I am writing to voice my loudest and most vehement objection to allowing medium and large hog farms near the Buffalo National River. There are so many aspects of corporate hog farms that are detrimental to the health and well-being of people, the hogs themselves, and the environment. Hydrogen sulfide produced from animal waste can cause respitory and neurological problems in people. Ammonia can be carried as far as 300 miles through the air before settling onland or water, contaminating groundwater. The stress of the unnatural conditions in which the hogs "live" make them suseptible to disease, which then requires anitbiotics. But it's common knowledge that there are strains of bacteria which have developed immunity to antibiotics. This includes the MRSA bacteria. In one study, it was found that over 50% of hog farms in the Netherlands are infected with the MRSA bacteria. Nutrient contamination from phosporous and nitrogen causes algae bloom and suffocates aquatic life. There is simply not enough need on the part of local farmers for all the animal waste that will be produced and used as fertilizers. Moreover, the manure lagoons can and will rupture, devastating the small streams that flow into the Buffalo River.

One quick search on the Internet regarding the dangers of commercial hog farms shows years of research both in the U.S. and internationally. Clean water sources have to be protected. We can be wise stewards of this resource now, rather than suffer health consequences and then spend millions of dollars to clean it up. It's not rocket science, but it does take a backbone to stand up against corporate pressures. The Buffalo River is a national river, which means it belongs to the nation, not to a corporation.

Please, do not destroy this river. It is the BEST thing in Arkansas.

Sincerely,
Dr. Andrijka Kwasny