

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

EO 19-14

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

**AN EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING THE BUFFALO RIVER  
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS: The Buffalo National River holds distinction as the first national river in the United States of America and is a vital landmark to the people of the State of Arkansas and to the Nation; and

WHEREAS: The Buffalo National River is one of the State's and indeed the Nation's premier rivers and is a source of scenic beauty, a unique habitat for local biota, an agricultural resource to the State as a whole, and a preeminent tourism destination for the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas is committed to the protection and preservation of this irreplaceable natural and cultural resource for all future generations of Arkansans and for the many tourists it brings to the State; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas recognizes the valuable contributions made by agricultural producers, the tourism industry, and the individual landowners within the Buffalo River Watershed; and

WHEREAS: There is an ongoing need for the State to partner with local stakeholders to proactively manage the Buffalo River Watershed in order to ensure the River is maintained to the highest level of water quality; and

WHEREAS: On September 30, 2016, the Beautiful Buffalo River Action Committee was formed, by directive from the Governor, to more comprehensively address conservation and environmental concerns in the Watershed; and

WHEREAS: The Beautiful Buffalo River Action Committee successfully developed a watershed management plan and identified areas of need within the watershed, laying the foundation for future partnership with local stakeholders, federal partners and other partners to leverage funding for projects to improve the Watershed;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby order the following:

- (1) There is hereby created the Buffalo River Conservation Committee ("BRCC"), which shall serve to establish measurable objectives and lead partnership projects to benefit water quality and resource management in the Buffalo River Watershed. An emphasis will be placed on action items that engage local stakeholders and landowners that both have a positive impact on water quality and are beneficial for landowners within the Watershed.
- (2) The BRCC shall be composed of members appointed by the Governor and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The chair of the Committee shall be designated by the Governor. The Committee shall be composed of the following:

- a) The Secretary of the Department of Energy and Environment, or his or her designee;
  - b) The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, or his or her designee;
  - c) The Secretary of the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism, or his or her designee;
  - d) The Secretary of the Department of Health, or his or her designee.
- (3) All members of the BRCC shall work in cooperation with one another to identify opportunities to leverage their Department's unique expertise, relationships, focus areas, and funding mechanisms in support of the vitality of the watershed.
- (4) There shall be an annual review of the Buffalo River Watershed Management Plan, with recommendations for updates of the plan and a report on successes during the year as identified by BRCC to be submitted to the Governor's Office.
- (5) The BRCC shall establish subcommittees to lead various aspects of implementing the watershed management plan.
- a) For the purpose of establishing subcommittees, the BRCC shall engage and include key stakeholders representing local landowners, conservation organizations, environmental and technical experts, representatives of the tourism industry, local county and municipal officials and federal partners as identified by the Committee.
  - b) The subcommittees will identify opportunities for training, relationship building, and specific projects, all of which will be in service to preserving and enhancing water quality within the Buffalo River Watershed.
- (6) The BRCC shall further develop the concepts from the Buffalo River Watershed Management Plan to incorporate additional tools and strategies as necessary.
- (7) The BRCC shall consciously consider and act on the most recent pertinent available data related to water quality concerns and opportunities in the Buffalo River Watershed.
- (8) Continued sampling and analysis of water quality data throughout the watershed are vital for informing the work of the BRCC and its member agencies and organizations.
- (9) If any part of this Executive Order is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, in the year of our Lord 2019.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest  
  
John Thurston, Secretary Of State