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Cortney Ingle

From: Peter Bauer <pbauwa@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 6:21 PM
To: Cortney Ingle
Subject: County Comp Plan

Dear Planning Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the most recent iteration of the Comp Plan. The Comp Plan establishes a vision and guidelines for future growth of the county, so deserves careful consideration.

I will address three areas that I feel are inadequately addressed in the draft Comp Plan.

First, water resources. The Comp Plan should formally recognize the need to ensure adequate quantities of legally and physically available water to support zoning, building, expansion before permitting such activities. In addition a goal to protect both groundwater and surface water (lakes, streams, etc.) from pollution from septic systems or industrial sources should be explicitly included.

Second, recreation, which is barely mentioned in the current draft. The Planning Enabling Act requires a recreation component in land use planning. The planning commission should have a goal to encourage public land use for the enjoyment of the residents. Here in the Methow Valley access to trails contributes in a major way to the quality of life as well as to bringing in substantial tourist dollars. The communities have expressed a priority of making a Winthrop to Twisp trail (via willing landowners). Shouldn't the Comp Plan address trails and recreational access as the required component of the Comp Plan?

Third, as an Upper Methow Valley resident, it is crucial to explicitly mention special review areas (such as the Methow Valley Review Area and its subunit A) and preserve the right to have zoning and planning rules as directed by the local community as a whole. The Methow Valley Special Review Area has been recognized for years in county documents, but has disappeared from the current draft Comp Plan.

Sincerely,

Peter Bauer
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Winthrop, WA