

OKANOGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS'

RESOLUTION 113-2009

A Resolution calling for SEPA review of the Washington State Fish and Wildlife program of land and development rights acquisition in Okanogan County.

WHEREAS: RCW 43.21C, known as the State Environmental Policy Act, establishes a review process for project and programmatic actions, and

WHEREAS: WAC 197-11 part nine identifies specific categorical exemptions from the SEPA review process, and

WHEREAS: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife has embarked on and recently sought to expand through Legislative appropriation of resources the acquisition of land and development rights of land in Okanogan County, and

WHEREAS: There has been no opportunity for local government or the public to review and comment on probable, significant, and adverse impacts such an aggressive program of acquisition can cause to the local economy, customs and cultures, and to the supply of land necessary to establish a critical mass necessary to sustain agriculture and other natural resource based economic activities, and

WHEREAS: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife has not proposed a management plan for the lands or easements acquired through their program and a management plan, or it's lack, can have long term effects on the environment and economy of Okanogan County, and

WHEREAS: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife's land and development rights acquisition program is not enumerated as a categorical exemption in the above cited statutes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVE, that the Okanogan Board of County Commissioners calls upon Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to immediately implement the following procedures:

- 1) Desist in any effort to locate for acquisition or negotiate terms for acquisition of land or development rights to land in Okanogan County until a SEPA analysis has been completed on a programmatic level. Acquisition of land or development rights that is already under contract will be allowed to proceed.
- 2) Analysis of the land and development rights acquisition program should include, but not be limited to, the following items:
 - A) Alternatives to the proposed action.

B) Any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources, such as any junior or senior water right holdings which would be involved in the proposed action should it be implemented.

C) Impact of the proposed action to agriculture and natural resource based economic activities.

D) Impact of the proposed action on the local tax base and subsequent ability of local government to provide critical and mandated services.

E) Any probable, significant, and adverse environmental impacts should the plan be implemented.

3) Analysis of the land and development rights acquisition program must include a draft of the management program covering all lands acquired or identified for acquisition.

DATED at Okanogan, Washington this 28th day of April 2009.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON**

Mary Lou Peterson
Mary Lou Peterson, Chairman

Don (Bud) Hover
Don (Bud) Hover, Member

Andrew Lampe
Andrew Lampe, Member

ATTEST:

B. Crowell
Brenda J. Crowell, Clerk of the Board