

## Rocky Robbins

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**From:** jimgregg509@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 8:01 PM  
**To:** Perry Huston  
**Cc:** Rocky Robbins  
**Subject:** Emailing: Comments 2018 Ok Cnty Draft Comp Plan revision1 Jan 17 (002).pdf  
**Attachments:** Comments 2018 Ok Cnty Draft Comp Plan revision1 Jan 17 (002).pdf


Thanks for letting us comment. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

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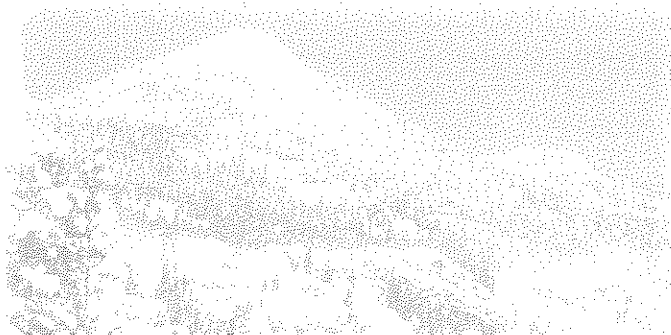
Comments 2018 Ok Cnty Draft Comp Plan revision1 Jan 17 (002).pdf

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# Mazama Advisory Committee



Doug Devin  
Jim Gregg  
Steve Devin  
Karen Reneau  
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John Sunderland  
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January 17, 2019

Mr. Perry Huston  
Director of Planning  
Okanogan County Office of Planning and Development  
123 5<sup>th</sup> Ave N Suite 130  
Okanogan, WA 98840

RE: EIS Scoping / 2018 Revision of Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan

Thank you for calling on the Mazama Advisory Committee's (MAC) comments. Members have reviewed the DRAFT comp plan and the following are comments on EIS scoping for potential revisions.

**More Completely Planned Area:** We support the formation of citizens groups and applaud the Planning Commissions' recognition of their value. We support and encourage the county's establishment of future groups to assist in planning for the diverse regions of our county.

It is important that the Methow Valley Plan of 1976, which establishes the Methow Review District and thereby Sub-Unit A be maintained. It has been known historically as the Upper Methow Valley Comprehensive Plan. Without it, the framework that establishes Sub-Unit A, the area our Committee serves, would be lost.

We recognize that both of these plans need to be continuously kept up to date. In general, the policies and the establishment of the Methow Review District remain both relevant and necessary, and edits can be made over time to bring the discussion portions up to date.

The MAC will be reviewing the sub unit A plan and recommend needed changes. This is an ideal project where citizen-oriented groups like ours can help in bringing about these updates

**WATER:** MAC encourages the county to prepare zoning rules that establish a relationship between land designations and water availability. The comprehensive plan should size rural development to match the available water resources, and be transparent with respect to those areas that have been designated as "closed basins" under interpretation of the Methow Rule. This is a requirement for protection of the quality and quantity of groundwater used for public water supplies. MAC encourages county departments to team up with other available resources and agencies to address this difficult but important task.

**FIRE:** We are entering a new era when it comes to the need of addressing Wildfire. Okanogan County needs to take leadership in this area and learn from the experiences of nearby fires and what has happened recently in California. Individual homeowner Firewise practices are certainly important but a bigger picture needs to be addressed through county planning and zoning (density), including standards

and/or recommendations for building materials, emergency vehicle access, owner ingress and egress address signage, and back-up generation for any future public water systems capable of serving as a resource during a fire event. With the Methow Valley in an area of fire prone Forests it is especially important to include wildfire management as a key role in all planning. Opportunities to work with existing fire agencies and protection resources should be directed in all zoning evaluations and proposed changes. A dedicated fire marshal type role to work with planning could be a productive and wise opportunity to address this important wildfire issue.

Submitted by Karen Reneau  
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