

From: [Stewart J & P](#)
To: [WaterbodyComments](#)
Subject: Buffalo River and Big Creek Impairment
Date: Monday, August 13, 2018 3:14:01 PM

Dear Director Keogh,

It is outrageous that our Buffalo National River has a 70 mile stretch that requires health warning notifications to canoeists and swimmers. The causes of excessive algal growth are well known and methods exist for determining the cause(s) and for tracing the paths of nutrients supplying fertilization. While the summer has been hot, other summers have had early heat waves also. Obviously, if Big Creek and the lower Buffalo have been classified as impaired, it is necessary to research the causes.

The River is a draw for tourists and residents alike, and a major mental picture for many when the name, Arkansas, is mentioned. The River provides customers for concessionaires, restaurants, rental cabins, motels, along its length, bringing needed money into the state. Arkansas is benefitted economically as well as environmentally by the Buffalo National River.

The dramatically lengthened section of the River with heavy alga growth this year from last year should allow for and encourage immediate research. I understand that the 303d's Category 4b plan into which Big Creek and the impaired Buffalo River have been placed makes investigation and monitoring voluntary. The Beautiful Buffalo Plan did not include Big Creek as a priority although it was and is a suspect for contributing nutrients into both Big Creek and the Buffalo through runoff and ground water, because C&H CAFO is a permitted facility, already being monitored. However, both the original permitting of that CAFO and the permit now under consideration have been questioned. Thus an enforcement action is needed, which placing Big Creek on the category 5 list rather than the category 4 list would accomplish.

Please place Big Creek and the Buffalo River on the category 5 list, to start an immediate search for causes of this major detriment. Postponement will increase the problem and make the research more difficult.

Thank you,

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