

**ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ENRAC)
July 10, 2024**

Members Present: Deb Merchant, Damilola Olajubutu, Jackson Rheuben, Jason Schindler, Sydney Tamplin

Excused: Michael Hughes, Kanchan Ojha

Staff: Vance Croney, County Counsel; Sean McGuire, Maura Kwiatkowski; Board of Commissioners Office; Petra Schuetz, Bailey Payne, Community Development

Guests: Rollie Baxter, Sarah Edwardsson, Joel Geier, Becky Merja, Mark Yeager, Janet O. [surname not provided]; Community Members

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Merchant called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM and introductions were made.

Merchant invited committee members to answer the question, “If you could remove one thing from Coffin Butte landfill, what would it be?” Responses included batteries, recyclable plastic, food, appliances, steel, and diapers.

2. Approval of the June 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Merchant made a motion to approve the June 12, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. ENRAC’s Role in the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Process

In May, McGuire presented ENRAC with a request for the committee to provide recommendations to the Planning Commission regarding the CUP application expected from Republic Services. There was robust conversation, and consensus was achieved, although it was not unanimous. ENRAC accepted the request to provide recommendations. On July 2, the Board of Commissioners approved a document stating ENRAC will assume this single task from the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC).

McGuire expressed hope that trust has been built within the committee and indicated volunteers are highly valued. ENRAC is taking the recommendations responsibility very seriously. ENRAC has already begun sharing resources and information that represents all sides of the proposed application. The process will not be a rubber stamp; no decisions

have been made at this point. The committee will be heard. There is no staff intent to guide the committee's recommendations.

4. CUP Process, Expectations, and Coffin Butte Landfill

Croney reported the Board of Commissioners approved on July 2, 2024, an order delegating duty from SWAC to ENRAC regarding the CUP application for an expansion of Coffin Butte Landfill. The order tracks identically with the Benton County Code (BCC) provisions that describe the type of review in which the committee will engage. It is important to understand review of the land use application is limited by language in Development Code chapter 77.305. Croney read the provision aloud, which defined the scope of the review. Chapter 77.310(2) describes the application ENRAC is being asked to review and provide recommendations upon.

It is also important to note ENRAC has complete discretion regarding how the review is conducted, except there will be no public hearing on the review. There are two reasons for this. First, it is not ENRAC's role to conduct a public hearing on the land use application; the Planning Commission's role includes the public hearing component. Second is the timeframe of ENRAC's review and recommendations. The clock starts on the application process once the application is deemed complete by the County's Community Development Department. The review/recommendation timeframe is relatively short (approximately 30 to 45 days).

Schindler asked for confirmation, and Croney confirmed, the 150-day process begins the date the application is deemed complete through the date of the final decision of the Board of Commissioners.

Tamplin reported Republic Services indicated in their July 9 evening public meeting that they were planning to submit the application the week of July 15, 2024.

In response to a question from Merchant, Croney advised McGuire is the primary point of contact initially. Croney and Schuetz may attend meetings to answer questions.

Croney indicated the ENRAC bylaws state the ENRAC function is to "...research topics and provide input to the Board of Commissioners and County departments in areas related to Benton County's 2040 Vision Statement on Environment & Natural Resources: Benton County commits to protect, conserve and enhance our treasured, limited natural resources and prepare for future environmental challenges."

Schindler noted the website shows a plan to create a Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) and asked about the status of that process. How does it relate to future planning? Croney advised DSAC members have been appointed, and DSAC is scheduled to meet for the first time at the end of July. DSAC provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information between Republic Services, the County, and the community. Because there is

a Republic Services representative on DSAC, the CUP review responsibility was not assigned to DSAC.

Schuetz explained the land use process. After the application is deemed complete, a notice will be published with a schedule of public hearings. The application materials will be transmitted to agency referral partners; agency stakeholders, regulatory authorities, etc. This is when ENRAC will receive the application information. The agency partners' review takes approximately three weeks. Schuetz then begins to synthesize agency comments into a staff report. Schuetz is comfortable if ENRAC decides it needs more time to complete its work. Croney noted it is preferable to have ENRAC recommendations to the Planning Commission sooner rather than later. ENRAC recommendations will come with a level of gravitas due to greater expertise in natural resources and the environment; these recommendations will be beneficial to the Planning Commission.

McGuire noted there is no obligation for ENRAC members to read or investigate the reviewing agencies' comments. ENRAC can focus on its own comments; its own voice.

Merchant presented questions from a written list:

1. Will any environmental or social impact studies be conducted?

Schuetz responded that in the pre-application meeting, expectations were reviewed with Republic Services for various studies, including hydrology, noise/sound, environmental impacts to fish and wildlife, odors, light, and air quality. Staff and third-party subject matter experts will review the reports. Republic Services' third-party studies will also be available to the public.

2. Regarding future public engagement, describe future meetings that include public participation in the decision-making process.

Schuetz indicated it is a highly regimented process. Republic Services may do any outreach they wish, and other parties may do the same. Once the application is deemed complete, the Planning Commission does not engage in conversations with the public until the public hearings. A notice of public comment period will be published, written public comments will be accepted, and those written comments will be part of the record for the land use application. Public comments on the record will be part of the record for any appeals process that may occur.

3. Do we know the current status of the SMMP (Sustainable Materials Management Plan)?

McGuire and Payne provided an update to the Commissioners on July 9 and presented a timeline. Staff will be reaching out to the 13 affected counties. If Coffin Butte's end of life is approximately 2037-2039 as identified from Benton County Talks Trash, what will we do with our solid waste and address material management? This question needs to be answered as soon as possible.

Rheuben requested additional detail on the third-party firms. Schuetz responded it will depend on what staff observes in the technical reports. The County does not yet know who will need to be hired but does have a list of subject matter experts. Reviewer information and their findings will be included in the staff reports.

Merchant reiterated the potential closure of Coffin Butte Landfill in the 2037 to 2039 range. During Republic Services' July 9 public meeting, it seemed no decisions were made, or information gathered. Is there more information about to where Coffin Butte solid waste would be transported? Croney indicated that would be a function almost exclusively of the hauling contracts. Haulers will take solid waste wherever they are able; they contract with the landfill operators.

Payne presented a history of the landfill property. [Click here to jump to Page 5 to view the presentation.](#)

McGuire noted an SMMP consultant is under contract with the County. One of the main deliverables is a robust waste site map, which should be complete in September 2024.

7. Future Meetings, Wrap-up, and Next Steps

McGuire asked when the CUP application might be submitted. Croney mentioned Tamplin's report that Republic Services planned to submit the week of July 15. The review for completeness will begin immediately. Schuetz noted the client is sophisticated and does not expect the full 30 days will be required to complete the review.

The next ENRAC meeting is August 14, 2024, and ENRAC will likely have something to review by that date.

Schindler asked whether there are any topics ENRAC members wish to meet about or discuss in the interim. McGuire will coordinate with Merchant and advise the committee.

8. Adjournment

Chair Merchant adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM.

History of Coffin Butte Landfill

Bailey Payne
Solid Waste Program Coordinator
2024



Early 1900's and Before



Native Kalapuyans inhabit Coffin Butte / Soap Creek area for over 14,000 years

Early 1700's

European fur trappers are active in the area

Mid-1800's

Pioneers settle in the area

Early 1900's

Farming beings; roads built to transport produce to markets

1940's

1955



positional

and

not due

1970's



1970's

DEQ notes challenges with water and soil conditions. Recommends CBL closure

1972-73

Chemeketa Region looks for regional disposal site. CBL emerges as preferred location, despite local residents' opposition

1974

Benton County Planning Commission approves CUP allowing for expansion; decision upheld by Benton County Commissioners

1975

Valley Landfills Inc. purchases the Coffin Butte site

1977

The old burn dump located within the CBL closes

1980's and 1990's



1983

Benton County alters Comprehensive Plan and creates "Landfill Zone" at Valley Landfill's request.

Planning Commission agrees to waste intake from three additional counties; Landfill expands to 194 acres north of Coffin Butte Road

1992

DEQ begins investigating groundwater contamination from Teledyne Wah Chang dumping in the 1970s

1994

CUP granted for 2.2 megawatt power generation facility

Benton County BOC unanimously denies Valley Landfills, Inc. expansion request

1997

CUP granted to expand gas-to-energy facility

1999

"Hot load" spurs large CBL fire

2000's



2000

Allied Waste acquires Valley Landfills, Inc.

Benton County landfill franchise agreement extended to 2020

2002

Benton County and Landfill owners sign MOU requiring prior approval to use land south of Coffin Butte Rd. for waste disposal

2005

DEQ issues record of decision on Coffin Butte groundwater mediation; site in compliance

2007

Expansion of gas-to-energy facility complete

2008

CBL acquired by Republic Services

2017 onward



2017

Intake tonnage increases from 553,000 tons in 2016 to 941,000 tons

2019

Burn dump waste relocation begins

2020

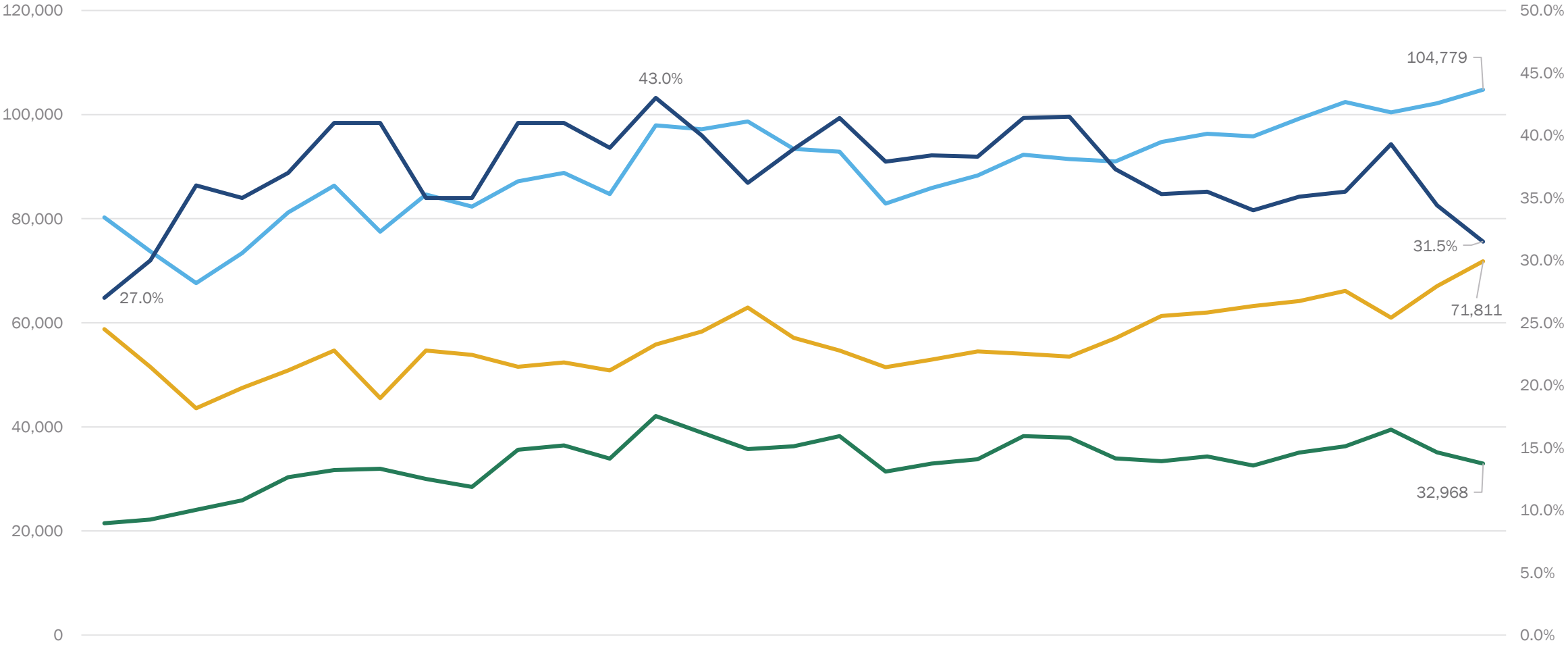
Benton County renews landfill franchise agreement through 2040. Clause includes removal of 1.1 million tonnage cap upon next CUP expansion

2021

Wildfire debris causes tonnage to increase again. Annual tonnage continues to be just under cap.

Republic Services files CUP seeking approval to place waste south of Coffin Butte Rd. Expansion request approved by Solid Waste Advisory Council, then denied by Planning Commission

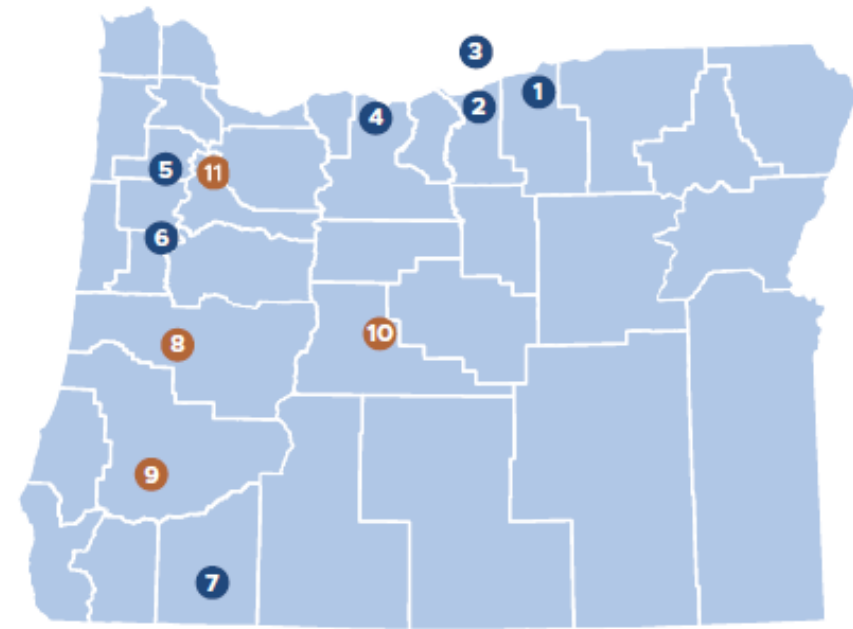
Benton County Waste Generation & Recovery Rate



— BC Tons Disposed
 — BC Tons Recovered
 — BC Tons Generated
 — Benton County Recovery Rate (w/out credits)

Coffin Butte Landfill is a regional landfill

A regional landfill is defined as accepting 75,000 tons/year from outside its immediate area. Coffin Butte has been a regional landfill since records were officially kept in 1992.



Oregon Major Disposal Sites

REGIONAL

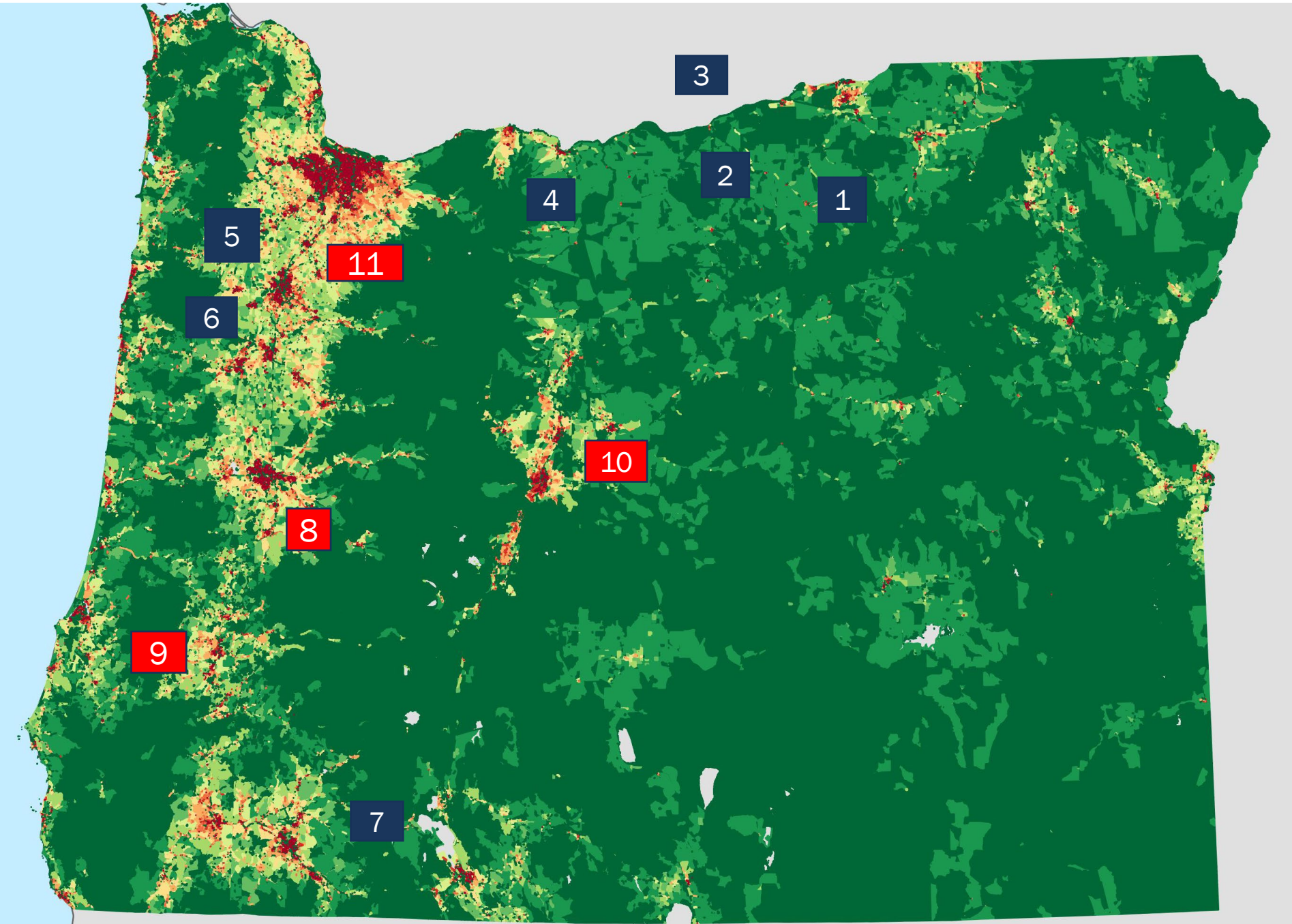
1. Finley Buttes Regional, *Waste Connections*
2. Columbia Ridge Regional, *Waste Management*
3. Roosevelt (WA) Regional, *Republic Services*
4. Wasco County Regional, *Waste Connections*
5. Riverbend Regional, *Waste Management (closing in 2 years)*
6. Coffin Butte Regional, *Republic Services*
7. Dry Creek Regional, *Rogue Disposal*

IN-COUNTY

8. Short Mountain, Lane County
9. Roseburg, Douglas County
10. Knott, Deschutes County (*closing in 5 years*)
11. Reworld Marion, Covanta Holding Corp

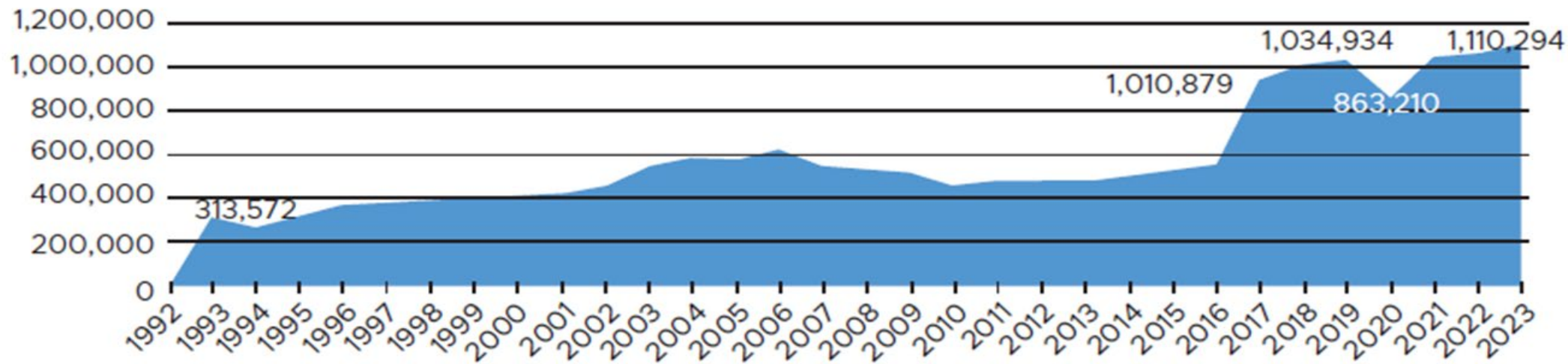
Oregon Major Disposal Sites

Regional In-County

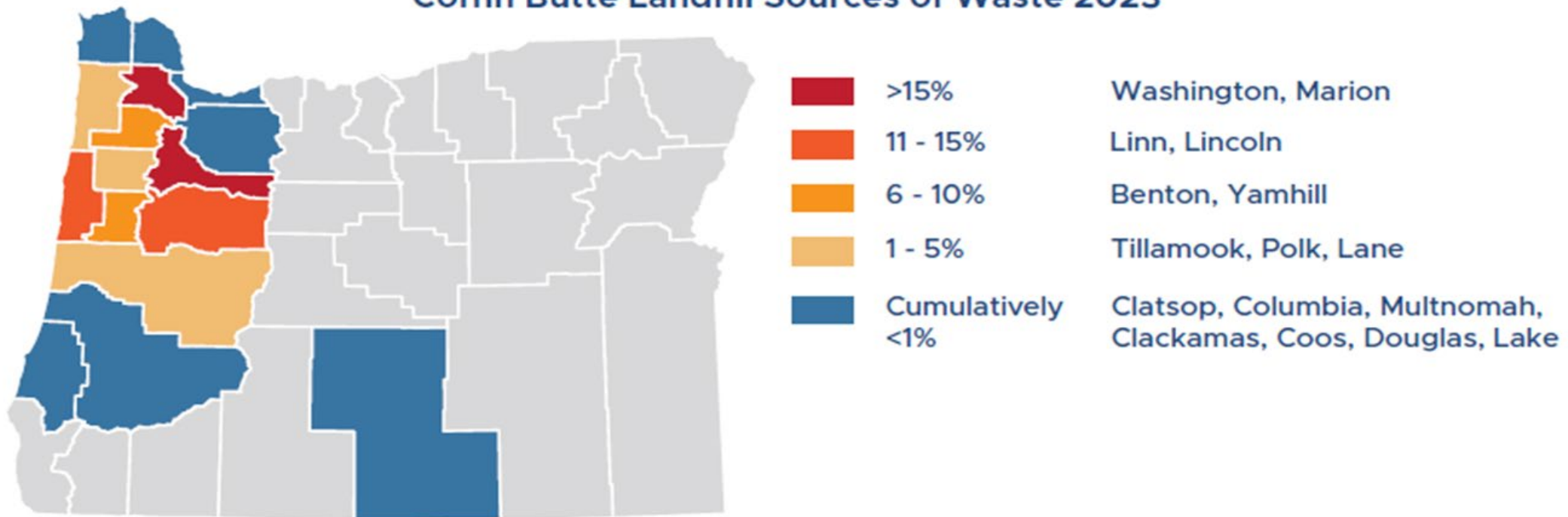


1. Finley Buttes Regional, Waste Connections (2217+)
2. Columbia Ridge Regional, Waste Management (2138)
3. Roosevelt (WA) Regional, Republic Services (2117)
4. Wasco County Regional, Waste Connections (2117)
5. Riverbend Regional, Waste Management (2021)
6. Coffin Butte Regional, Republic Services (2039+)
7. Dry Creek Regional, Rogue Disposal (2099+)
8. Short Mountain, Lane County (2158)
9. Roseburg, Douglas County (2029+)
10. Knott, Deschutes County (2029)
11. Covanta Marion, Covanta Holding Corp.

Coffin Butte Annual Tons (from all sources)



Coffin Butte Landfill Sources of Waste 2023



A man in a red tank top and shorts is pushing a bicycle heavily loaded with large, heavy bags of waste and plastic bottles on a city street. The bags are stacked high, and the bicycle is being pushed by the man. The background shows a city street with buildings and other people.

Thank you for
taking this on!



Bailey Payne

Solid Waste Program Coordinator

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every day.



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