toward solutions to problems we know will arise: wildfire complications due to climate change and a diminishment of farmland due to sprawl to name two such issues. I would also ask you to acknowledge our growing recreational economy and design land use that encourages economic growth in this area.

Overall, our neighbors agree that rules governing the land we live on should be informed by local knowledge of custom and culture. One size does not fit all and locals should be heard regarding rules governing their own land. Advisory committees representing particular areas of our County that report to our commissioners on land use issues would resolve ambiguity and lead to stronger, more sure, decision making. This democratic approach should be reflected in the comp plan. More and better communication will lead a better informed citizenry and a more responsive government.

Conservation of land and water should be a priority for the county. In years to come many will want what we now have. Let's protect what we can and use what we must.

Many who have read the preliminary plan agree that the devil is in the details and that there is very little detail in the current document. I do not know first hand but I have heard that Okanogan Planning is somewhat understaffed and over burdened with work. If Okanogan County needs to hire a temporary expert to work through the DEIS I believe (as a taxpayer) that money would be well spent.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on these very important matters. I wish us all the best in finding our way forward.

Peter J Vogt
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