

From: [Darryl Treat](#)
To: [ImpairedWaterbodies Comments](#)
Subject: Impaired status on Bear Creek in Searcy County
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 9:06:40 AM

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality,

I strongly reject the imposing of an Impaired status on Bear Creek in Searcy County! The vast amount of the Bear Creek watershed is on private land in Searcy County. The National Park does not pay our property taxes and should not be seeking restrictions upon private land. Many of the locals of Searcy County are descendants of pre-Civil War pioneers who settled the area and many are of some Native American descent. I am a son of Searcy County, a property owner, and a business owner in Leslie. We are a poor county, that like much of rural America, is struggling to survive. We don't need any more environmental hoops to jump through when trying to encourage business investment and expansion in our county. Shouldn't we also have a right to economic prosperity? Tourism is a vital and growing part of our local economy that I strongly embrace! However, tourism is only a small percentage of our local economy. We need to continue to embrace agriculture, timber, and manufacturing. We don't need governmental regulations that stifle our economic future and growth.

The people whose voice should be heard first on the Bear Creek Watershed are the property owners and citizens of Searcy County! The locals! We love our Searcy County land. I spent a lot of time as a young man floating, fishing, and camping along the Buffalo National River. I even own land that shares a border with the National Park. I like the fact that we have a National Park, but I don't like it when the Park tries to control the land outside its own boundaries. I also don't like it when people from outside organizations and other cities such as Fayetteville, Little Rock, Shreveport, Dallas, etc. try to impose their opinions on our private land! When do Searcy County people try to tell them what waterway should be impaired or not in their locality?

Please reject the Impaired status designation for Bear Creek. Thank you!

Colonel (Ret) Darryl G. Treat