

Buffalo River Action Committee Framework

Mission Statement: To protect the Buffalo River as a source of scenic beauty, high quality water, unique aquatic species and habitat and exceptional recreational uses.

Goal: Protect the Buffalo River and watershed to ensure water quality standards and designated uses are being met.

Objectives: BRAC will work together to form short-term and long-term objectives by engaging with stakeholders

- Engage stakeholders to identify concerns and determine priorities
 - BRAC will routinely review and discuss progress, new and/or recurring threats to water quality
- Identify data gaps and identify priority research opportunities
- Identify available agency and stakeholder resources to support protection of the Buffalo River
- Keep policy makers and the general public informed of the status, milestones, and recommendations
 - BRAC will submit a report annually to the Governor of Arkansas
 - BRAC will routinely update website (to be maintained by ADEQ) of meeting minutes and any relevant progress

Committee: ADEQ, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC), Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC), Arkansas Dept. of Health (ADH), Arkansas Parks & Tourism (APT)

Phases (*Timing in relation to development of Watershed Management Plan*)

- Phase 1 (*Before*) – Committee will meet to discuss concerns that have been voiced regarding the integrity of the Buffalo River’s water quality and identify other stakeholders. Additionally, agencies will determine available resources to address known data gaps (e.g. temporal and spatial gaps and/or parameter gaps).
- Phase 2 (*During*) – Committee members will actively participate in Watershed Management Plan stakeholder process in order to stay informed about water quality concerns and offer assistance where possible.
- Phase 3 (*During/After*) – Committee will utilize WMP to identify priority issues and areas where resources (e.g. technical support, BMPs, funding, etc.) are needed to support scientifically sound decision making. In addition, Committee will evaluate available agency resources and funding sources that can be used in conjunction with available federal funding (e.g. EPA 319 Program and NRCS Programs – EQIP, CSP, AMA).