

Feb. 21, 2016

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
Water Division 5301 Northshore Dr.
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Dear Jim Wise and Director Keogh,

As a resident of Northwest Arkansas, the
Buffalo River and its tributaries ~~are~~ are in
my view a valuable, crucial asset in the
region's heritage. Your agency is responsible
for protecting, enhancing, and restoring the
environment for Arkansans.

The National Park Service requested that
several tributaries of the Buffalo be placed on
the "impaired watersheds" list pursuant to
Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.

Yet, your agency has declined to do so despite the abundance of data from the National Park Service and USGS. This does not fit with your basic obligations as an agency.

Please place the three streams on the 2016 impaired list.

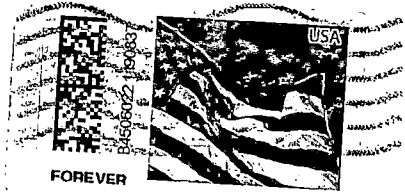
It would serve the people of Arkansas to investigate the submitted data now.

If ADEQ does not do the above, I request a clear public explanation be given as to why such robust data would not be used to protect such a valuable asset.

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