

**Cortney Ingle**

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**From:** Marcia Ives <marciaraeives@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2019 5:05 PM  
**To:** Cortney Ingle; Andy Hover  
**Subject:** Comments on Comp Plan

Dear Okanogan County Regional Planning Commission,

I am writing to let you know how important I feel it is to have a coherent Comp Plan that articulates a clear vision for the Methow Valley. First of all, I encourage you to take the time to look again at all of the community feedback that you have already received over many years. I believe that if respect had been given for the time, intelligence and energy that a lot of people already put into thoughtfully giving their opinions on the previous iterations of the comp plan, we would probably have a great plan in place today.

I believe the first step to take is to hire an experienced professional to pull this together in an organized way, with a basic Table of Contents that follows the existing laws. This will simplify keeping it up to date, avoiding costly legal actions in the future.

In regard to the extremely important issue of water availability, the existing plan does not in anyway allow for adequate water in the valley in the future. Our Comp Plan at the very least could simply follow the Methow in-stream flow rule that is already state law. By the way, I admire the important work that the Watershed Council and Ecology are currently doing towards this important issue, starting with getting community input, and hope the knowledge they acquire will be helpful to all organizations going forward, including our County Commissioners.

I also feel strongly about the following;

- A thoughtful Land Use Element to guide future zoning and permitting is essential, along with a clearing and grading ordinance that is actually enforced.
- Since the valley is so diverse from one end to the other, sub-area planning should be an important element to the plan. Plenty of input has already been given by some of the areas, but has been ignored.
- Address the real threat of wildfire including protections for people and property.
- Address economic development, including recreation which is a critical element of the county's economy, is essential.

I will feel hopeful when I learn that the current draft, which I believe is woefully inadequate, will be reworked by a professional taking into account past and present input from the public.

Thank you for your time in reading my thoughts.

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