

Collins, Kelly A.

From: lin wellford <linwellford@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2014 5:33 PM
To: Arkansas Water
Subject: comments on the AR Water Plan

I'm grateful for all the hard work that has gone into revising the water plan nearly 25 years after it was established. I know it was a huge task, and more important than ever in this time of dwindling resources. So deepest thanks to all. I do have a few comments.

I understand that ADEQ took very little role in shaping this plan. We need all hands on deck to make sure that all people benefit, and I encourage ANRC and ADEQ to work together in future. Each entity brings a needed perspective.

Also, I am concerned about what seems to be an arbitrary change in the amount of water that may be allowed to be taken from waterways. While some larger rivers may easily afford to have more flow syphoned off, others can not, and such decisions should be made stream by stream, not across the board. Until a study can be done to determine scientifically how much water can safely be taken from any waterway above the amount that has been established all these years, please consider keeping the 25% rule in place. It has worked well thus far, and tripling the amount seems both rash and reckless.

Finally, it has been suggested that a board of professionals be assembled to lend expert advice going forward, people with enough background in water issues to be able to help shape changes that will make the plan better and without vested interests that make their advice self-serving. These issues are complicated and implementing such a group could be most helpful.

Thanks again,

Lin Wellford
Green Forest, AR