

4711 S. Magnolia
Spokane, WA 99223

March 19, 2010

Choices for Cheney Policy Workshop
c/o Community Development Department
City of Cheney
112 Anderson Road
Cheney, WA 99004

Choices for Cheney:

This is to express my deep concern over Section 21, Southeast Cheney, in your proposal for an update to the City's Comprehensive Plan. Although I now reside in Spokane, for many years I lived on the Cheney Spangle Road, not far from this area of interest. Living there I acquired an appreciation for the unique vegetation, wildlife and overall ecology of the scablands ecosystem. For many years I have been a Professor at Eastern Washington University and have acquired a kinship with the Cheney community and a concern about the quality of life in this attractive community.

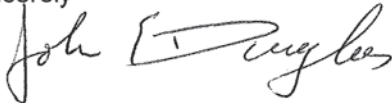
The channeled scablands which lie to the south and east of Cheney are a unique, fragile ecological system which it is important to preserve. The area also has value as a scenic resource, a real asset to the Cheney community. The railroad lines form a natural barrier which separates the natural scablands from urban Cheney. It would be a tragedy to allow urbanization, as proposed in Section 21, to cross this barrier and impact the fragile scablands. (I am aware that the barrier has already been crossed with the egregious apartment development on the Cheney Spangle Road at the Union Pacific tracks, but no more!) These impacts would also extend to the nearby Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, another treasure of the Cheney community.

There are other alternatives. If these developments are really necessary, there are many areas north and west of the railway lines where they could be located on terrain that is not as unique, fragile, and valuable as the scablands.

In summary, to allow the development proposed in Section 21 would have a serious harmful impact on one of the Cheney community's most important natural assets. This development is not necessary here because there are other alternatives.

KEEP THE CITY OF CHENEY OUT OF THE SCABLANDS!!

Sincerely



John E. Douglas