

**From:** [Sherrie](#)  
**To:** [comments@whiteriverwaterkeeper.org](mailto:comments@whiteriverwaterkeeper.org); [WaterbodyComments](#); [mcintyre1975@gmail.com](mailto:mcintyre1975@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Sherrie Comments re: Draft 2018 303(d) List  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 28, 2018 8:24:48 AM  
**Attachments:** [Public Comments on Arkansas's Draft 2018 303\(d\) List of Impaired Waterbodies 2018 303d Comments.pdf](#)

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Below are comments submitted by Sherrie through White River Waterkeeper's public comment form. Please confirm receipt of this submission.

<b>Email address</b>	<a href="mailto:mcintyre1975@gmail.com">mcintyre1975@gmail.com</a>
<b>Full Name</b>	Sherrie
<b>Mailing Address</b>	Po box 373
<b>How are you affected by Arkansas Water Quality</b>	I am an out of state resident, but I visit Arkansas. I recreate on or near a river, lake, or stream.
<b>If you do not live in Arkansas, how often do you visit the state? How many days a year do you typically stay in Arkansas?</b>	1 to 2 times a year. 1 to 2 weeks each time.
<b>Nuisance Algae</b>	
<b>In the examples you described above, would you consider observed algal densities to be "objectionable?"</b>	Yes, all were objectionable in my opinion.
<b>Habitat Degradation</b>	
<b>Have declines to physical habitat impacted your recreation experiences?</b>	Yes
<b>How are you impacted by water quality degradation attributed to habitat declines?</b>	I'm extremely cautious about swimming or allowing my children and husband to get into Arkansas rivers. There may be a point when I can no longer visit Arkansas for vacation unless water quality improves.

## Categorical Determinations

**Do you think it is important to ensure federal regulations are met when proposing a plan to restore significant state and federal natural resources, such as the Buffalo National River?**

Yes

**Do you believe it is important for any plan to include both point and nonpoint sources of pollution?**

Yes

**At this time, do you believe ADEQ should follow the Clean Water Act and federal regulations to prioritize impaired waterbodies for a TMDL until they have provided adequate recommended documentation (2016 IRG) and met all legal requirements (40 CFR 130.7)?**

Yes

## Federal Requirements

**Do you believe ADEQ should consider peer-reviewed literature, tax-payer funded research, expert reports, and agency recommendations to identify and report water quality impairments?**

Yes

**How strongly do you feel that designated Outstanding National Resource Waters**

**(e.g., Buffalo, Strawberry, Spring, Eleven Point, and Mulberry Rivers) should be allowed to violate water quality standards LESS frequently than channelized streams (aka ditches)?**

Very strongly. We have a limited number of waters with ONRW designations in the state. As "The Natural State" we should hold our most protected waters to a higher level of expectation.

**States are required to develop their lists based on EPA approved Water Quality Standards. Although states may anticipate changes, states are not allowed to incorporate revised criteria until EPA has approved them for Clean Water Act purposes (e.g., development of list of impaired waters). Do you think this federal requirement is important to follow?**

Yes. The EPA approval process ensures water quality standards are backed by defensible science. This is essential for protecting and restoring water quality.

**Do you believe pictures should be considered for determining if water quality criteria are being met, such as determining whether algae have reached "objectionable" densities?**

Yes

**Do you think waterbodies should be listed as impaired when scientifically defensible research confirms population declines to federally threatened and endangered species?**

Yes. Of course. Properly identifying waters is important to the recovery of imperiled species.

## Additional Comments

**Please provide any additional comments you may have on Arkansas's Draft 2018 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies.**

The Buffalo river should be placed in a category 5 for impaired water bodies. Its a national park. It is suppose to be protected. It is also Arkansas #1 attraction. It deserves the utmost care and protection Arkansas has to give.

**Do you wish to grant White River Waterkeeper permission to post your comments on our website?**

Yes

**Do you think ADEQ should post comments on their website as they come in, and as is standard protocol for other administrative procedures carried out by the Department?**

Yes. This is important to public transparency, allows commenters to ensure their comments were received, and serves as a valuable resource to the public and press.

**Do you have any scientific reports or studies that you wish to submit to ADEQ to supplement your comment record?**

No

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