



Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

January 3, 2019

Perry Huston, Director of Planning
Okanogan County Office of Planning and Development
123 5th Avenue North, Suite 130
Okanogan WA, 98840

Re: Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan Comments

Dear Mr. Huston,

Please consider the following comments for amending and improving the current draft of the Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan.

1. The Voluntary Stewardship Program should be mentioned in the section about the Growth Management Act that applies to protecting critical areas on agricultural land for non-development activities. The VSP Work Plan also includes elements to consider for promoting agricultural viability. Line 494- Agricultural conversion to other uses mentions agricultural viability- consider referencing the VSP Work Plan, which includes both structural and non-structural recommendations for promoting a viable Agricultural economy in the County.
2. Please clarify the relationship between the CAO and Comprehensive plan. Alternatives 2 and 3 rely upon the Critical Area Ordinance and SMP for critical areas on rural designations. Please clarify the suggestion in Lines 124-128, that the CAO will be reviewed for 'compliance' with the Comprehensive plan. Will the CAO contain the definition and development guidelines for critical areas? If so, mention this in Chapter 12 to precede the objectives for the five critical areas.
3. The Voluntary Stewardship Program is also worth mentioning within Chapter Twelve- Natural Environment as a reference for protecting critical areas on agricultural lands (related to non-development activities).

Sincerely,

Craig T. Nelson
District Manager