

From: [Chris Williams](#)
To: [Water Draft Permit Comments](#)
Subject: [BULK] Comment on C&H Hog Farms" No-Discharge Permit
Date: Monday, February 20, 2017 1:03:49 PM

I first discovered the beauty of the Buffalo River when I was a resident of Fayetteville, Arkansas from 1998 to 2001.

As a bachelor in my mid-20s, with a great job at the University of Arkansas Athletic Department, the Buffalo provided the perfect destination when my future wife, my friends and I wanted to get out of town for the weekend and recharge our batteries. Some of my best memories of our Fayetteville friends are of us camping, hiking and canoeing along the first waterway in our country to be designated as a national river.

It's been almost 20 years since I first saw the Buffalo National River. Today, my wife and I are the parents of two girls (ages 10 and 13) and we live in suburban Memphis, Tennessee.

When they reached 4 years of age, my wife and I introduced each of our daughters to the Buffalo. Since then, they have come to love it even more than I do. Our family takes yearly vacations to the beautiful beaches of the Gulf Coast. But, if given the choice, they'd take three nights in a tent at the Tyler Bend Campground and a 10-mile float down the Buffalo over a week in a swanky Destin, Florida, beach house.

"The Buffalo is my favorite place on earth," my elder daughter, Meg, recently told me. "When I get engaged, I want it to be by the field near our campsite at Tyler Bend."

I'm hoping that last part is many, many years from now.

I love Memphis and I'm proud to call it my home, but the options for canoeing and hiking nearby are limited-to-non-existent. Over the years, Memphis friends with a passion for the outdoors have joined me on camping and canoe trips to the Buffalo National River. Without exception, all of them were blown away by its natural beauty and stunned to realize such a pristine area was so accessible to them.

Now, almost 20 years later, it pains me to know that the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality is willing to jeopardize that pristine beauty by continuing to allow C&H Hog Farms to its operation within the Buffalo National River Watershed.

Allowing runoff from hog manure ponds and into the surrounding soil once every 25 years is once too many. But, as I understand it, this terms of this permit would include no consequences for runoff from C&H's manure ponds in the event of a 25-year, 24-hour flooding event.

While that sounds like an unusual circumstance, area residents and others who love the Buffalo know how common severe flooding is in this area.

Two generations ago, a brave group of dedicated individuals saved the Buffalo for us by opposing a plan to dam the river. Today, it's up to us to prevent it from meeting an even worse fate.

Therefore, I urge the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to deny this no-discharge permit and I urge the owners and operators of C&H Hog Farms to either relocate their operations or -- at the very least -- make significant reductions in the scale of its operations.

--

Chris Williams
7960 Elm Leaf Dr.
Germantown, TN 38138
901.229.3370