

Cortney Ingle

From: John Battle <outlook_B5DA8E0156ACF5E6@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 12:01 PM
To: Cortney Ingle
Subject: Comments on the Comprehensive Plan Revisions

Dear Ms. Ingle,

I am the chairman of the Twisp Planning Commission and I am very interested in the revisions that are under consideration for the Okanogan Comprehensive Plan. Below I have pasted in a set of comments from the Methow Valley Citizen's Council, with some modifications but the most important point I would like to make is that the county should definitely hire a qualified professional to assist in drafting the final Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement. It is worth the cost and I know from personal experience that this job is too large and complex to be accomplished in a reasonable time frame by one person.

Thank you for your work!

John Battle
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WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE COMP PLAN AND DEIS • The Plan fails to meet the basic standards required by law and fails to clearly articulate the differences between alternatives. One example is the failure to provide a Land Use Element, which guides future zoning and permitting across the county. A Plan that does not meet legal requirements leads to a waste of county resources (and precious time) on unnecessary legal actions. • The Comprehensive Plan and DEIS are not organized in a way that allows for a meaningful analysis of the impacts of the alternatives presented - and lacks any meaningful analysis of the proposed fourth alternative (Citizens' Alternative). As presented, the DEIS is not a helpful tool for decision-making. • The Plan was drafted by the same individual who has failed to produce a legally defensible or adequate Plan for the county for over a decade. That individual resigned after releasing the inadequate DEIS: it's time to start fresh and create a new legacy. • There are no protections for people and property from wildfires, the draft Plan just calls for more studies and updates. • The Plan does not deal adequately with the need for sub-area planning, in the Methow valley or elsewhere. • The Plan provides inadequate provisions to protect water quantity including senior water rights holders, farms and ranches, fish and wildlife, and recreation. • The plan is inconsistent with the instream flow rules for watersheds in the county- and state law. • The Plan provides inadequate protections for working farms and forests. • The Plan provides inadequate protections from natural hazards such as landslides. • There is no Economic Development element. • The Plan does not adequately address Recreation as a critical element of the county's economy. • The Plan is not integrated with the county road system, so planned development will either cost taxpayer's money to resolve safety and capacity problems or leave the problems unaddressed. (over)

WHAT WE SUPPORT • (Important) The Draft Comp Plan in its current form is insufficient and does not address the issues raised by the public during Scoping. The DEIS does not adequately compare alternatives. From what we can infer from the documents provided, parts of Alternatives 3 and 4, though incomplete in the DEIS, are the most viable approaches because they: • Concentrate most growth closer to towns • Take a conservative approach to addressing water supplies • Conserve natural resources and promote land uses that support local agriculture • Encourage resilience to wildfires and other impacts of climate change • Protect wildlife and migration corridors and consider our important mule deer population • Minimize conflict between residential and other uses of Rural lands by creating different designations • Improve and enhance recreational opportunities • We support sub-area planning, guided by local advisory committees, that recognizes the unique culture and geography of our large county. • We support including the entire Methow Watershed within the Methow Valley More Completely Planned Area (MVMCPA) • We specifically recommend including the measures provided related to issue briefs to address specific issues important to our communities.