

**From:** [Jeffrey Delapena](#)  
**To:** [jnanney56@gmail.com](mailto:jnanney56@gmail.com); [Jenna Kay](#); [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#)  
**Cc:** [Karissa Halstrom](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Support FOCC's suggested change to the CAG's Draft Goals  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 22, 2025 7:51:35 AM

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Good day, John,

Thank you for submitting comments regarding CAG's Draft Goals and Policies. These will be entered into the Comprehensive Index of Record.

Regards,  
Jeff Delapena  
Program Assistant, Clark County Community Planning

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**From:** jnanney56@gmail.com <jnanney56@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:54 PM  
**To:** Jenna Kay <Jenna.Kay@clark.wa.gov>; Cnty 2025 Comp Plan <comp.plan@clark.wa.gov>  
**Cc:** Karissa Halstrom <karissa.halstrom@hotmail.com>  
**Subject:** Support FOCC's suggested change to the CAG's Draft Goals

**EXTERNAL:** This email originated from outside of Clark County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Clark County staff, CAG, and Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC) members,

The Chelatchie Prairie Coalition (CPC) supports FOCC's proposed modifications to the CAG's Draft Goals and Policies:

1. Amend Goal 11, Policy 2 (Ecological Stewardship) to include a forest and tree preservation plan protecting against damage from development, mining, and wildfire.
2. Modify Goal 16, Policy 3 to include "Preventing threats to groundwater such as mining" in actions for groundwater protection.

These changes are crucial given the proposed thousands of acres of surface mining overlay on forest-zoned land in unincorporated Clark County. We urge the County to prioritize forest preservation for carbon sequestration and climate protection over mining expansion.

[Importance of Forest Preservation](#)

Forests play a critical role in mitigating climate change by acting as carbon sinks. Between 2001 and 2019, forests globally absorbed approximately 7.6 billion metric tons of CO2 per year, which is twice as much carbon as they emitted. Preserving our local forests is essential for:

- Maintaining biodiversity and wildlife habitats
- Supporting local ecosystems
- Continuing to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change effects

### Risks of Mining Expansion

Expanding mining operations poses significant risks to both surface and groundwater resources:

1. **Surface Water Contamination:** Mining can lead to acid mine drainage, sediment pollution, and heavy metal contamination in nearby water bodies.
2. **Groundwater Pollution:** Mining operations can disrupt water tables, contaminate aquifers, and introduce chemicals and suspended solids into groundwater.
3. **Ecosystem Disruption:** Mining activities can alter local hydrology, affecting both water quantity and quality in the surrounding area.

Given these potential impacts, it is crucial to implement strict protective measures and prioritize **forest preservation over mining expansion** in Clark County.

Please refer to the citations below for further information.

Best regards,

John E. Nanney

**CHELATCHIE PRAIRIE COALITION (CPC)**

A Chelatchie Prairie Landowners LLC

President - Board of Directors

Founding Member

<https://www.facebook.com/Chelatchie/>

360-524-4014

### **Citations:**

[1] <https://climate.mit.edu/explainers/forests-and-climate-change>

[2] <https://climatepromise.undp.org/news-and-stories/forests-can-help-us-limit-climate-change-here-how>

[3] <https://potentialengineering.com/blog/effects-of-mining-on-surface-and-ground-water/>

- [4] <https://iucn.org/resources/issues-brief/forests-and-climate-change>
- [5] <https://www.smenet.org/What-We-Do/Technical-Briefings/Mining-Water-Quality>
- [6] <https://forestsolutions.panda.org/approach/forests-and-climate>
- [7] <https://www.myclimate.org/en/information/faq/faq-detail/forest-climate-protection/>
- [8] <https://environment.yale.edu/news/article/yse-scientists-emphasize-importance-forest-management-net-zero-emissions>
- [9] <https://www.epa.gov/climateimpacts/climate-change-impacts-forests>
- [10] <https://www3.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/env.htm>
- [11] <https://www.fs.usda.gov/speeches/forest-restoration-through-good-governance-era-climate-change>
- [12] <https://www.usgs.gov/special-topics/water-science-school/science/mining-and-water-quality>
- [13] <https://www.epa.gov/regulatory-information-topic/regulatory-and-guidance-information-topic-water>
- [14] <https://www.safewater.org/fact-sheets-1/2017/1/23/miningandwaterpollution>
- [15] <https://www.doi.gov/ocl/stream-protection-rule-1>
- [16] <https://sites.law.duq.edu/juris/2020/04/22/mining-laws-may-be-designed-to-protect-the-environment-but-do-they/>
- [17] <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/groundwater/local-government-protection.html>
- [18] <https://fisheries.org/policy-media/policy-statements/afs-policy-statement-13/>