**PROTECT THE BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER!**

The Ozark Society and the Arkansas Public Policy Panel need your help to ban **NEW** medium and large confined swine operations in the Buffalo National River Watershed (BNRW). On December 5th, the House and Senate Committees of Public Health, Labor and Welfare and Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development will meet to review our proposed changes Pollution Control and Ecology Commission Regulations 5 and 6.

**Contact YOUR representatives that serve on these Committees and ask them to support these changes. Below are some talking points to assist you in calling, writing or emailing Committee Members. Calling is preferred.**

**The hearing on December 5tth is open to the public. While public comments might be accepted we have lined up individuals to provide testimony, and believe it would be most beneficial to contact Committee Members prior to the hearing. We are asking you to attend the hearing but not to speak. There is a limited amount of time available and we are concerned about losing a quorum.**

***The Proposed Changes…***

***PROTECT PROPERTY VALUES and QUALITY OF LIFE:***

* Concentrated animal feeding operations have been shown to cause deterioration in the market value of property due to loss of amenities or risk of water or air pollution from the operation.
* The average loss of land value within 3 miles of a hog CAFO is approximately $175 per acre.
* Another study shows that property values within 1 mile of a CAFO decrease by 5 to 8 percent.

***PROTECT WATER QUALITY*:**

* An increased number of swine CAFOs in the BNRW place the pristine and treasured waters of at risk of contamination from multiple sources including leakage from waste holding ponds, run-off, and flooding even when best management practices are implemented.
* A catastrophic failure of a hog waste pond would create irreversible damage to the aquatic life of the Buffalo and downstream in the White River.
* In Iowa (the largest hog producer in the US) from 1992 to 2002, there were 329 documented manure spills from CAFOs, 74 percent from hog facilities. In North Carolina in 1995 the largest environmental spill in US history occurred when the dike surrounding a hog CAFO waste pond failed after heavy rains spilling millions of gallons of manure-laden waste into the New River. The fish kill was massive.
* There is one hog CAFO in the Buffalo River watershed now. Two will double the risk of a spill; three will triple the risk, etc. The present CAFO has 6,500 hogs but ADEQ regulations do not limit the number of hogs. There is an 80,000 hog CAFO in northern Missouri. Think of that near the Buffalo.

***PROTECT JOBS AND BOOST THE ECONOMY:***

* The Buffalo River is an extremely valuable piece of Arkansas’s tourism engine. Tourism in the Natural State in 2012 accounted for a $5.76 billion positive economic impact and employed 58,452 people.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* In 2012, the Buffalo National River attracted 1,093,083 visitors who spent $43.78 million in communities surrounding the river. Direct spending from visitors to the Buffalo employed 610 people in 2012.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* A B&B in Mt. Judea has gone out of business. A cabin renter based in Jasper has stopped trying to rent cabins near Mt. Judea. (Mt. Judea is the location of the present hog CAFO.)

***PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH:***

* Aside from the obvious unpleasant odors, rodents and flies that accompany large hog operations the gasses emitted from hog farms are toxic and contribute to greenhouse gas pollution. Entrained fecal bacteria and other pathogens can be carried by the winds to local residences, schools, and towns.
* The Arkansas Department of Health has expressed concerns that water-borne bacteria and parasites from the proposed land application sites may pose a risk for body contact in the Buffalo River. Pathogens, antibiotics, hormones, and heavy metals that reach the Buffalo will affect all aquatic life.

***THE PROPOSED CHANGES WILL NOT....***

* The proposed changes will not impact any existing operations in the BNRW.
* The proposed changes will not prohibit large swine operations anywhere outside of the BNRW.
* The proposed changes will not impact small swine farms in the BNRW.
* The proposed changes will not prohibit dairy, poultry, or other operations in the BNRW.
* The proposed changes will not create a slippery slope, as the legislature must review all new rules.

***Contacts for further information:***

***Ozark Society: Bob Cross,*** ***racross@uark.edu***

***Arkansas Public Policy Panel: Anna Weeks,*** ***annaw@arpanel.org***

Senate Public Welfare and Health:

[http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2013/2014S2/Pages/CommitteeDetail.aspx?committeecode=430](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__buffaloriverwatershedalliance.wildapricot.org_EmailTracker_LinkTracker.ashx-3FlinkAndRecipientCode-3DqyfAiCR4w2PbhBnTSXFiwnOWGjqo1NmOYlLdsea7-252brVjTng8g-252fLdk1Yv-252f7EcyalHZNdNTcPNVVd29ECDBMc9qkoxCE02tFY1uQT3EfRHII4-253d&d=AAMGaQ&c=JL-fUnQvtjNLb7dA39cQUcqmjBVITE8MbOdX7Lx6ge8&r=26FoaelIWV3UuUbmCzAbRQ&m=tZ8Yl1SRK3mX2jTNGQVcyvjNCci1mAtzHqBvGmm0Wjw&s=boGmcSJ9cQ-9OUgLORNOPyKPks2Q8W6meXADHR4mW-Y&e=)

Chair: Senator Cecile Bledsoe 709 Sky Mountain Dr., Rogers, AR 72757

House Public Welfare and Health:

[http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2013/2014S2/pages/CommitteeDetail.aspx?committeecode=830](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__buffaloriverwatershedalliance.wildapricot.org_EmailTracker_LinkTracker.ashx-3FlinkAndRecipientCode-3DtMIDMlTaOZsqtQ7fSGIRdkLHnNEWUXiXbLlc384gLY7TNc6-252bOeuqsehvIjQwreaby6nckTO81EtNl40U8HegAc8U8KLwxsCQwvZV6jVd6lI-253d&d=AAMGaQ&c=JL-fUnQvtjNLb7dA39cQUcqmjBVITE8MbOdX7Lx6ge8&r=26FoaelIWV3UuUbmCzAbRQ&m=tZ8Yl1SRK3mX2jTNGQVcyvjNCci1mAtzHqBvGmm0Wjw&s=fDFTg4TdvF9EYQuEe2JI2YHJIPVU4kjJPYja_AthESY&e=)

Chair: Representative John Burris PO Box 322, Harrison, AR 72601

House Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development:

[http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2013/2014S2/pages/CommitteeDetail.aspx?committeecode=870](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__buffaloriverwatershedalliance.wildapricot.org_EmailTracker_LinkTracker.ashx-3FlinkAndRecipientCode-3Dl6g5cWOhFmAVvJRBVLtmxUYDmDBhSI8uzMFz4gvQVhx9IizQBohqprwsiTZyikNbuTI-252bjWCTqbQC44OgQt1To0ypDl5i9oP31pK1YK46FXI-253d&d=AAMGaQ&c=JL-fUnQvtjNLb7dA39cQUcqmjBVITE8MbOdX7Lx6ge8&r=26FoaelIWV3UuUbmCzAbRQ&m=tZ8Yl1SRK3mX2jTNGQVcyvjNCci1mAtzHqBvGmm0Wjw&s=1LOKekEayB-dtUaJlK941Q-R3XYx1dPjjfHkYdp96GY&e=)

Chair: Representative Matthew J Shepherd 200 N. Jefferson Ave., #600, El Dorado, AR 71730

Senate, Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development:

[http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2013/2014S2/pages/CommitteeDetail.aspx?committeecode=470](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__buffaloriverwatershedalliance.wildapricot.org_EmailTracker_LinkTracker.ashx-3FlinkAndRecipientCode-3D-252fqQTqdtVcvU17qtrkO0vPPqh-252f1QcQhm2kvLAN7-252fxtxRuO-252fsFBsJVAt61-252fs5EHadbXGDC0aMHbOB8JpGBDklteqySPmnfAIdzI3e81dl6bFc-253d&d=AAMGaQ&c=JL-fUnQvtjNLb7dA39cQUcqmjBVITE8MbOdX7Lx6ge8&r=26FoaelIWV3UuUbmCzAbRQ&m=tZ8Yl1SRK3mX2jTNGQVcyvjNCci1mAtzHqBvGmm0Wjw&s=tfA_XOSg5y_URP_3rK72MtIbl2RhbB6Hx2A3FppBPsU&e=)

Chair: Senator Bruce Holland PO Box 2387, Greenwood, AR 72936

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)