

From: [Matt Lee](#)
To: [Coffin Butte Landfill Appeals](#)
Subject: Coffin Butte Landfill expansion application, LU-24-027
Date: Monday, October 6, 2025 4:05:02 PM

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I oppose further expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill. The Benton County Planning Commission unanimously rejected the expansion application filed by Republic Services, and I urge the Board of Commissioners to deny Republic Services' appeal of that decision. Allowing the landfill to expand would violate multiple County Comprehensive Plan policies, including but not limited to 5.1.2, 5.9.4, and 6.1.2.

5.1.2 Benton County shall work to maintain and enhance ecological health of valued natural areas throughout the county by ... maintaining the integrity and stability of these areas.

An expanded landfill would disrupt recovery efforts at the nearby E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area by attracting predators (such as common raven) to the nests of imperiled species of concern (streaked horned lark, Oregon vesper sparrow, and western meadowlark) and by attracting European starlings, which compete with native-cavity nesting species of concern (western bluebird and purple martin).

5.9.4 In making land use decisions, Benton County shall protect identified sensitive wildlife habitat types and wildlife corridors from adverse impacts.

Expansion of the landfill to the south, coupled with the northward growth of Adair Village, would impact movement of Roosevelt elk between the E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area and the Soap Creek watershed.

6.1.2 In cooperation with appropriate agencies, Benton County shall manage its air, water and land resources to insure their protection, conservation, restoration, or enhancement.

The landfill is currently operating under an expired air quality permit, which has not been updated since 2009, and it failed to meet guidelines for methane emissions when monitored by the EPA in 2022 and 2024. Arsenic, PFAS, and other toxins in leachate from the landfill make their way into nearby wetlands, groundwater, and the Willamette River. Both of these problems will worsen if the landfill is allowed to expand. In addition, if approved, the application would eliminate any cap on waste intake, allowing the landfill to accept significantly more waste and further exacerbating problems related to air quality and water pollution.

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