

## PLAN ELEMENT G: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

### I. BACKGROUND

The ultimate success of this comprehensive planning program for the Greater Omak Area will be measured by the degree of acceptance and support it receives from: the residents of the City and County, both on and off the Reservation; and, the elected and appointed officials for the four governments involved in planning in the Central Okanogan Valley. The recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan can be implemented as the expression of the combined will of the community, or they can merely disappear into a bookshelf. It is hoped that because the public had ample opportunity to shape the document, that the former rather than the latter will be the case.

#### Policies for Citizen Participation

The following policies are intended to guide decision making regarding citizen participation.

The City, County and Tribes shall:

- Policy 1: encourage the participation of all segments of the population in the Greater Omak Area in planning for future growth.
- Policy 2: encourage the participation of citizen groups when the City, County and Tribal objectives for land use have been formulated.
- Policy 3: encourage the discussion of community and area wide planning policies at the committee, commission, council and board levels in all three governments.
- Policy 4: encourage the formation of citizen groups on the East and West side of Omak and other parts of the Planning Area to assist and comment at City Council, County Commission or Tribal Council hearings with respect to future planning for the Planning Area.
- Policy 5: encourage consideration of educational programs or discussions at the upper secondary school level which would develop an interest in City, County and Tribal activities with which many will later be acquainted through their livelihood in one way or another, and their potential residence in the area.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Plan recommends the following for citizen participation:

- That all reasonable means be used to inform residents of the contents and meaning of this comprehensive plan. Such efforts should include newspaper, radio and other media coverage, public workshops and meetings to explain the plan and afford the public ample opportunity to ask questions and learn about the plan.
- That all decisions made by the City, County and Tribes which affect uses of the land in the Planning Area be brought before the City, County or Tribes Planning Commissions (as appropriate) for their review. This is critical in that these Commissions are the lay bodies responsible for advising the elected officials on matters pertaining to land use.