Dear Theresa Marks,

I was going through some papers that I had not read and found the one on the problem of Hog waste and the Buffalo River. I knew that I am a little simplistic but I can not restrain myself from sharing something I read in MOTHER EARTH NEWS some years ago. It concerned a hog farm in Australia. They built a container into which all of the wastes were placed. It was capped with a vent on the top through which methane gas was extracted. All of that gas was used to power the farm utilities that previously used electricity. What was left in the waste bin was sold for compost.

The results for the farm (and the neighbors) was a clean operation, fly free and odor free. It is hard to understand why we can’t do something similar on our farms. Even if the beginning costs would be taken into consideration, surely they would be less than clean-up of the undesirable effects of the present systems.

Thank you so much for reading this email.
Most sincerely,
Elizabeth Guzynski

--- Original message ---
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What will your LEGACY be?

Many NPCA members have been loyal and generous supporters of our work to protect the national parks over five, ten and even twenty years. After demonstrating this kind of consistent commitment to these extraordinary natural and cultural places, some supporters ask how they can help to ensure that NPCA’s important park protection and advocacy programs will continue beyond their lifetimes. Some choose to include a provision in their will or estate plan.

Other members have found that there may be an easier way to make a meaningful investment in the future of our national parks by simply submitting the appropriate beneficiary form for a checking, savings or brokerage account. This is also an option with current life insurance policies or savings bonds. If you have an independent retirement account such as a 401k or 403b account, you can avoid subjecting your heirs to an additional tax burden by designating a portion or all of the assets in the account as a gift to NPCA. By simply completing the appropriate beneficiary form, you can ensure that your personal legacy will include preserving the best of America’s natural and historic treasures for the enjoyment of future generations.

For additional information on how you can achieve your philanthropic goals, please call Morgan Dodd, Director of Gift Planning, toll-free at 1-877.468.5775 or visit our website at www.npca.planyourlegacy.org/. After informing NPCA of your confidential long-term plans, you will be recognized as a member of our Mather Legacy Society, a special group of people who share your vision for our beloved national parks. NPCA’s Federal Tax Identification Number is 53-0229165.

Above: © Monkey Business Images / Dreamstime.com
Raise Your Voice to Save the Buffalo

Last summer we told you about the large, concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) that’s threatening the Buffalo National River watershed. The threat remains and we need your help again.

The CAFO, C&H Farms, housing up to 6,500 pigs, has been permitted as the first industrial-scale hog facility in the Buffalo National River watershed. They are raising pigs for Cargill—the largest privately held company in the nation. While the piglets are trucked off site to be processed into bacon and pork products, the 450+ people living in the local community of Mount Judea are left with the waste that up to 6,500 hogs produce.

The National Park Service, which is charged with protecting the river, did not have an opportunity to comment on the appropriateness of the location or the impacts on public and environmental health before the state granted the permit. Members of the community didn’t get to weigh in either—not even the folks living right next door.

The Buffalo National River belongs to the American people and must be protected.

NPCA and a coalition of public interest groups recently sent a letter to the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) pointing out misrepresentations around the permitting of C&H Hog Farms. Because of these misrepresentations, the coalition is urging the state of Arkansas to fully reopen the permitting process for C&H. This would allow the public and local stakeholders to weigh in on whether this hog farm should ever have been permitted in the porous limestone terrain of the Buffalo River watershed in the first place.

NPCA calls on ADEQ to fully reopen public comments on the permit for C&H Hog Farm. To learn more about the impacts that this large-scale animal-feeding operation is having on landowners near the Buffalo National River, go to parkb.it/nohogwaste.

TAKE ACTION!

Please take a minute to express your concerns and ask ADEQ Director Teresa Marks to reopen C&H Farms’ General Permit for public comment. The public should have input in this permit process!

Director Theresa Marks
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317
501-682-0959
Email: marks@adeq.state.ar.us

Thank you for taking a moment to speak up for this irreplaceable national treasure.

Below: Father & son ‘fixin’ to fish on the Buffalo River. ©Michael Dougherty Photography

While piglets are trucked off site to be processed into bacon and pork products, the 450+ people living in the local community of Mount Judea are left with the waste that up to 6,500 hogs produce.