



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

A few years ago, I sat with Pitkin County residents to kick off the Community Growth Advisory Committee. The county brought together folks from all different backgrounds and interests. But we shared one thing in common. We had deep care and respect for the land and our quality of life in the valley. Out of this advisory committee came a series of recommendations. Some have already gone from large post-it notes to Planning and Zoning and adopted Land Use Code by the board. We are not going to agree on every part of this plan. This is the beauty of a public process and the beauty of our community. Thank you to everybody who has been a part of this, even hanging on to item #14 today. If you are one of the people who disagree with the plan, or even a single helping verb, thank you. This is the beauty of community.

Today at the Board table we are wrapping up this multi-year process with the adoption of our County's 2050 Comprehensive Plan. Similar to the Growth Advisory Committee, we asked subject matter experts from energy, to land settlement, to waste and water, what is the carrying capacity of our land; what are the tensions we are feeling in the pace of activity in the county and our valley and most importantly- and asked what does our community look like in twenty four years? We sat with the caucuses in their meeting rooms, from libraries to fly-fishing shops, and asked what does Pitkin County look like in 2050?. This plan fundamentally with all of these inputs, is an advisory document, to guide land development decisions.

The lens we operate under today is facing historic lows in snow water equivalent, increased duration of fire restrictions and fire weather and growth pressures in the county and amongst our neighboring jurisdictions.

The work, both of the Growth Advisory Committee and the extensive research that has gone into the Comprehensive Plan, sets Pitkin County up to make informed decisions, especially in regards to land planning and taking bold steps with regards to climate action. The plan aims to bolster our recreational resort economy while protecting the rural and wild lands we cherish.

Jeffrey H. Woodruff
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