

From: [Buddy Whiteaker](#)
To: [WaterbodyComments](#)
Subject: Buffalo National River
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To say that the Buffalo National River is a national treasure is no exaggeration. As a proud son of The Natural State, I have seen over my 83 years just how important the river has become to our heritage and our economy. I am just an ordinary citizen that wants to see that the Buffalo is promoted and protected for the public to enjoy.

We all should be caretakers of the river and it's watersheds. But, the people of Arkansas look in large measure to the State to lead in the preservation of this natural wonder. Working together we can protect it. There are some things that only the State can do. Now is one of those times!

Few will dispute that watershed pollutants are degrading the water quality of the river in several places. Timely action is needed now to prevent further polluting of the waters that so many people depend on to be safe for the people and animals that depend on it.

If the news reports I have read are anywhere near correct, we have a serious water quality safety issue because of watershed pollutants that are being washed into the Buffalo and it's tributary creeks. It is my understanding that ADEQ has the authority to take immediate action to prevent further water quality degradation and significant ant health problems for people that use the river.

Thanks to citizen activist that monitor and promote the use of the Buffalo, a big pollution problem has been identified along the Big Creek watershed that flows into the Buffalo. More importantly, they have suggested a solution that seems like a "no-brained" that needs immediate attention. If it is true that the ADEQ has the authority under existing law to makes a "... 303d classification 5 ..." of the problem areas of the watershed, the State will be required to "... determine the source of pollution in the middle Big Creek and develop a plan to stop it."

It is my hope that ADEQ will take immediate action to identify sources of the pollutions flowing into the Buffalo and to take action to development and implement a plan that will solve the polluting problem and prevent what could become a serious public health issue if action is not taken as quickly as possible. Thank you for your service. A lot of Arkansans are putting our trust in you.

P. Wallace Whiteaker,
3 Heritage Park Drive
White Hall, AR 71602