

Cortney Ingle

From: Raleigh Bowden <raleighbowden@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 8:39 AM
To: Cortney Ingle
Subject: Please put more time into developing an excellent Comp Plan for our County!

Sept 13, 2019

To: Okanogan County Planning Commission

From: Raleigh Bowden MD, citizen of the Methow Valley, Okanogan County

Re: Please take time to fill in more specific details to the current Comprehensive Plan

My particular concerns include:

- 1) Water Resources: this topic is critically important to me in the Comprehensive plan. Not enough specific details are included in the current plan
 - a. Goals: We need to be sure there is a legal and physical water plan to anticipate growth so there is enough water to go around. We need to protect stream inflows. We need to protect groundwater from contamination visa OSS.
 - b. Policy: The County will participate in watershed planning efforts in WRIAs 48 and 49 as an initiating government and will consider revisions to the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations to incorporate data and recommendations from newly completed or amended watershed plans. The County will encourage and support efficient water use and transfer of saved water to towns and designated growth areas and to maintain and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and instream flows. • The County will approve only developments that comply with the adopted instream flow rules for each watershed. The County will rely on the maps provided by the US Geological Service (Golder Associates, 2003) to designate critical aquifers for the Methow Valley
 - c. We need to measure implementation: Policies should be developed, refined and updated in coordination with Watershed planning groups, Tribes and Nations with treaty rights, irrigators and other stakeholders. • Policies will be implemented via the Zone Code, Subdivision Regulations, Critical Areas Ordinance, Shorelines Master Program and the site analysis/permitting process for buildings
- 2) Ridgetop building: we are suffering at our home on Balky Hill from a new ridgetop home going in on Mill Hill over the town of Twisp, visible to all the town and half the valley. Viewsheds in the Methow Valley (MVMCPA) should be protected from ridgetop development. Such development and associated road building detracts from views from the valley floor, and diminishes the economic value of homes and destinations whose views are affected. Please consider restricting any further ridgetop housing development

3) Rules around Clean Air/Wood smoke: I am a physician in the Methow Valley and helped start the Methow Valley Clean Air Project 5 years ago because of the winter inversion air which holds wood smoke to the valley bottom and makes it hard to breath for all of us but particularly children, seniors and those with lung disease. Protect the population of Okanogan County by reducing particulate emissions from woodstoves and open burning. Existing homes: Work with the Depart of Ecology to encourage programs that assist low income residents of the airshed to convert from inefficient uncertified wood stoves or fireplaces to pellet stoves, propane, certified stoves, or other affordable heat sources that have fewer particulate emissions. Open Burning: Open burning of yard and forest debris is a poor practice, especially during atmospheric inversions. The County should support alternative such as neighborhood chipping. Burn bans should be imposed not just for fire danger, but during inversions.

--

Raleigh