

## Rocky Robbins

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**From:** Nancy Kuta <bikeandbook111@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 2:43 PM  
**To:** Rocky Robbins; Rocky Robbins  
**Subject:** comments on comprehensive Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Okanogan Comprehensive Plan as part of the scoping process. I realize our commissioners are undertaking a serious and involved task to consider the diverse character and uses of county land when planning for the future. Thank you for the hard work being undertaken.

I concur with the comments made by Futurewise and the Methow Valley Citizens council for careful planning on the county commissioners part for wildfire protection, air quality, zoning for development, and water rights/uses. My specific concerns center around water availability and quality, wildlife habitat, recreational and agricultural uses, forest and mineral resources, wildfire mitigation, and planning for utility expansion such as broadband.

As the county considers density and zoning issues, it is important to plan for water allocation and respecting the current water rights holders. I urge the county to restrict individuals selling water rights to entities outside the county. It is important to retain water rights for agricultural needs, limited residential growth and salmon habitat.

Due to the increased risk of wildfire from climate change, the county needs to plan development carefully to ensure residents and responders have safe egress and are not trapped on a one lane road. Wildfires have precipitated air quality issues and the health threats to residents and particularly children. Can the county minimize the possibility of wildfire through zoning and permitting regulations which require builders/owners to follow Firewise principles?

Concentrating density near existing towns would be preferable to zoning which permits small lots of an acre or less scattered through the rural landscape and precluding agricultural use of the land.

Tourism has expanded in the county and is becoming an increasing source of revenue. The county needs to ensure recreational uses continue with cooperation between land owners and state/federal lands. It is also important to restrict large scale mineral extraction which would scar the land and make it aesthetically undesirable for tourism as well as inflict damage on the water quality.

Finally, I would like the county to consider utility development. To minimize the reliance on wood and electricity as energy sources, I suggest the county consider solar or wind power and plan for the development of these utilities on private lands. Increasing broadband availability would stimulate the economy and provide for development of new companies which need this type of access to be viable and competitive .

Regards,  
Nancy Kuta  
Mazama, WA