

## ADEQ PUBLIC HEARING

March 1, 2016

44 years ago today The Buffalo River was declared our nation's first National River. Happy Birthday Buffalo National River.

Two generations now have benefitted from the Buffalo National River not only for its natural beauty but also as an economic engine for Arkansas.

My hope and petition today is that the wide public pleas for the state protection of the Buffalo River be seen by The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality as a collaborative effort between ADEQ and the citizens of Arkansas.

Data from the National Park Service, suggests impairment of three tributaries of the Buffalo River.

It benefits ADEQ and the citizens it serves to use this data provided by the NPS in the most expedient way possible. This needs to be done regardless of any various impediments and regardless of 303d status.

I ask that the ADEQ be authentic, and responsive to the citizens of Arkansas regarding this matter. These actions need to be well explained and understandable to the public. Responding and acting on the NPS data are essential to the fulfillment of ADEQ's mission to "protect, enhance and restore the natural environment for the well-being of all Arkansans."

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