

D-94

Cortney Ingle

From: Scotte Kilby <scottek1017@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 7:33 AM
To: Cortney Ingle
Subject: Comments on Comprehensive Plan

> Dear Ms. Ingle and the Okanogan County Regional Planning Commission,

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> Thank you for your efforts. We trust that you are doing your best to put together a plan keeps the interests of the citizens of the County in mind based on the best possible data, and as required by law.

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> As expressed by many with sincere concerns, the existing plan (2014 Draft Comp plan) is not adequate as a framework for planning our county's future. We are confident that the type of planning document needed has been created elsewhere — many times. With the help of knowledgeable experts, and with the support of the citizens and representatives of Okanogan County, I know you are capable of creating a document that is in compliance with relevant laws, has a helpful and understandable format, and contains all of the elements of a good, workable plan. Still, it will not be easy. We believe it is critical that you to enlist the expertise of professional(s) to help you with this challenging task.

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> You are lucky to have concerned citizens who want to participate in planning the future of the area in which they live. They have put a great deal of effort into doing research, identifying issues, forming working groups, attending meetings with representatives, and expressing concerns. As you know, a group in the upper valley has been functioning for years, and other areas in the Methow have formed at different times to provide input (notably in 2008). But -- at least in the past — there has been resistance to utilizing these efforts and recognizing citizens' contributions — and to embracing the idea that populations in different areas may want to plan more specifically. One such place (the one in which we live) is the Methow Valley. The region from Lost River to Pateros is all one watershed and a logical, well-defined area that should be designated a "More completely planned area" (in what we believe is your current terminology). Because the County is so large and contains different areas with different characteristics, planning targeted to the needs of those areas makes sense.

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> As to the plan and DEIS: elements that should be (or are required to be) included in a helpful planning document include Land Use, Water Resources, Recreation, Wildfire issues, Economic development, Critical Areas, and Fish and Wildlife conservation, to name a few. All of the elements in the plan need to include helpful, well researched planning guidelines — not just to comply with the law, but for the sake of our future well-being. For example, unplanned and incompatible uses of land increases conflict and reduces its desirability for all types of users.

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> Again, thank you for undertaking this challenge. We believe in this plan and process; not simply to fulfill legal requirements but because we truly need it to guide our future. As our population expands we will live in closer proximity to each other, and we will need to use the same (or diminishing) resources to meet greater demands and address higher risks (i.e. wildfires). A well-defined plan to guide us and and reasonable rules to live by can make a huge difference: We can identify and protect what we value most and try to have some predictability and control; or sit back helplessly and watch the future roll over us.

Sincerely,

Scotte and William Kilby
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9/17/19