

From: [Joel Geier](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Fwd: New year, same problem affecting Airlie-Albany Christmas Bird Count (plus damage to county road creating hazard)
Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 3:35:10 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

I sent this to you on January 5th, not as testimony for the current land-use proceeding LU-24-027, but as a description of ongoing problems with the current landfill operations.

From more statements regarding "ex parté" contacts for the land-use process, I understand that at least one of you (Commissioner Malone) hasn't even been looking at many e-mails related to Coffin Butte Landfill. Instead, what I understand is that you've set up your e-mail in such a way that message with certain key words get shunted off to a separate folder, to avoid looking at them.

That's unfortunate, as means that this land-use procedure in itself has impacted the responsiveness of our County government to ongoing issues with odors (and the health impacts that they signify) as well as road conditions and roadside trash. This becomes another "undue burden" on public services.

Here's that January 5th e-mail (omitting the attachment, which is on file with DEQ), in the hopes that you'll finally read it and respond to the problems mentioned.

I'll add, today is another bad landfill stench day here where we live. It's a bit different from usual since today, with a light breeze shifting from NW to ENE over the course of the day, we're getting the silage-like odor from the composting facility mixed in with landfill stench. The latter is the greater concern for our family, due to the hazards of landfill emissions for human health.

Yours sincerely,
Joel Geier

From: "Joel Geier" <clearwater@peak.org>
To: "MALONE Patrick" <Pat.Malone@bentoncountyor.gov>, "WYSE Nancy" <nancy.wyse@bentoncountyor.gov>, "Gabe Shepherd" <gabe.shepherd@bentoncountyor.gov>
Cc: "SCHUETZ Petra" <petra.schuetz@bentoncountyor.gov>, "Bailey Payne" <Bailey.Payne@BentonCountyOR.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 5, 2026 4:11:48 PM
Subject: New year, same problem affecting Airlie-Albany Christmas Bird Count (plus damage to county road creating hazard)

Dear Commissioners,

Yesterday (Sunday, January 4th) was the Airlie-Albany Christmas Bird Count, which includes all of northwestern Benton County from Lewisburg north and Dunn Forest east.

Once again, volunteers on this count had to deal with stench from Coffin Butte landfill. As you know, this is a chronic problem, just about every year at this time.

Despite DEQ's pending enforcement action, the landfill operators still aren't demonstrating an ability to comply with the requirement to secure daily cover at the end of the working day on Saturday. So on Sunday, volunteers who came out to count bird were exposed to the stink that local residents have to deal with year-round.

I've attached the incident report that I submitted to DEQ. This doesn't include the photos of exposed garbage that I took from up on Tampico Ridge and later from Soap Creek Road. I'll be happy to send those separately if you're interested.

On a related note, while driving out to call for owls before dawn, I noticed that the asphalt on Camp Adair Road has become rutted from truck traffic. After overnight rains the ruts were filled with water, causing my Toyota Prius to hydroplane in multiple spots.

I believe this is a Benton County road, so maintenance is the responsibility of the County. There have been crews out several times in the past few years to patch cracks, but that doesn't address the problem of ruts in the pavement creating a safety hazard, particularly for drivers of small cars in wet weather.

I'll appreciate if you could bring the poor condition of Camp Adair Road to the attention of your Public Works Department.

Oh, and by the way, the trash out in fields along Independence Hwy south of Camp Adair Road all the way to Hwy 20 is worse than ever. Wasn't the landfill company supposed to fund additional crews to clean up that stretch of road?

Happy New Year,
Joel Geier
North Benton County resident