

D-71

**Cortney Ingle**

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**From:** Nancy Leland <nancylee@umn.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2019 6:01 PM  
**To:** Cortney Ingle  
**Cc:** Andy Hover  
**Subject:** Comments RE DEIS and Okanogan County Comp Plan

September 16, 2019

Dear Okanogan County Regional Planning Commission,

Thank you for taking comments on the DEIS and Comprehensive Plan. As a full time resident of the Methow Valley, I believe the plans and issues involved in these documents will serve as the framework for a vital, strong and healthy community now and well into the future. I fully support and am very grateful for all the hard work that has been done and needs to be done by each of you Volunteers on the Commission. You will each leave an invaluable legacy for all of us as you strive to make sure we have strong legally defensible planning documents for our county.

Because of the great importance of these documents, I fully support and encourage steps to ensure you have the feedback, data, resources and tools needed to do the work. I strongly recommend that a facilitator with a number of specific skills be hired to help. This person should have the skills to develop a process for your group to review:

- 1) feedback collected from the community (including comments from lower valley advisory groups in 2008 and comments from the current comment period);
- 2) valid statistical data collected on all key issues related to DEIS and comp plan; and,
- 3) items that, by law, must be included in the plans.

Other key skills needed by a facilitator include:

- 1) ability to help the Commission develop a strong vision statement for the plan as well as goals for each section of it;
- 2) ability to help the Commission develop a 'Summary Statement of Existing Conditions' for each section of the plan (i.e., information on percentage of land in agriculture currently and projected for future, amount and type of recreation in valley and projections for future, etc.)
- 3) strong writing skills;
- 4) understanding of land use issues;
- 5) ability to organize and write the plan to comply with the law;
- 6) ability to produce a plan clear enough for county staff and residents to understand and for staff to administer; and,
- 7) ability to help design a process for making the document a 'living' one; one that will incorporate updates on a scheduled basis so that unforeseen events and critical issues can be addressed and added to the plan.



So, how to find this person? Perhaps start with Chelan County and find out who helped them. Or talk with other county officials that have developed stellar plans and find out who helped them.

I understand that all comp plans must, by law, include specific topics including land use planning, recreation, economic development, transportation management, along with others. The new plan should clearly address each of these topics. Critical to the land use section are issues involving water and fire safety. Zoning and subdivision ordinances must follow the Methow Instream Flow Rule and this should be clearly detailed in the plan. Fire safety, so vital to our county, must be woven into each section of the document!

I am one among many eager to see the Commission succeed. Thank you for considering these comments.

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