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**Cortney Ingle**

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**From:** Char Alkire <char.alkire@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 15, 2019 8:20 AM  
**To:** Cortney Ingle  
**Subject:** Feedback on the County Comp Plan

Dear Ms. Ingle and Planning Commission-

Extending the comment period for the Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement is much appreciated. Thank you! My husband and I farm 30 acres of land in the Methow Valley and reading and digesting this draft took longer than I expected! Even though the Comp Plan currently is way overdue, it is so important to get this right so it will stand the test of time. Upon careful review, I am sad to say it is deficient in many areas! Please consider my comments below.

- 1) Overall, I found the Comprehensive Plan and DEIS is not organized in a way that allowed me to make a meaningful analysis of the impacts of the alternatives presented. It lacks any meaningful analysis of the proposed fourth alternative (Citizens' Alternative). In addition I found as presented, the DEIS is not a helpful tool for decision-making. I am concerned that this plan will not meet legal requirements and thus result in wasting county resources and time on unnecessary legal actions.
- 2) I don't see anywhere the plan provides a land use element which would guide future zoning and permitting across the county. I believe this is a requirement to meet the basic standards as required by law.
- 3) I am very concerned that the Plan lacks adequate provisions to protect water quantity including senior water rights holders, farms and ranches, fish and wildlife, and recreation.
- 4) It also appears the plan is inconsistent with the in-stream flow rules for watersheds in the county- and state law!
- 5) I was surprised to see there is no Economic Development element!. The fact that the Plan does not adequately address Recreation as a critical element of the county's economy is an oversight at best.

Finally, my take is the Draft Comp Plan in its current form does not address the many issues raised by the public during Scoping. The DEIS does not adequately compare alternatives. As I Methow Valley farmer for over 18 years, I've come to the opinion that it is important to include the entire Methow Watershed within the Methow Valley more completely planned area (MVMCP).

So what is the best way to address all this feedback and concerns to create a document that will best meet the legal standards and serve the communities in the best possible manner? **The county should hire a qualified professional to assist in drafting the final Plan and final Environmental Impact Statement.** The person that the county hires to replace the former planning director should not alone finish this project! This job is too large and complex to be accomplished in a reasonable time frame for someone who is new to the job.

Sincerely  
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