

**September 10, 2018**

[WaterbodyComments@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:WaterbodyComments@adeq.state.ar.us)

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, AR 72118

Re: Proposed 2018 Impaired Waterbody List

Director Keogh,

I am writing with regard to placing segments of Big Creek and segments of the Buffalo River in Category 4b. (AR 1101003 022, AR 1101003 020) and segments of Buffalo River (AR 11010005 011, AR 11010005 010) in Category 4b.

I have not fished, nor floated the Buffalo lately, in part because of stories I have heard of high algae. Here is my understanding of the situation.

- Findings document rapid growth of algal masses in the lower half of the Buffalo National River and Big Creek
- Reports state floating and fishing in the rivers is restrictive due to the heavily affected waters
- Fishing guides have reported fewer fish
- Arkansas Health Department has issued written warnings to the general public about exposure of pets and humans to pathogens found in the Buffalo river waters.

I am an economist and my concern (in part) regarding this situation is that the total economic impact to this region of Arkansas will be negative from continued high algal levels. My expectation is that the economic benefits of designation of these sections as Category 5 impairment will outstrip the economic costs of such a designation.

I ask ADEQ to act quickly and take decisive enforceable action to determine what sources are impairing the Buffalo River and Big Creek.

I ask ADEQ to designate these stream segments as Category 5 impairment. I understand that status will allow tracking and enforcement of pollution limits (through a TMDL)

Thank you in advance for your consideration

Sincerely,

Steve G. Parsons, Ph.D.  
90 Jordan Ln.  
Lakeview AR, 72642