

From: [Duane Woltjen](#)
To: [ImpairedWaterbodies_Comments](#)
Date: Monday, March 14, 2016 8:26:31 PM

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317
ImpairedWaterbodies_Comments@adeq.state.ar.us

March 16, 2016

Dear Director Keogh,

Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment on the 2016 proposed 303-d listing of water bodies in Arkansas.

The National Park Service, charged with protection of the resources, including water quality, scientific value, and the visitors experience at Buffalo National River (BNR) has been collecting water samples throughout the park for over 30 years. In October 2015, BNR Superintendent Cheri sent you an email calling attention to three tributaries of the BNR that are impaired for low dissolved oxygen or E.coli.

- Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality's (ADEQ) list of impaired streams for 2016 did not include these three streams requested by the Park Service.

E.coli is an indicator of fecal contamination and some forms can cause illness.

Low dissolved oxygen kills the aquatic life (fish, turtles, frogs) in streams, and it is an indicator of potentially much more serious conditions.

The Buffalo National River is the nation's first national river established and protected by an Act of Congress in 1972 for the benefit of the public of the United States.

The Buffalo River is the iconic symbol of Arkansas's motto "The Natural State", and it is the reason why tourists spent over \$56 million, creating 890 jobs in 2014 in the Buffalo River watershed.

Clearly, tourism is a vital part of Arkansas' economy, and tourism is highly dependent upon tourists confidently recreating in clean waters-free of algae, harmful bacteria or other contaminants.

The Buffalo River is categorized by ADEQ and the State of Arkansas as an Extraordinary Resource Water with the highest level of protection within Arkansas Regulations. So how can it be that several tributaries, one of which constitutes 16% of the Buffalo River watershed are impaired due to low dissolved oxygen? How is it that our State's protector of the environment has not prevented this from happening, and to date has failed to even add these IMPAIRED STREAMS TO THE OFFICIAL LIST OF IMPAIRED STREAMS? ADEQ, it is black eye enough to let them become impaired under your noses, but totally malfeasant to not

even record the fact on the LIST.

The National Park Service has provided this information to ADEQ to protect both the visitors' health and experience, and biological diversity in one of America's last free running rivers . You need to put on the LIST in order to initiate protection of the best interest of the State of Arkansas and the People of the United States and beyond.

I ask you please, place Big Creek, Bear Creek and Mill Creek on the list of impaired streams as YOUR first small but critical step in reversing this abomination promptly in keeping with Department responsibilities.

Sincerely

Duane and Judith Woltjen

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Fayetteville, AR 72701

From: [Duane Woltjen](#)
To: [ImpairedWaterbodies Comments](#)
Subject: 2016 303d List
Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 11:20:41 AM

Dear Director Keogh,

In addition to the comments we e-mailed yesterday, we wish to add that the National Park Service notified you by e-mail, a recognized legitimate means of communication, in OCTOBER, 2015, or nearly 6 months prior to the “deadline” for inclusion, stating that these Big Creek, Bear Creek and Mill Creek are impaired, and the submitted supporting data and repeated their finding of impairment subsequent to the “deadline”.

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Therefore, the NPS has complied with your highly arbitrary and artificial deadline.

We believe this leaves you no choice but to list these streams, or face potential litigation and highly adverse public reaction. We respectfully demand you react accordingly.

As a new Director, supported by a new Governor, it would be refreshing, perhaps miraculous, for ADEQ to not continue to follow the “do as little as possible to protect the environment” mantra of your many failed predecessors. Is there any hope of a real turnaround in ADEQ?

We will be sharing this comment with PC&EC Chairperson Ann Henry.

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