

Barnett, Mary

From: Melissa Triplett <melissatriplett@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 11:15 AM
To: WaterbodyComments
Subject: [BULK] Buffalo river

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to register my concern regarding the Category 4 designation assigned the two segments of Big Creek and 2 segments of the Buffalo River. This designation, as you are well aware, excludes C&H hog farms from regulation.

The waste from thousands of C &H hogs is spread on farm lands adjacent to Big Creek. The resultant nutrient loading, including phosphorous, adds to the algae and pollution of Big Creek, a tributary of the Buffalo, which is one of our greatest assets.

The Cat. 4 designation also excuses the state from developing total maximum loads—an environmentally irresponsible move, as we know that two areas already exceed the federal limits for E. Coli. Why would anyone be willing to trade clean water for something as temporary as the economic perks of a hog farm?

Without total maximum daily loads, there is no reliable way to target the reduction that is needed to declare the water fit for designated uses like recreation. If we can't designate the river safe for recreation, we risk the loss of all the tourism concomitant with safe waters. This loss would hit the Buffalo particularly hard, with its country-wide draw for swimming, fishing and paddling.

Without clear enforceable water quality standards, the water quality will continue to deteriorate. We are truly at a crossroads and I implore you to choose the path that protects one of the states waterways and the future eco-tourism is Arkansas.

Sincerely,

Melissa Triplett

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