

**From:** [Trish Pannell](#)  
**To:** [WaterbodyComments](#)  
**Subject:** Buffalo National River  
**Date:** Friday, September 7, 2018 4:57:27 PM

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

Director Keogh,

I am one of concerned people who live in Arkansas and frequent the Buffalo River for recreation. The water quality of this beautiful natural river is drastically in need of attention not only from the state of Arkansas but the nation as well. The degradation of our National River (the first in history), with the overgrowth of algal masses has led to health risks to the public and wildlife and if nothing is done, will continue to escalate. The economic vitality of the Buffalo River watershed is greatly at risk. Do you want this to happen under your watch?

I recently kayaked on the Buffalo and was shocked and overwhelmed at the condition of our river. The amount of algal growth is unacceptable. Warnings have been posted to the general public and to regional veterinarians of the exposure of pets and humans to the toxins and other pathogens found in the Buffalo river waters. Again - something must be done to stop the ruin of the Buffalo River. If nothing is done, this continuation of a slow death of the Buffalo will extend to the White River, and other waterways, and the state of Arkansas will suffer greatly and cost millions of dollars to restore the quality of these rivers. Do you want this to happen under your watch?

I implore you to address this desperate situation before we lose this National River. If nothing is done, it will be a disgrace not only to the state of Arkansas, but it will be a disgrace to the nation as well. Do you want this to happen under your watch?

Take a float down the Buffalo River yourself and see first hand how terrible this truly is.

Sincerely,

Trish Pannell