

## CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Providing opportunity for citizen involvement has long been a strong point on the County's planning process. Originally, plans done through the "701" program were developed by numerous committees with the aid of various agency staff members, since the County did not employ professional planners. Later plans, produced by planning consultant firms, also included many specialized committees to work in specific areas of the plan. The last Comprehensive Plan done in 1971 employed more than 100 citizens on working committees and required nearly 30 public meetings.

The need for citizen involvement in the planning process has not diminished. Instead the need has increased as citizens demand new awareness due to the increasing scope and significance of the Comprehensive Plan. The fallacy in past citizen involvement programs has not been failure to provide opportunity, but assurance that the needs of the people will be recognized and adhered to. Therefore, it is citizen influence that becomes the key to successful citizen involvement.

The need for citizen involvement and influence does not stop at adoption of a Comprehensive Plan for the County. There are many agencies, special districts, and other jurisdictions whose plans and actions affect the citizens in the County. A consistent program of citizen involvement and influence should be established throughout the planning area, as it should through the state, whereas citizens are provided an equal opportunity to be heard in the decisions of various agencies and special districts as well as planning commissions and governing bodies.

Of equal importance, in citizen involvement, as the role of the citizen, is the citizens ability to relate to the planning process. Too often data and theories are geared to professional staff and beyond the experience of the citizens. If the professional staff is to rely upon the judgements of the citizens who advise them, they must also be able to rely on the comprehension of the citizens. To insure meaningful communication between elected and appointed officials and the citizens they serve, the language and tools

employed in the planning process should be geared to the level of understandibility desired by the citizens.

#### Goals

To develop and implement a citizen involvement program that insures the opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of the planning process.

#### Findings

1. The Morrow County Planning Commission served as the Committee for Citizen Involvement in the County.

2. The nine member Commission represents all areas of the County and its five cities. They were backed up by a Road Committee, Economic and Agricultural Committee.

3. Monthly Planning Commission meetings are open to the public and the agendas thereof publicly advertised.

4. Copies of the draft goals, objectives and sketch plans were mailed to all property owners outside the corporate limits of the five cities and technical reports and supporting documents were available at the County Court House.

5. Public hearing notices were published at least ten days before the hearings in the Heppner Gazette and the East Oregonian and a hearing schedule mailed to all property owners.

6. Public Hearings were held by the County Court and Planning Commission to discuss draft goals and objectives and to revise and adopt the Comprehensive Plan.

#### Policies: Present & Future

1. To provide a citizen involvement program that insures opportunity for citizens to participate in all phases of the planning process.

2. To conduct periodic community and countywide surveys to ascertain public opinion and collect information; with distribution of findings to affected citizens.

3. To encourage people to attend and participate in Planning Commission and County Court meetings and hearings.

4. To maintain existing advisory committees and to establish others when necessary to study County problems and make recommendations for their solution.

5. To distribute the draft Comprehensive Plan for public review and comment.

6. To distribute the adopted Comprehensive Plan to the public for use as a reference in making future land use decisions.

~~GENERAL LAND USE ELEMENT~~  
(Land Use Planning)

~~Introduction~~

~~The basic goal of the County in the formulation of this "Plan" has been to establish an ongoing land use planning process and policy framework as the basis for all decisions and actions related to the use of land in the County and to assure an adequate factual base for such decisions and actions.~~

~~Applicable city, state and federal agency and special district plans and actions related to land use in the County must be consistent herewith.~~

~~The "Plan" includes an identification of issues and problems, inventories, and other factual information for each applicable state-wide planning goal, evaluation of alternative courses of action and ultimate policy choices, taking into consideration social, economic, energy and environmental needs. Required information is contained in the plan documents or in supporting documents. The plans, supporting documents and implementation ordinances are to be filed in a public office or other place easily accessible to the public. The plan is the basis for specific implementation measures. These measures are consistent with and adequate to carry out the plans. Each plan and related implementation measure is coordinated with the plans of affected governmental units.~~