

## Cortney Ingle

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**From:** Loretta Bell <lobell79@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 18, 2019 9:32 AM  
**To:** Cortney Ingle  
**Subject:** Comment Letter RE: Comp Plan & DEIS

Dear Planning Commission Members & Ms. Ingle,

Thank you for being responsive to the citizens you serve by extending the comment period for the Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Development of a truly effective and balanced option requires dynamic engagement with all populations served by this significant and far reaching document. It is my hope that you will consider the comments below in that spirit, with the intention of moving forward toward a meaningful plan that is accessible and representative of the county as a whole.

### Comp Plan

- Meet legal standards, be legally defensible
- Do what is necessary to craft a document that is comprehensible, organized, and complete. Edit and salvage what is possible and lose what is not.
- **Climate** Consider all subjects that are addressed within the context of current and future best science practices and through the lense of climate disruption. It does now, and will forever in the future, affect every section of this document and must be woven into our practice and planning for a future, if we are to have one. If we face this reality, make sound decisions, our Comp Plan can truly act as an insurance policy for the literal weather that is to come.
- **Air Quality** Prioritize the addition of language outlining county role in reducing risk to public health in partnership with Dept. of Ecology to Ch. 12, Natural Environment. Examples: New Homes, Existing Retrofit options, Open Burning
- **Wildfire** - Craft a local version of International Wildland Urban Interface Guide - new subdivisions, building materials, access roads, primitive and new roads. Objective - you provide a risk reduction strategy that is driven by county government, consistent with inter agency cooperation and legal responsibility.
- **Water** Add language that addresses in stream flows, participate in watershed planning efforts as an initiating government, consider future revisions based on data from new or amended watershed plans, approve developments that strictly comply with in stream flow rules for each defined watershed, protect water quality related to failing or inadequate septic systems, protecting water rights, discourage transporting water to outside county entities. Carefully consider water banking and keep it constructive and in local control.
- **Recreation** This is a legal requirement per the Planning Enabling Act. Given the revenue generated by various recreation activities, prioritize & plan for a recreation driven economy that will include the potential of recreational facilities open to visitors and residents. Consider public/private partnerships focused on health, well being & physical activity. Develop and maintain fair and equitable policy, goals & objectives related to this economic driver in the county. Put into place sound and reasonable allocation of revenues generated from recreation dollars. Encourage, develop and explore county - wide tourism attractions that serve the county's varied character and natural environments. Examples include but are not limited to, trails, facilities, open space conservation, hunting, fishing, river use, motorized recreation, hiking, birding, horseback riding, skiing, etc.

### Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

While this document appears to provide some information in service of the Comp Plan, it fails to function as a useful EIS. It lacks quantitative and specific information necessary to perform its role as a thoughtful, scientifically factual

guide to aid decision making regarding comparison of various environmental impacts. That said, please focus efforts on the Comp Plan revision at this point.

In closing, while the above comments are simple citizen input, I acknowledge the enormity of the work ahead, and emphasize the suggestion to seize this opportunity to revise the Comp Plan, utilizing professional help where necessary to craft a viable and relevant document that serves citizens now and in the future.