

Executive Summary

Based on our latest estimates, Coffin Butte Landfill is currently on track to run out of capacity in approximately three years.

While there is an estimated 12-15 years of capacity available in the quarry, that location will not be ready for active disposal operations for about four years.

Based on the best available data, currently there are roughly 18 years of airspace available at the site. But it is important to recognize that there are various human, economic and environmental factors that directly impact available airspace – these factors will cause estimates to continually fluctuate.

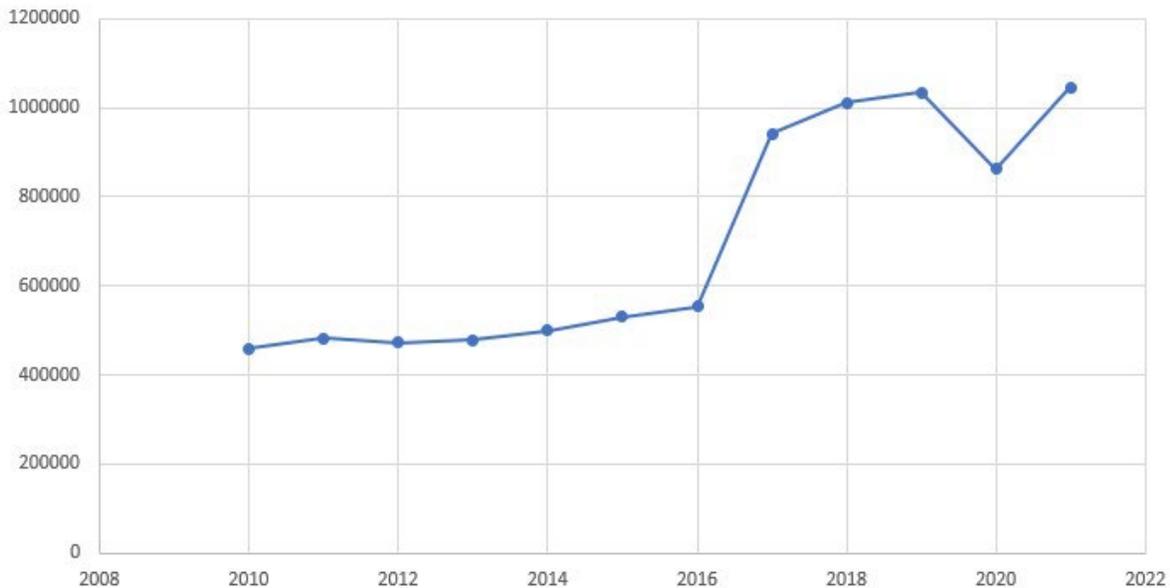
A Landfill’s remaining site life or “airspace” is primarily determined by two factors – the volume (tonnage) of waste being disposed of at the facility, and the density of those materials.

As the County has noted, the volume of waste being deposited at Coffin Butte has steadily increased in recent years due to a variety of factors, including population growth in the Willamette Valley and unforeseen ecological disasters like the 2020 wildfires.

In addition, the upcoming closure of Riverbend Landfill in Yamhill County – a regional facility that is no longer accepting trash from area cities – has significantly impacted regional volumes to include tonnage at Coffin Butte.

Additional information on these factors is provided below.

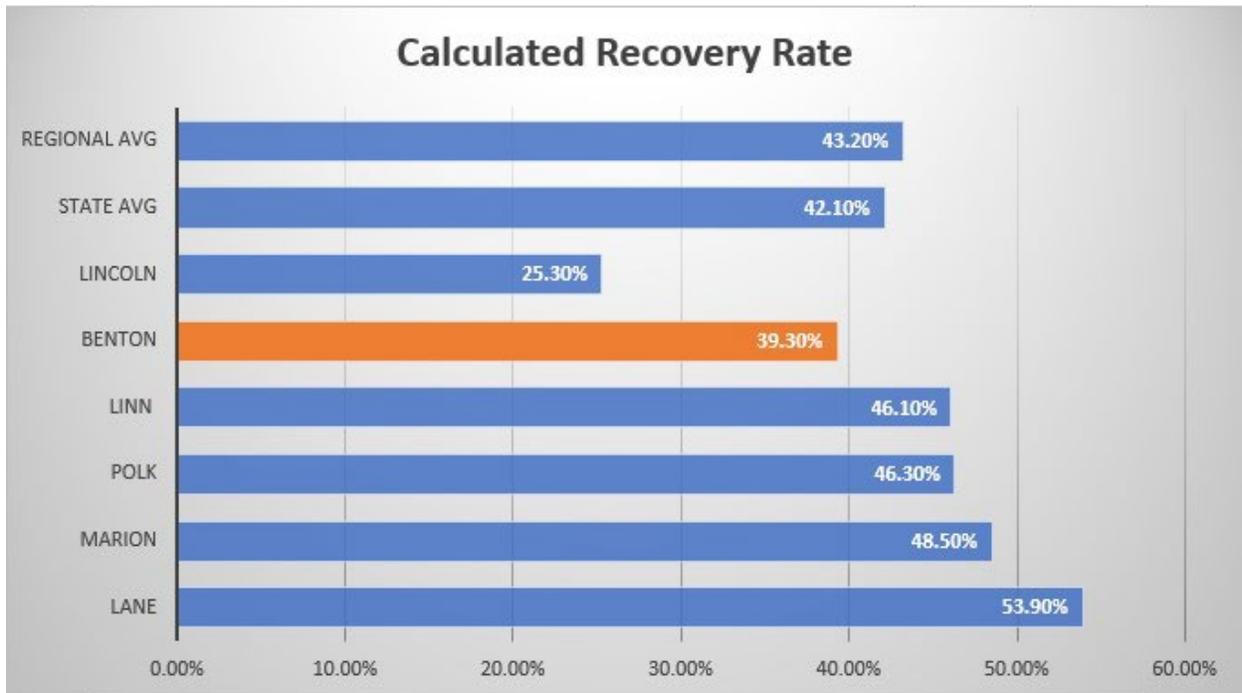
Coffin Butte Landfill Tonnage



**The following document discusses the many factors that cause site life to fluctuate, and the marketplace changes that led to a sharp decrease in available airspace at Coffin Butte.*

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS – HOW WE GOT HERE

- Annual tonnage at Coffin Butte remained steady between 2007 and 2016, at 500,000 to 600,000 tons per year.
- The disposal picture has changed in the last five years.
- **In 2017, the tonnage at Coffin Butte nearly doubled due to Riverbend Landfill** in Yamhill County **being unable to obtain an expansion permit.** (Riverbend began diverting waste to extend site life.)
 - ✚ Excess waste in the marketplace was taken to Coffin Butte under a Memorandum of Understanding executed with Benton County Commissioners December 1, 2016.
- During the same time period, **population growth in the Willamette Valley skyrocketed,** according to 2020 U.S. Census Data.
 - ✚ Benton County – 11.2 percent
 - ✚ Polk County – 16 percent
 - ✚ Linn County – 10.2 percent
- We saw a temporary dip in tonnage in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Tonnage increased again in **2021 due to material/clean-up from the 2020 Oregon Wildfires and** post-pandemic lifestyle changes.
- **The post-pandemic world has created a “new normal,”** with increased waste disposal based on not only population growth, but also construction booms, further proliferation of online shopping, food waste and single use PPE.
- **Benton County currently lags** both the regional average and the state average in recovery rates, per 2020 DEQ data. (See chart below.)



Data source: oregon.gov/deq/recycling/Documents/2020MRWGRatesReportTables.pdf

- The EPA’s most recent data, released in July 2022, shows **the average person in America throws away 4.9 pounds of waste, per day**. Recycling rates, meanwhile, dropped, with **the average person recycling 1.16 pounds of materials per person, per day**.
 - ✚ That means that even in the most aggressive, sustainably driven communities, we are still landfilling significantly more than we are diverting.
- **In addition, Riverbend stopped accepting municipal solid waste in 2021**, putting additional pressure on Coffin Butte, and forcing haulers in Yamhill County and elsewhere to scramble for reliable, safe, and cost-effective disposal options.
 - ✚ In May 2022, Yamhill County Board of Commissioners approved, upon recommendation from the SWAC, **a 14.75 percent rate increase** for Recology Western Oregon to continue providing disposal and hauling services for 2022-23. The contractor noted **increased costs were largely driven by the closure of Riverbend and subsequent long-distance hauling and transportation costs**.

COFFIN BUTTE’S FUTURE – HOW MUCH SPACE REMAINS?

- In our 2021 report to Benton County, Coffin Butte Landfill was estimated to have 17,249,778 cubic yards of capacity, or about 18 years of site life.

- Our **site life estimates are based on a rolling average of tons disposed during each of the previous 3 years**. These estimates proved accurate until the disposal picture dramatically changed in 2017. In retrospect, our site life and disposal forecasting were too conservative given the “new normal,” including the region’s population growth and other factors cited in this document.
- Based on our most current forecasts, **Coffin Butte will likely close around 2038** without a CUP (expansion).
- Estimates presume 3+ years life in the existing cell, plus 12+ years in the quarry. At present, we forecast **having 16,066,601 cubic yards of capacity by the end of 2022**.
- The most pressing and immediate issue is preserving the continuity of the Community’s short-term disposal needs.
 - ✚ We estimated in our 2021 CUP application that the current disposal cell had four plus years of life remaining, but nearly 12 months have passed since those assumptions were made.
- **It takes approximately 3-4 years to permit, site and construct a new landfill cell that meets or exceeds all local, state, and federal regulations.**
 - ✚ That puts Benton County in serious jeopardy of having a “gap” in its ability to provide, safe, cost-effective waste collection and disposal to its businesses and residents.
- Our 2021 CUP proposal that was withdrawn in March 2022 would have allowed Coffin Butte to continue serving the community for an additional 12+ years, **allowing time for better long-term solid waste planning and more aggressive diversion goals**.