



"Building Partnerships – Building Communities"

Revised Draft Vision Based Upon Comments

Kittitas County is an area with a distinct rural quality based upon the value and assortment of cultural and natural environments. It provides safe and effective multi-modal transportation and available, safe and affordable housing. Access to recreational opportunities and a diverse rural economy, comprising a variety of small-scale employment opportunities, demonstrate Kittitas County's commitment to quality of life.

Comments received during July Advisory Group meetings

Recreation/Natural Environment

Indication from several that the vision is too long and complex in terms of ability of all to understand. It should be reduced and simplified. One participant provided additional comment upon the vision statement highlighting words that she saw as important to the group and the normal education level of the language presented. Her observation indicates that the vision is developed for those with a graduate education. The sentences could be broken to simplify the statement. "Live, work, play, learn should perhaps be used. It was suggested that the terms "health," "culture," "recreation" be used in lieu of "resource tourism." An emphasis should be placed upon "diverse economy" and "diverse housing needs."

Housing

Emphasis was placed upon "cultural diversity" and "available, affordable and safe" housing. Some emphasis was provided in "enhancing the diversity of existing and future resource tourism. Some emphasis was also placed upon "sustainable" "environmental protection."

Land Use

Vision Statement was generally received well, but it was indicated that the preservation of rural character was most important and should be emphasized.

Resource lands

The group generally accepted the draft vision statement with an emphasis upon "rural character, environmental protection, and sustainability." There was question as to whether or not the County can actually "protect and conserve" natural resources. There was concern that vision for encouraging local control and responsibility was not emphasized.

Transportation

Emphasis was placed upon reducing the text and including the important items in no more than two sentences. Emphasis was placed upon including "high quality of life," "diverse economy with employment opportunities," "adequate and affordable housing options," "new tourism opportunities," and "safe and effective multi-modal transportation." The word "aspires" is suggested to indicate where we want to be.

Economic Development

The group was active in emphasizing professional services and adequate infrastructure within the vision statement. There was also an expressed concern with "rural tourism" from this group and exactly what this meant. A sentence in the second paragraph that is important in this group could be re-written to emphasize "fostering a diverse economy with a variety of employment opportunities" balancing commercial, industrial, and "resource areas located and sized to preserve rural character."