

Cortney Ingle

From: David Caldwell <dave.caldwell111@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 12:54 PM
To: Cortney Ingle
Cc: Andy Hover
Subject: County Comp plan
Attachments: Okanogan Comp Plan Response DC.docx

Please see attached comments regarding the comp plan.

Thanks
Dave Caldwell

September 17, 2019

Dear Okanogan County Regional Planning Commissioners,

I think it was an important first step to reopen the comment period regarding the latest draft of the Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan. This document is required by RCW 36.70.010, which from what I understand, the existing plan does not comply. It just seems that the right thing to do is step back and restart the document in a more organized manner that reflects the law and is comparable to plans in neighboring counties. We the public wish for the county to avoid lawsuits and incurring taxpayer litigation expenses.

All considerations are important in crafting our comp plan, starting from a perspective of meeting the basic standards of the law. We reside in a large county with various characters in all the different areas. I think is practical and important to hear from the residents of each area and craft sub-area plans tailored to each. Here in the Methow valley where I reside, recreation, wildfire protection, water, development density, and preservation of agriculture are important things to me. But other corners of the county are different so a sub-area plan for those areas should be individual to the needs there.

It seems to me that the MVCC alternate plan should be given due consideration. As well, all residents want a great plan. Hiring out the writing of a basically new plan seems like a smart way, with oversight by the planning commission volunteers.

I think county wide the hot button issues are wildfire protection, water, and protection of working farms, ranches, and forests. Which areas are allowed to experience growth is a concern many. I believe growth is best concentrated in existing municipal centers. Keep rural lands rural. I think other areas of the county should have smart planning for recreation areas and activities that work with each area.

To keep the quality of our environment intact, the plan also needs to incorporate rules for air quality, grading clearing & excavation, ridge top development, and dark skies.

As a regular resident it is hard for me to keep tabs on many of the issues at hand, but I appreciate the dedication of the volunteers on the planning commission. I support, again, taking the time to get it right at this point in the process.

Thank you,
David Caldwell
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