

STATE OF ARKANSAS WATERS

ARKANSAS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
AUGUST 31, 2026

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ECOLOGIST SUPERVISOR
OFFICE OF WATER QUALITY



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ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT



01 | DATA ASSESSMENT PROCESS

02 | 2026 303(d) LIST OF IMPAIRED WATERS

Data Assessment Process



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OWQ Planning Branch

- ✓ Develop and revise water quality standards (8 CAR pt. 21, formerly Rule 2)
- ✓ Monitor streams, lakes, harmful algal blooms (HABs), aquatic biology, and groundwater
- ✓ Assess waters of the state in accordance with the Clean Water Act (CWA)

303(d)/305(b) Assessments

- ✓ Every two years, all available and credible data for waters of the state, taken within a period of record, is used against the developed standards to determine if any waterbodies are impaired (ex: dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, etc.)
Impaired waterbodies are placed on the 303(d) list
- ✓ 305(b) report – includes all assessed waters of the state as well as additional information regarding other CWA responsibilities

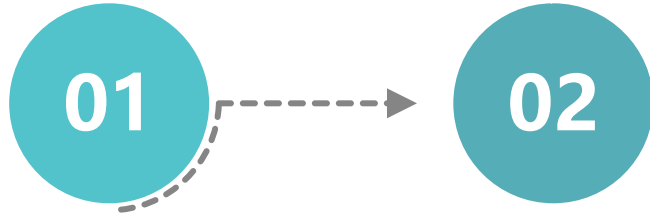
ASSESSMENT PROCESS

01

CALL FOR DATA

- Occurs in May of every odd numbered year
- Data is also pulled from EPA's water quality portal

ASSESSMENT PROCESS



CALL FOR DATA

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QA/QC CHECKS

- Data (external and internal) is checked for any flags, applicable QAPPs, and lab accreditation

QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY CONTROL CHECKS

- Is the data associated with an appropriate QAPP?
- Are the waterbodies and associated parameters addressed in the QAPP?
- Was the lab that ran the sample accredited for that parameter at the time the sample was ran?
- Did appropriate calibration techniques for *in situ* readings occur?
- Were hold times met?
- Were any flags placed on the data?
- Was the sample taken in a representative location of the waterbody?
- Is the data within the appropriate period of record for that parameter?
- Was the sample taken during ambient conditions?

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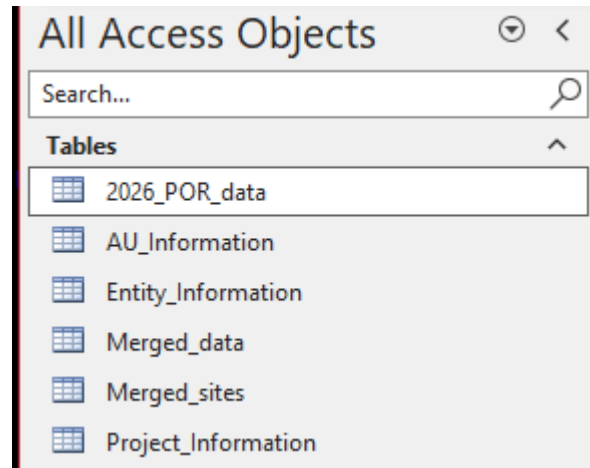
- Data (external and internal) is checked for any flags, applicable QAPPs, and lab accreditation

DATABASE CREATION

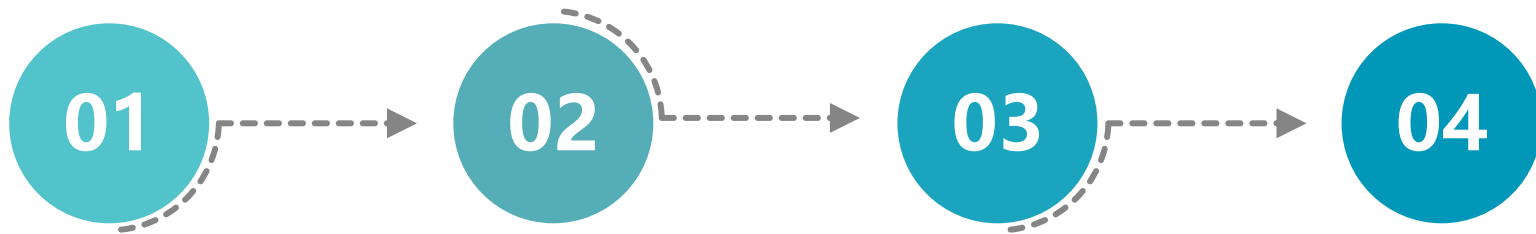
- Accepted data is checked for duplicates and distribution requirements.

DATABASE CREATION

- Microsoft Access is currently used to store assessment data
- Connected to an internal server
- Includes details on site, submitting organization, and any important metadata



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ASSESSMENT

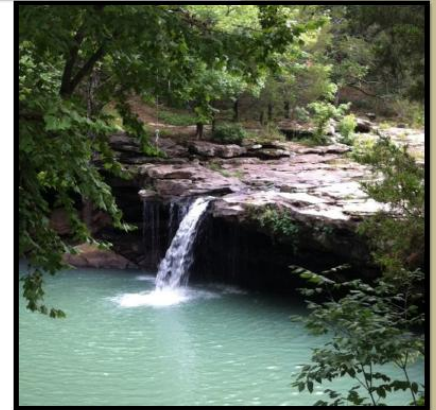
- Usable data is assessed for all parameters, and a draft list is created

ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

- Each cycle, OWQ reviews and follows the Assessment Methodology, which dictates data requirements and defines impairment
- This methodology reflects the most recently approved water quality standards

2026

ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY



For the Preparation of:

*The 2026 Integrated
Water Quality Monitoring
and Assessment Report*

Pursuant to Clean Water Act Sections 303(d) and 305(b)

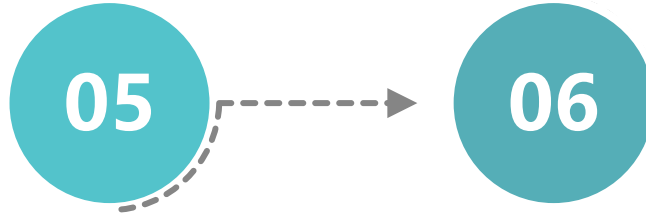
ASSESSMENT PROCESS

05

PUBLIC COMMENT

- The draft list is open to public comment for 45 days, and verbal comments can be submitted at a hearing

ASSESSMENT PROCESS



PUBLIC COMMENT

- The draft list is open to public comment for 45 days, and verbal comments can be submitted at a hearing

305(B) REPORT

- After the public comment period has ended, the 305(b) report is finalized

305(b) REPORT

Integrated Water Quality Monitoring Assessment Report

Prepared pursuant to Section 305(b) and
303(d) of the Federal Pollution Control Act



2026

- This report includes, but is not limited to:
 - Detailed assessment results
 - An estimated cost/benefit analysis of the economic value CWA activities bring to the state
 - An overview of other CWA requirements



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ASSESSMENT PROCESS



PUBLIC COMMENT

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305(B) REPORT

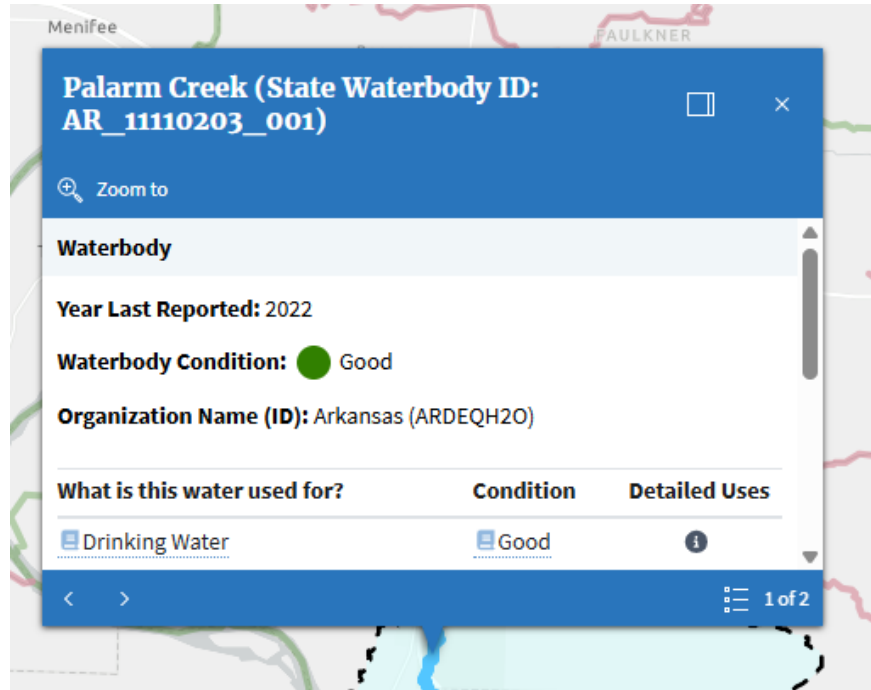
- After the public comment period has ended, the 305(b) report is finalized

EPA SUBMISSION

- The final list is submitted to EPA for approval by April 1st of even years

EPA SUBMISSION

- The assessment and associated files are uploaded into EPA's system – ATTAINS
- EPA has 30 days to approve or disapprove a submitted list



2026 303(d) list



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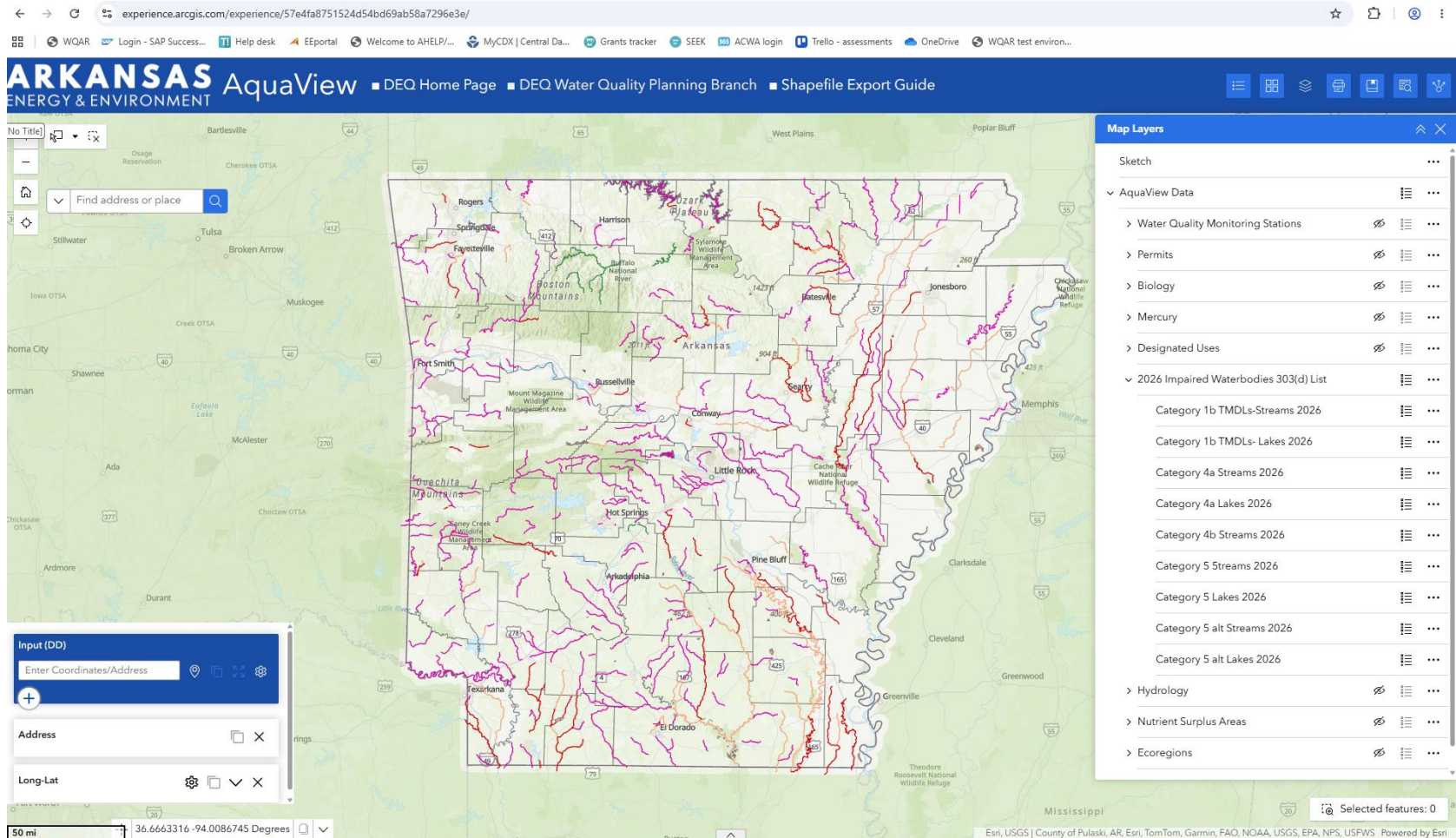
2026 303(d) List

Listing Category	Planning Segment	Assessment Unit	Parameter	Waterbody Name	Segment Size	Size Unit	Listing Status	Priority	Source	Uses	Year Listed	Notes
5	1A	AR_11140203_020	Turbidity Base Flow	Bayou Dorcheat	9.80	Miles	Remnant	Low	SE	OU		
5	1A	AR_11140203_022	Turbidity Base Flow	Bayou Dorcheat	11.59	Miles	Carry forward	Low	SE	OU		
5	1A	AR_11140203_823	Lead Chronic	Nations Creek	9.89	Miles	Remnant	High	UN	AL	2022	
5	1A	AR_11140203_823	Biological Integrity - Macroinvertebrates	Nations Creek	9.89	Miles	Remnant	High	UN	AL	2024	
5	1A	AR_11140203_823	pH	Nations Creek	9.89	Miles	Carry forward	High	UN	OU	2022	Discrete Only
5	1A	AR_11140203_823	Turbidity Base Flow	Nations Creek	9.89	Miles	Remnant	Medium	AG, UR, UN	OU	2024	
5	1A	AR_11140203_823	Turbidity Storm Flow	Nations Creek	9.89	Miles	Remnant	Medium	AG, UR, UN	OU	2024	
5	1A	AR_11140205_010	Critical Season DO	Little Bodcau Creek	26.46	Miles	Carry forward	Medium	AG, RE	AL	2024	Short-term Continuous Only
5	1A	AR_11140205_010	Turbidity Base Flow	Little Bodcau Creek	26.46	Miles	Carry forward	Medium	AG, RE	OU	2024	
5	1A	AR_11140205_013	Turbidity Base Flow	Dooley Creek	19.46	Miles	Remnant	Medium	AG	OU	2024	
5	1A	AR_11140205_013	Turbidity Storm Flow	Dooley Creek	19.46	Miles	Remnant	Medium	AG	OU	2024	
5	1A	AR_11140205_902	Lead Chronic	Steel Creek	9.37	Miles	Remnant	High	MP, IP	AL	2022	
5	1A	AR_11140205_902	pH	Steel Creek	9.37	Miles	Carry forward	High	MP, IP	OU	2022	Discrete Only
5	1A	AR_11140205_902	Turbidity Base Flow	Steel Creek	9.37	Miles	Remnant	Medium	MP, IP	OU	2024	
5	1B	AR_11140106_001	Turbidity Base Flow	Red River	36.47	Miles	Remnant	Low	SE	OU		
5	1B	AR_11140106_001	Turbidity Storm Flow	Red River	36.47	Miles	Remnant	Low	SE	OU		
5	1B	AR_11140106_002	Turbidity Base Flow	Bull Creek	13.63	Miles	Remnant	Medium	AG	OU	2024	
5	1B	AR_11140106_002	Turbidity Storm Flow	Bull Creek	13.63	Miles	Remnant	High	AG	OU	2022	
5	1B	AR_11140106_003	Turbidity Base Flow	Red River	17.01	Miles	Remnant	Low	SE	OU		
5	1B	AR_11140106_005	Turbidity Base Flow	Red River	20.77	Miles	Carry forward	Low	SE	OU		
5	1B	AR_11140106_025	Turbidity Base Flow	Red River	5.48	Miles	Remnant	Low	SE	OU		

<https://www.adeg.state.ar.us/water/planning/integrated/303d/list.aspx>

303(d) LIST CATEGORIES

- 1 – All Designated Uses are met
 - 1a – Does not have a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load)
 - 1b – Has a TMDL
- 2 - Some, but not all, Designated Uses are met
- 3 - Insufficient data and/or information are available to make a use support determination
 - 3a – No data available
 - 3b – Insufficient data available
- 4 - Water quality standards are not attained for one or more designated uses but the development of a TMDL is not required because:
 - 4a – Has a TMDL
 - 4b - Other management requirements are expected to address impairment
 - 4c - Non-pollutant cause for impairment
- 5 - Water Quality is Impaired or Threatened & TMDL is needed
 - 5-r - Advance Restoration Plans



<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/57e4fa8751524d54bd69ab58a7296e3e/>

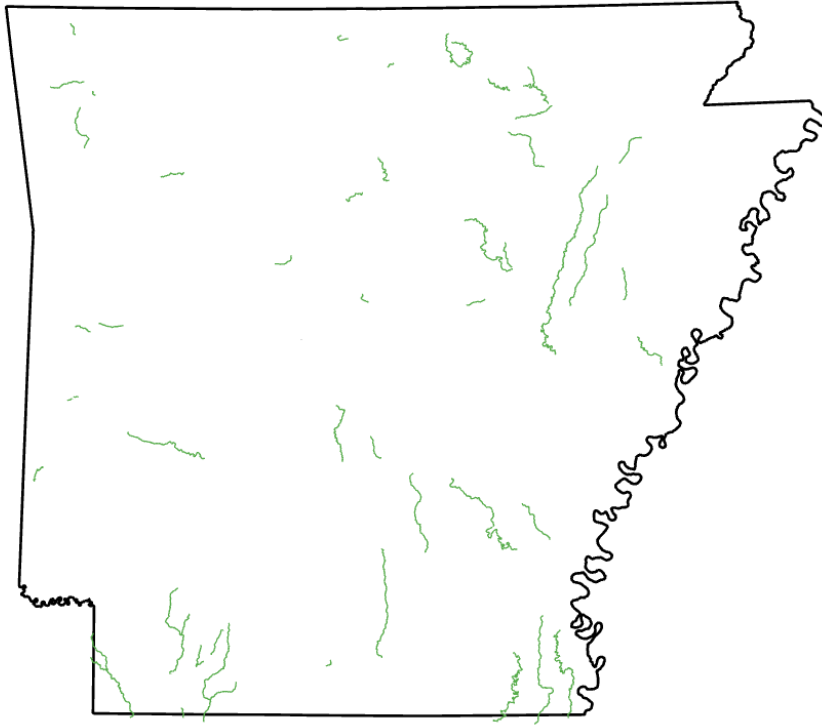
2026 303(d)

THE MOST RECENTLY EPA APPROVED LIST

- Reported as parameter-pairs
 - Assessment unit + impaired parameter
- 622 impaired parameter-pairs within categories 5, 4b, and 5-*r*
- The 2024 and 2026 lists were jointly approved by EPA on May 21, 2026

CATEGORY 1b

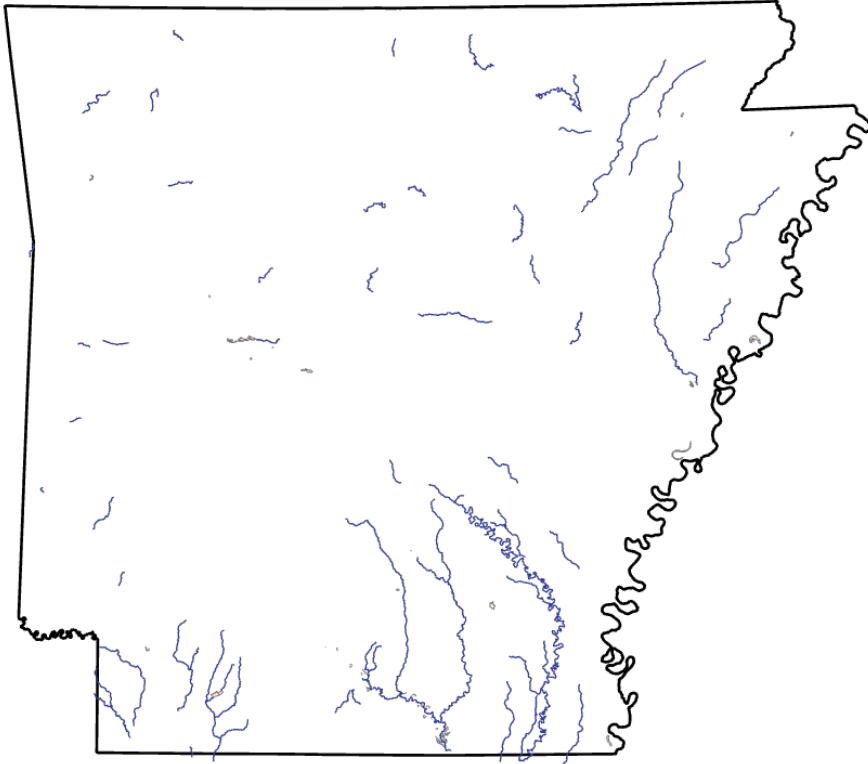
TMDL EXISTS AND THE PARAMETER-PAIR ATTAINS



- 167 parameter-pairs
 - Highest impairment: Turbidity (59)
 - Includes storm and base flows
- TMDL remains in place even when the waterbody is attaining for the TMDL specific parameter

CATEGORY 4A

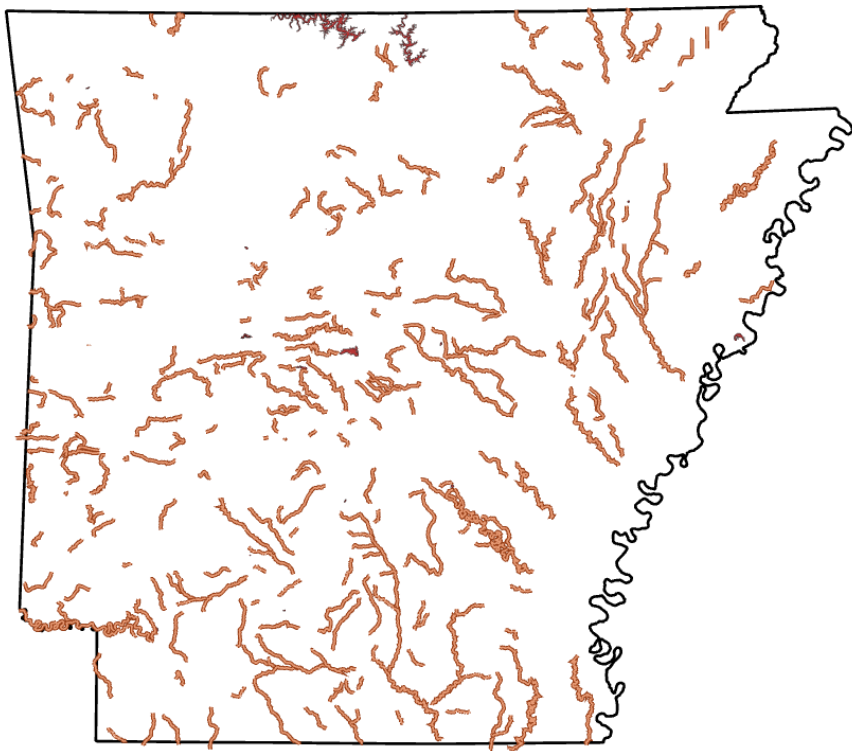
TMDL EXISTS AND THE PARAMETER-PAIR DOES NOT ATTAIN



- 272 impaired parameter-pairs
- Highest impairment: Turbidity (117)
 - Includes storm and base flows

CATEGORY 5

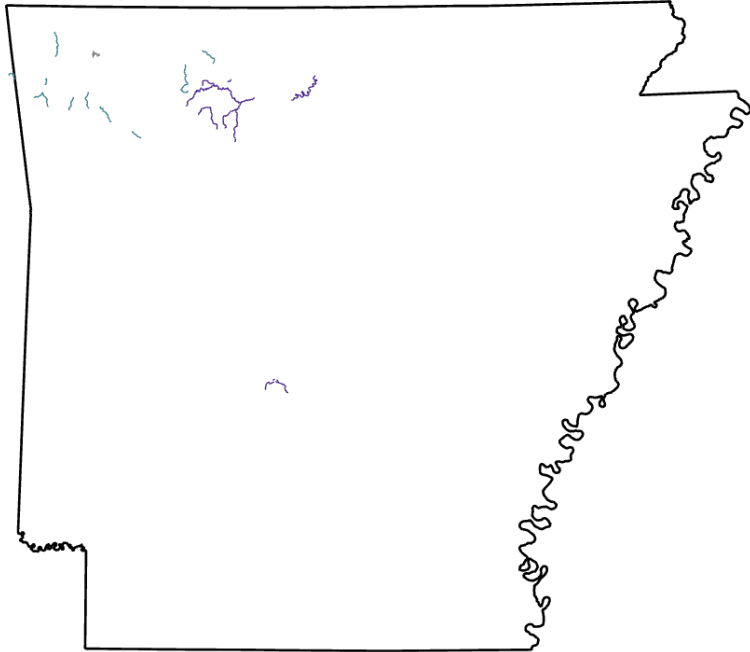
THE PARAMETER-PAIR DOES NOT ATTAIN



- 579 impaired parameter-pairs
- Highest number of impairments
 - Dissolved oxygen (188)
 - Includes critical and primary seasons
 - Includes discrete, long-term, and short-term data
 - pH (103)
 - Includes discrete, long-term, and short-term data
 - Turbidity (111)
 - Includes storm and base flows
- Listing Status
 - 78 New
 - 206 Carry forward
 - 295 Remnant

CATEGORY 5-*r*/4b

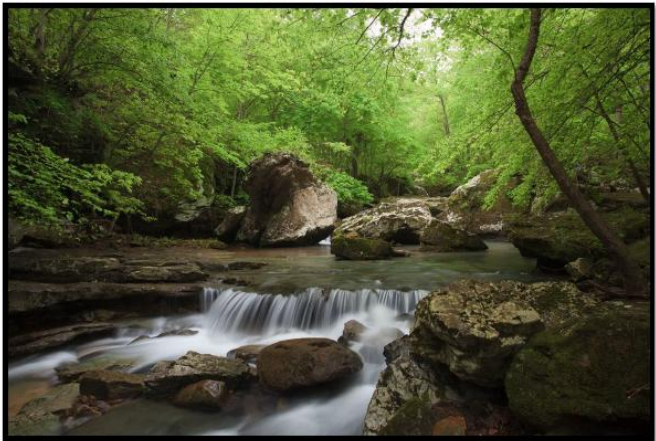
THE PARAMETER-PAIR DOES NOT ATTAIN HOWEVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANS ARE EXPECTED TO RESULT IN ATTAINMENT



- 43 parameter-pairs
- Highest number of impairments
 - *Escherichia coli* (8)
 - Dissolved oxygen (7)
 - Includes critical and primary seasons
 - Includes discrete, long-term, and short-term data
 - Biological Integrity (7)
 - Includes fish and macroinvertebrates
- Listing Status
 - 0 New
 - 11 Carry forward
 - 32 Remnant

Integrated Water Quality Monitoring Assessment Report

Prepared pursuant to Section 305(b) and
303(d) of the Federal Pollution Control Act



Category 4b Rationale Buffalo River Watershed.....	130
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Category 5- <i>r</i> Rationale for Beaver Lake Watershed	150
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2026



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KEEP IN TOUCH



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