

## SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR COMP PLAN COMMENTS

Submit comments to to: [cingle@co.okanogan.wa.us](mailto:cingle@co.okanogan.wa.us)

Comment Deadline: September 19 before 4:00pm

Address comments to the Planning Commission and cc County Commissioner Andy Hover  
([andy.hover@co.okanogan.wa.us](mailto:andy.hover@co.okanogan.wa.us)).

### 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.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO GET THE PROCESS BACK ON TRACK

- **(Important)** Recommend **extending the comment period to September 19th to allow continued public feedback** on what to include in a final Plan. Holding the public comment deadline on Labor Day is unacceptable!
- **(Important)** Recommend the county hire a **qualified professional to assist in drafting the final Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement** - not the same person the county recruits to take the place of the former Planning Director: the job is too large and complex to be accomplished in a reasonable time frame by one person.

**For additional questions or thoughts, please contact:**

(509) 997-0888

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[www.mvcitizens.org](http://www.mvcitizens.org)

