

Cortney Ingle

From: Susan Crampton <scrampton@methownet.com>
Sent: Friday, August 16, 2019 11:19 AM
To: Cortney Ingle
Subject: comp plan comments

These comments are submitted as public input to the current Draft Comprehensive Plan released by Okanogan County. I have reviewed my own previous comments and concerns and include current responses below.

Overview/The current Comp Plan draft is hard to follow and seems not fully organized or presented in a coherent manner. Improved clarity would be expected to improve administrative and public understanding for dealing with Comp Plan proposals. There is an Introduction but it would seem that would be more useful if it outlined the Comp Plan document and set the stage for reading the document. A closing Summary would be more appropriate and useful than the Comp Plan apparently simply ending on p. 48.

Concerns/

-Alternative 1 leaving the 2014 Comp Plan in place does not even include that the 2014 Comp Plan is under legal challenge. Alternative 4 that was submitted as a public input alternative is not included or addressed.

-MCPA/Methow Valley (p.33, line 1131) "These MCPA's will be adopted following adoption of the comprehensive plan." It would seem a better fit to amend the current MCPAs to the Comprehensive Plan, and to include process for any further MCPAs to be amended to the Comprehensive Plan as well.

-Water rights/a private property? and a property owner's right to sell outside the County (p.18). What is the basis for County recognition of water right as private property ownership? Rather a water right is a private property use not ownership of water. Needs review and revision.

-Language in several locations/ Example p. 41, line 1390 that "local government" "critical functions are closely entangled with federal and and state management decisions", when it would likely be more accurate and appropriate to say that these decisions are "connected". The reality of state and federal support funding to Okanogan County might be useful as context.

-Some conclusion statements seem out of place, illogical as guidelines/ Example p. 5, lines 137-139, "It is the expectation of Okanogan County that when State, Federal, or Regional agencies prepare, implement, and update plans and regulations, that they are consistent with the county's Comprehensive Plan and adopted regulation." Again, this level of "connection" might be better clarified, since Okanogan County is, of course, not an entity completely on its own, and operates within the context of both state and the federal governments.

-Wildfire is a critical issue and needs to be more fully addressed than the current draft Comp Plan. Example, p. 43, line 1476, "Okanogan County will consider wildfire protection policy when creating land use zoning that will protect both the private landowner and public lands from wildfire." Will consider is too open and hanging for such a significant issue. More specific language and planning guidelines need to be included here.

-Since it's been announced that the current Planning Director who put together this draft Comp Plan has resigned, it is apparent that revisions will be made by another party, and it will be expected that revisions will be again presented for public comment.

It is recognized that public input and democratic process has complexities, but the long term outcome for our form of government is its own reward. Thank you for your County administrative and leadership work.

 Susan Crampton
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