

[Email from Robb Bell forwarded by Eric Walker at Hood River County Planning on 6/25/20]

**From:** Robb Bell <[robb@cathedralridgewinery.com](mailto:robb@cathedralridgewinery.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 1:19 PM

**To:** Eric Walker <[eric.walker@co.hood-river.or.us](mailto:eric.walker@co.hood-river.or.us)>

**Subject:** Scenic Management Area Management Plan Update

Dear Eric,

I'm sure the people at the scenic management area are doing the best they can, but I feel they have strayed from their original mission in several ways. Additionally, from a pure business management stand-point, I think they are taking on far too much regulating and policing with no one to do it but you and the other county planning teams.

In many cases, while the management area required some special rule sets, it should not be out of sync with the respective state laws and regulations unless there is a very good reason.

Agri-tourism activities that are allowed under state laws are prohibited here. Also, prohibitions for bed and breakfasts and inns in an area that needs additional rooms for its primary tourism and agricultural businesses.

Commercial event guidelines need to universally require a lawful winery, brewery, cidery or spirits license. There is no reason to distinguish between these businesses, they are all agriculturally based, the regulation of commercial events is a mystery to me, considering that existing noise ordinances curb any reported problems. The idea of petitioning for the right to operate my business every 2 years with assorted proofs is upsetting to me. And who is going to do it?

I do not believe the scenic management commission needs to be involved with grants and other financial funding activities offered by states, counties or the federal government.

I don't think the scenic management commission needs to be, and should not be, involved with designated urban area activities. These are complicated enough as they are. Further, they appear to favor absolutely no future growth of urban growth boundaries which is patently absurd; all should work together now to determine where they are going to be.

Finally, I would ask that if appropriate the enforcing planners of the respective counties agree on just what they are going to enforce and do it with an even hand. I have maintained my tasting area at 1000 sq. ft for 16 years while at least 6 new wineries have been built in the scenic management area with 2000 – 3500 sq. ft of tasting area years after I began operation. May I petition to come up to the average of the others? Or just what is possible here?

Thank you for considering these comments.

Very Truly,

Robb