

From: [Michael Luther](#)
To: [WaterbodyComments](#)
Subject: Buffalo River Watershed
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As a citizen of the planet I am unhappy to learn of the increasing and rapid decline of the karst and surrounding watershed of the Buffalo River basin and the river itself.

My several visits upon the river during the 70's and early 80's just shortly after the park was dedicated are still remembered fondly. The experiences were some of the most pleasant I have had visiting a National Park anywhere within our national system. From Boxley at the upper to the confluence at the White, amazing scenery was to be had at every turn.

Living in Missouri at the "Gateway to the Ozarks" I have seen how the proliferation and mismanagement of industrialized animal breeding, the use of manure and offal for crop fertilization and the resulting run-off as well as the poor or non existent enforcement of regulations that these interests are supposed to operate by continue to distress, nearly beyond repair many watersheds, rivers and streams in the region.

The recreational opportunities and the revenues once garnered from them have been reduced and supplanted by these industrial concerns so that future generations will find it difficult to experience the beauty or enjoy the clean environment that once was.

It may be argued that industry coexist with these natural treasures and certainly the economy of a region does depend on many sometimes competing interests. Unfortunately, the bottom line of certain large scale agri-businesses and the influence their representatives exert in the processes have superseded the general well being of what once was a thriving, relatively unspoiled ecosystem, much to the demise of the region's worth and pride.

Is it not possible that the cost of responsible regulation, enforcement and proper stewardship by the industries and the departments charged with their oversight be shared equally with the public which I believe would pay a few cents more per pound if they care to consume these products.

Additionally, the retail juggernaut born within the region may also do well to invest some energies for something just as substantial and meaningful as their shining monuments to culture and entertainment in town.

Thank you for this forum to allow for some consideration for the future of this important resource.

Michael Luther Joplin, Missouri