



8 REASONS TO OPPOSE EXPANDING COFFIN BUTTE

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A SAFE LANDFILL

All landfills leak. Despite state and federal regulation, landfills leach harmful chemicals into groundwater and vent pollutants into the air. Once a landfill is placed, they require monitoring and maintenance forever. **Landfill operators are only legally responsible for maintenance 30 years after landfill closes.** Efforts to reduce reliance on landfills by limiting waste and increasing composting and recycling are essential.

LEACHATE FROM COFFIN BUTTE LANDFILL CONTAMINATES SURROUNDING GROUNDWATER AND ENDS UP IN THE WILLAMETTE

“Leachate” is garbage juice, created when rainwater percolates through the landfill. Leachate thus picks up whatever contaminants are in the garbage, which at Coffin Butte Landfill **includes dissolved heavy metals, carcinogenic industrial solvents, and the “forever chemicals” also known as PFAS.** In 2021, 31 million gallons of leachate was pumped out of the landfill and trucked to wastewater treatment plants in Salem and Corvallis.

Municipal water treatment plants are not designed to process leachate, so many toxics including PFAS pass through the plant and are discharged into the Willamette River. The 16 million gallons of leachate sent to the Corvallis plant in 2021, for example, was discharged upstream of the Adair Village, Sherwood, and Wilsonville drinking water intake. **Not all leachate is being pumped out of the landfill, however - the rest threatens local soil and groundwater.**

AIR POLLUTION IMPACTS PUBLIC HEALTH AROUND LANDFILLS

There are 30 different hazardous air pollutants produced by Coffin Butte landfill including particulate matter, heavy metals (ie mercury, lead), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), and sulfides (the signature smell of landfill stink) totaling 14,500 pounds in 2021. Nearby residents and workers can be exposed by breathing pollutants, and some these pollutants settle on soil and in water, causing further health concerns in addition to the nuisance of smelling the odors.

COFFIN BUTTE LANDFILL IS A “METHANE FACTORY” AND A LARGE SOURCE OF CLIMATE DAMAGE.

Emerging data identifies landfills as the top industrial source of methane, a greenhouse gas far more potent than carbon dioxide, in Oregon. Although Coffin Butte Landfill has a power plant, it only burns a proportion of the methane coming off the landfill. **The EPA found explosive amounts of methane leaking from Coffin Butte** in 2022 and satellite flyovers in **2023 found some of the largest methane plumes in the PNW** emerging from Coffin Butte.

COFFIN BUTTE LANDFILL IS NOT OWNED OR OPERATED BY BENTON COUNTY

Valley Landfills Inc., a subsidiary of the national corporation Republic Services Inc., receives the revenue from the landfill. Benton County, however, holds the unlimited long-term risk and environmental liability for the Coffin Butte Landfill. **90% of the 1.2 millions tons of yearly garbage that goes into Coffin Butte Landfill comes from outside Benton County.**

FLIP THE PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



COFFIN BUTTE LANDFILL USES TOXIC FLY ASH AS DAILY COVER.

Covanta's Marion Waste Incinerator trucks toxic ash, containing heavy metals and dioxin, to Coffin Butte Landfill which is used to cover the mountain of new garbage on a daily basis. The toxic ash thus enters the landfill's leachate and, **if not properly applied, becomes airborne**, adding to the air pollution of the Coffin Butte Landfill airshed.

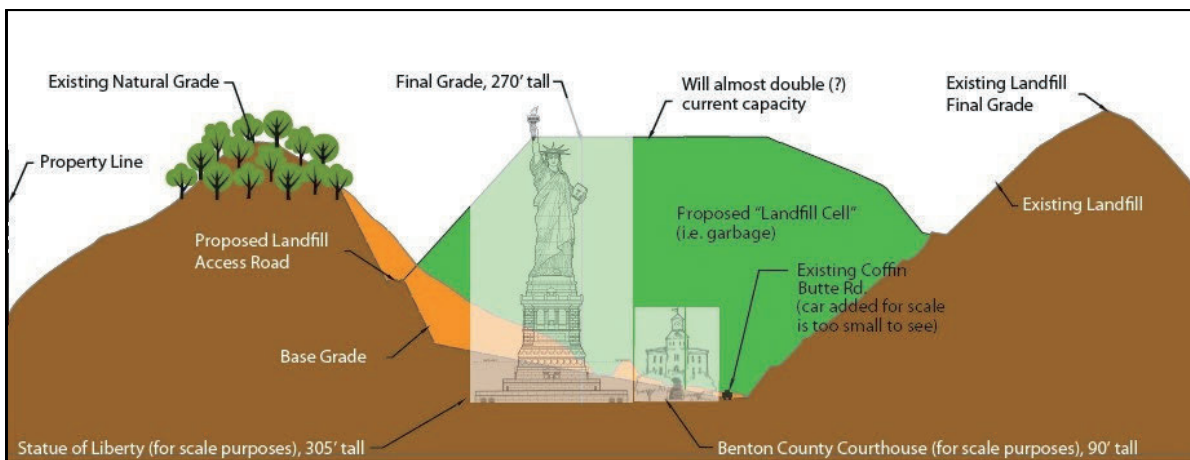
DENYING AN EXPANSION TO COFFIN BUTTE WILL NOT IMPACT GARBAGE SERVICES FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS

The public will still have garbage collection services, and Benton County will continue to receive a franchise fee. The landfill still has plenty of capacity – it is only about 60% full.

IF ANY EXPANSION IS APPROVED, COFFIN BUTTE LANDFILL WILL HAVE NO LIMIT ON HOW MUCH GARBAGE IT CAN TAKE IN

In recent years Coffin Butte Landfill has expanded its reach, and currently imports 30% of all garbage generated in the state of Oregon into Benton County. Its total intake from all counties has been limited only by a cap imposed by the County. The franchise agreement between Valley Landfills Inc and Benton County removes the limit on total intake upon expanding the landfill.

2021 PROPOSED EXPANSION



This is a cross section of the 2021 proposed expansion which was unanimously denied by the board of commissioners. The expansion proposed filling the valley between Coffin Butte and Poison Oak Butte, and eliminating the current Coffin Butte Road connecting the Soap Creek Valley and Highway 99.

A proposal to expand the landfill is underway! Make your voice heard!



Valley Neighbors for Environmental Quality and Safety (VNEQS)

Working to protect Benton County, Oregon from further expansions of the Coffin Butte Landfill

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More Information: www.beyondtoxics.org and www.coffinbuttefacts.org