



File Code: 2500
Date: March 1, 2016

Mr. Jim Wise
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
Water Division
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118

Dear Mr. Wise:

After reviewing the Draft 2016 Impaired Waterbodies List, I would like to submit the following comments:

- Chickalah Creek (Logan County, Arkansas) is now listed for low-dissolved oxygen. This stream's headwaters are on the Mount Magazine District of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, but the established sampling location is approximately four miles downstream of the Forests' boundary. There is concern that, because the entire stream is listed, it may appear that the Forest Service is affecting the dissolved oxygen levels. Please consider placing a sampling location further upstream. There is also a question of whether the standards set by the EPA for dissolved oxygen are appropriate for this eco-region. I suggest conducting a study to determine what the appropriate levels should be for this area.
- Friley Creek and Little Mulberry Creek (Madison County, Arkansas) are now listed for pH. The Mulberry River has been listed for low pH for several years but, because there is no identifiable reason, it is likely occurring naturally. Please consider conducting a study to determine whether this area may have naturally lower pH so that the standard can be updated and these streams might be removed from future Impaired Waterbodies Lists.
- Lastly, it appears that the county for Cove Creek Lake is incorrect under the Category 4a Lakes in the Waterbodies List (303(d)) by County. **Cove Lake** (160 acres) is in Logan County, Arkansas, but **Cove Creek Lake** (42 acres, Perry County, Arkansas) is listed in Logan County. Cove Creek Lake is listed for mercury and has a fish consumption advisory. Please ensure that Cove Creek Lake is listed in the correct county to avoid confusion.



On behalf of the Ozark St. Francis National Forests, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft 2016 Impaired Waterbodies List. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 479-964-7202 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

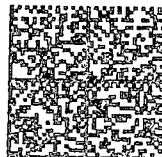
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reggie Blackwell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" at the beginning.

REGGIE BLACKWELL
Forest Supervisor

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
OZARK-ST. FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS
P.O. BOX 1008, 605 WEST MAIN
RUSSELLVILLE, ARKANSAS 72801-1008

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



UNITED STATES POSTAGE
PITNEY BOWES
02 1M \$ 00.48⁵
0004273148 MAR 01 2016
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 72801

ADEP - Mr. Jim Wise
Water Division
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR
72118

