

Barnett, Mary

From: Susan Parsons <Susan.Parsons137@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 2:57 PM
To: WaterbodyComments
Subject: Buffalo River and Big Creek toxic algal blooms

Director Keogh;

As a person with a love of the outdoors who enjoys hiking, boating and fishing I am very concerned about the deterioration of the water quality in the lower Buffalo River and Big Creek caused by toxic algal blooms. These streams are a vital part to the ecology of this region, well know and treasured for it's pristine beauty.

As a physician and scientist I am aware that algal blooms are considered seasonal events but there is undisputable evidence that the situation is rapidly exceeding what should be considered "normal". The effects have resulted in such dangers to humans, pets and livestock that the Arkansas Department of Health has issued warnings to avoid contact with the water because of the illness and even death that can be caused by the toxins.

Under the current classification of the lower Buffalo River and Big Creek as category 4b impairment no effective measures will be undertaken to correct the toxic effect the water quality has on humans, animals and the environment. We all have a duty to protect ourselves and our environment.

I respectfully request the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality change the level of impairment of these streams to a category 5 so that appropriate investigation to determine the source of contaminants contributing to the algal blooms can begin and appropriate steps be taken to stop the pollution.

Thank you,

Susan R Parsons D.O
Lakeview, AR

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