

September 6, 2018

Re: Draft 303(d) List - Addition of Big Creek and Buffalo River

To the Office of Water Quality:

I strongly oppose the placement of Big Creek and the Buffalo River in Newton County to the 303(d) list. My family and I live and farm in Mount Judea. I am the third generation to live and farm where I live now. I am concerned about the negative impacts to my family, neighbors, and my own farm as a result of adding these to the 303(d) list.

What valid scientific evidence is there that supports ADEQ's decision to add Big Creek to the list, and how is it that ADEQ can detect serious enough issues to place Big Creek on the list but the University of Arkansas has yet to uncover anything concerning? Please explain what will happen if/when Big Creek and/or the Buffalo is placed on the final list. Will there be any type of restrictions to the recreational use of Big Creek and the Buffalo River? Or any direct impact to the many farmers that live along the watershed.

Who (or from what group/organization) did ADEQ obtain the test results for determining that Big Creek and the Buffalo are impaired? From reviewing the information published on ADEQ's website, it appears that information obtained from the Buffalo River Watershed Alliance has been used. I am opposed to the use of any data obtained from any member of that group. Please provide the credentials, qualifications, and/or accreditations that ADEQ has on file for the Buffalo River Water Shed Alliance and/or any of its members who have taken water samples that were used in the 303(d) list determination for Big Creek.

I respectfully request that you reconsider the addition of Big Creek and the Buffalo River to the 303(d) impaired list until true evidence from true scientists has been provided.

Sincerely,
Rickey McCutcheon
rickey.mccutcheon@gmail.com