

**From:** [AR Gagens Gagens](#)  
**To:** [Water Draft Permit Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Permit #5264-W  
**Date:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 8:14:33 AM

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AR-DEQ

Regarding the C&H Hog Farm permitted within the Buffalo National River watershed:

Unbelievable! That the "Natural State" has permitted this facility so close to our jewel of one of the largest un-regulated rivers left in the eastern US. We owe it to our citizens and especially the Arkansawrs who suffered through the sacrifice of losing their land to provide this treasure, not to mention those who have worked over all the decades to protect the relatively pristine treasure, and all this for the future citizens of the state, and the nation!

Or, should we place a higher value on one family's access to profit in an industry, well known to flourish best in places with LAX, ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS! Really, is that consistent with our values-is that us? in this watershed? If so, I propose that we consider re-naming ourselves, the "Greedy Short-sighted State".

I feel like the previous approval of this activity was based on a flaw in implementing the approval process. This should be corrected to more appropriately weight the issues involved. For example, this private gain and public expense should be properly factored in to the economics of the state which is not currently the case. In other words, other river users, present and future (and including the natural ecosystem function and ALL it's creatures) have experienced and will continue to experience economic loss of value, which was largely underestimated and in many cases ignored. This constitutes an *ECONOMIC EXTERNALITY* that must be reconsidered. The private hog farm could leave tomorrow at a whim of the owners or a change in market dynamics, but the insult to the river would persist.

How does the permit process include the fact that many former users like myself have not been on the downstream stretch of the river since the hog farm opened? Earlier in my AR-life, our family often canoe-camped that river section. I realize the river only has capacity to process so much added waste/impact and I was previously aware that the river managers were concerned that we were approaching a time where we might have to limit human use. Clearly the permitting of C&H Hog Farm cannot stand because we will have in-effect given the capacity of the national river to a private enterprise driven by PROFIT, not stewardship.

THE Gagen Family,

Charlie, Lisha, Stewart, George, and Colin.