

From: [Kriste Rees](#)
To: [ImpairedWaterbodies_Comments](#)
Subject: Comment on Impaired Waterbodies 2016
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 3:29:03 PM
Attachments: [Buffalo river ADEQ.docx](#),
[ATT00002.txt](#)

March 8, 2016

Re: Draft 2016 Impaired Waterbodies List

I would like to add my comment on the ADEQ environmental assessment which ultimately affects the Buffalo National River. Since the early 1960s, I have worked to protect this beautiful and unique river from development and pollution. It has added much to my life and to the lives of many thousands who visit the river each year. It attracts visitors from all over the world, adding to the economy of the that region and the state.

Today, I am very concerned about what the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality has allowed to happen to the Buffalo National River. The CAFO pig farm located on a large tributary of the Buffalo River is a real danger to the BNR. For years, scientific research has shown that the Buffalo River region is in an area of limestone karst and that any pollution allowed in the area soon ends up in the river itself. Many dye tests have shown this to be true. Pollution on a major tributary of the BNR endangers the whole river. No tourists will bring their money to float and camp on a river that is polluted and and less than pristine. Personally, I now worry every time a front moves through producing floods around the pig farm. It is only a matter of time until a mistake or weather disaster occurs and the pollution rushes into Big Creek and into the BNR. Even now, the oxygen levels are lower than they were and should be to support the fish and wildlife dependent on high quality water.

So, of all the places in this state, why would you allow a huge pig farm to be built near the nation's first national river? It seems to me that it must be a test of the state's ability and will to regulate any such farming or manufacturing operation. Otherwise, why would anyone want to endanger such a valuable asset for a pig farm that could be built **anywhere else** in the state. It shows that if we do not regulate pollution around our national river (and over the objections of the National Park Service), we will not regulate anything anywhere in the state. If this is such a test, the ADEQ's response proves that we have no will or ability to preserve and protect our land and our people. We changed our motto from the "Land of Opportunity" to "The Natural State"; but if we are just another polluted and wasted region, then we will have to change it to something else. Perhaps our motto can be "The State that can be Bought and Sold to the Highest Bidder."

Please reconsider the scientific evidence that has already been collected and add Big Creek and Mill Creek and Bear Creek to the state's list of impaired streams due to decreased dissolved oxygen levels. I believe that this degradation of the water quality is directly related to the thousands of gallons of waste from the pig farm soaking into the limestone karst and into the Buffalo National River. We must protect the Buffalo National River.

Sincerely,

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