

Proposed 2018 Impaired Waterbodies List
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Dear Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

To remedy impairment of the Buffalo National River and its tributary, Big Creek, ADEQ should place these streams on the category 5 list, not on the 4b list. This change will allow for priority investigation, monitoring, and direct remedy of the impairment.

Since category 5 sets Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) on impairments, assigning these waterbodies a category 5 would allow for the greater possibility that Arkansas will be able to meet the goals for clean water set by the EPA and expected by the citizens of Arkansas.

Using the Buffalo River Water Management Plan (BRWMP) as rationale for putting the Buffalo and Big Creek in category 4b instead of category 5 is problematic. By definition, the BRWMP cannot address any permitted facilities. Permitted facilities would include C& H hog factory farm which, in the last five years, has spread 14 million gallons of waste in the sensitive karst terrain of the Buffalo River Watershed.

Such permitted facilities need to be part of the investigation and remediation of the Buffalo River and its tributaries.

The Buffalo River serves as a center piece in many of Arkansas' promotional materials and deserves the highest category of protection and investigation for problems.

Signature Donna Combs

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