

From: [Brad Taylor](#)
To: [WaterbodyComments](#)
Subject: Impaired Buffalo River and Big Creek
Date: Sunday, August 5, 2018 11:45:28 AM

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has added sections of the Buffalo River and Big Creek to its list of “impaired” waterways of Arkansas. This listing is a result of vast quantities of data from a variety of sources showing that the river has toxic algal blooms, dangerously low dissolved oxygen levels and high levels of pathogenic bacteria. These conditions are all caused by human activity, agricultural runoff, road building and maintenance and sewage being the most likely sources.

As an Arkansas citizen and taxpayer, I am disturbed that ADEQ has allowed the Buffalo River to get into such a condition. But I am even more disturbed by the fact that ADEQ has no plans to do anything to correct or control the situation. The specific way in which ADEQ has designated the Buffalo River as impaired relieves ADEQ of any responsibility for correcting the problem. For ADEQ to leave the cleanup and protection of the Buffalo River to the toothless, voluntary WMP is an appalling dereliction of duty. It is the job of ADEQ to protect the waterways of Arkansas. Instead they are leaving the job up to a collection of volunteer organizations and, maybe, the federal government.

The Arkansas Department of Health is now recommending that I not let my dog swim in some sections of the Buffalo River.

I would like to see ADEQ do their job and I would like to see them do it before there is permanent damage to the Buffalo River ecosystem, and the economy it supports.

Sincerely
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