

From: [Fay Knox](#)
To: [ImpairedWaterbodies_Comments](#)
Subject: 303d list
Date: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 8:33:44 AM

I am concerned that AEDQ is not fairly addressing all data in not including the three tributaries of the BNR suggested by the NPS.

At the March 1, 2016 meeting at ADEQ the answer to many questions was given as only the ADEQ Director can answer that question. Therefore it went unanswered. Also her response has not been given to the October 6, 2015 letter that was submitted by the National Park Service that Big Creek, Mill Creek and Bear Creek should be included on the 303(d) list.

On March 1, it was stated that the NPS data did not fall within the Period of Record for consideration for the 2016 303(d) list. However, NPS/BNR is a reliable and trusted source for data upon which ADEQ has depended for assessing water quality of the BNR and its tributaries. It seems that AEDQ is ignoring the many years of data provided by the BNR.

It is unreasonable to conclude that Big Creek, Mill Creek and Bear Creek tributaries of the BNR are not Extraordinary Resource Waters and thereby subject to less impairment criteria. All have sampling locations near their confluences with the BNR with commingling waters, particularly during periods of high water which occur frequently during peak tourism seasons. NPS red flags are being ignored.

Comments made on March 1 as to the importance of BNR and its economic impact to the region. In 2014, more than 1.3 million people visited the river and spent about \$56.5 million at area businesses, according to NPS data.

The mission of ADEQ to "protect enhance and restore the natural environment for the well being of all Arkansans." Please ADEQ take heed of the NPS warnings, increase monitoring of these streams, take all necessary steps to determine the sources of impairment and eliminate their impact on the Buffalo National River. Since 2010, ADEQ's recommendations for 303(d) listings have not been approved by the EPA due to the inability of ADEQ to comply with federal standards. This is in opposition to the mission of ADEQ.

At the March 1 meeting difficulty was demonstrated in accessing needed information from the ADEQ website to determine how the 303d was generated. The public is not well

informed, does not understand how decisions are made, the criteria used, and actions taken or planned to be taken to protect our economically and environmentally valuable resources.

The law designating the Buffalo River as a national river requires that the park be managed in "such a way that it conserves the unique scenic and scientific resources and preserves the Buffalo River as a free-flowing stream for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations." Please protect this Extraordinary Water Resource and its tributaries as you cannot expect to have high water quality on the river if you don't have high water quality in its tributaries.

Sincerely,

Fay Knox

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