

ADEQ

ARKANSAS
Department of Environmental Quality



THE ARKANSAS STRATEGY FOR PRESERVING QUALITY WATERSHEDS

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FRAMEWORK

Requirements – Clean Water Act

Rhetoric – Comments and Concerns

Robust Review - ADEQ Data Integrity Review and public comments

Reality – Qualified data and approved Assessment Methodology

Response - Beautiful Buffalo

Regulation - Alternative Restoration Approach, possible TMDL

WHAT WILL BE DISCUSSED

1. What the Clean Water Act requires of ADEQ in assessing whether waterbodies in Arkansas are “impaired?”

2. Why commenters requested Mill Creek, Bear Creek, and Big Creek be 303(d) listed?

3. How to address concerns about pollutants in the Buffalo River watershed?

HOW DOES ADEQ DEVELOP THE 303(d) LIST?

1. ADEQ compiles qualifying data set for the assessment.

2. In analyzing the data, ADEQ uses its publicly available Assessment Methodology.

3. ADEQ applies the data to standards set forth in Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission's Regulation No. 2.

HOW EXTENSIVE IS THE DATA SET USED BY ADEQ?

Data Utilized

ADEQ Data

- More than 580,000 data points
- More than 10,000 stream miles

Outside ADEQ

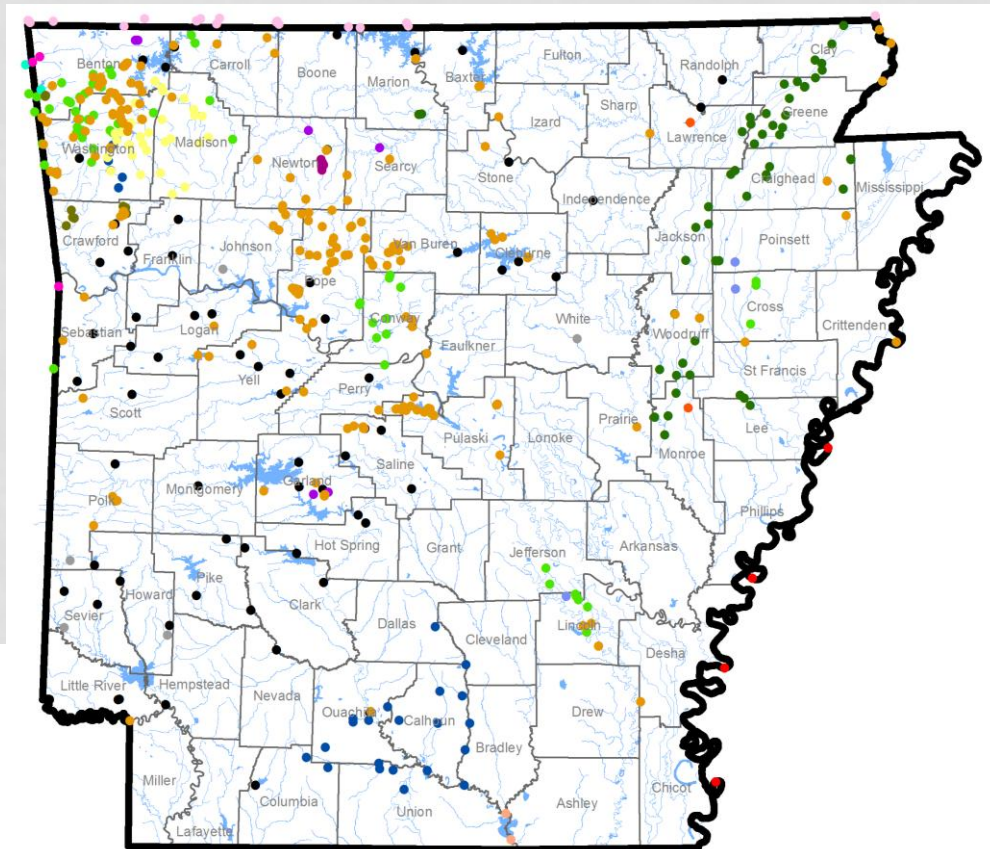
- More than 420,000 data points
- From 24 entities

HOW EXTENSIVE IS THE DATA SET USED BY ADEQ?

Outside Data

More than 420,000 data points

24 entities (government, academic, private)



- | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------|
| ● BCRT | ● ANRC | ● EPA |
| ● AGFC | ● ADH | ● EQUILIBRIUM |
| ● MDNR | ● ASU | ● GBMCASSOC |
| ● USGS-AR | ● AWRC | ● MDEQ |
| ● USGS-OK | ● BWD | ● NPS |
| ● USGS-LA | ● Cherokee Nation | |

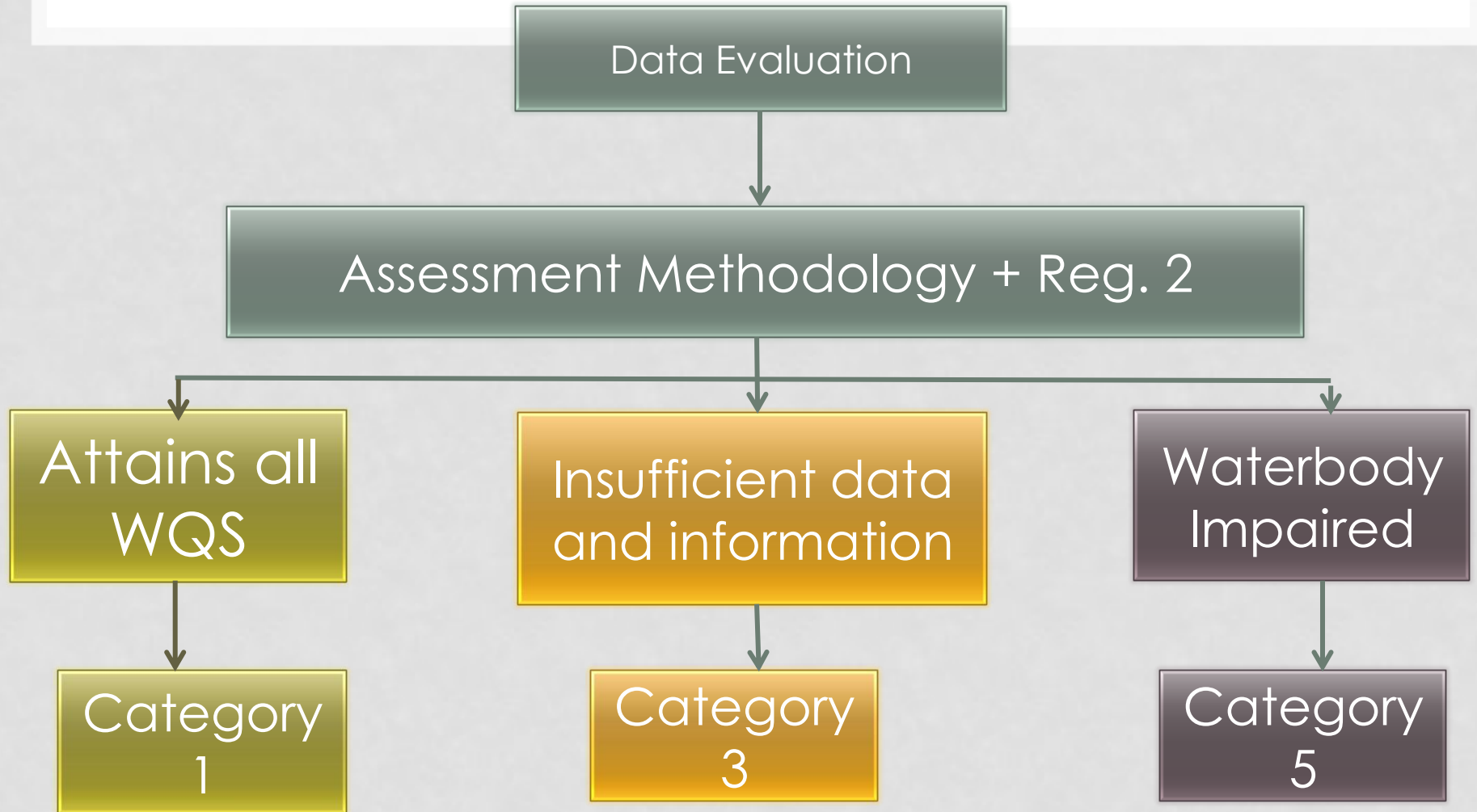
HOW DOES ADEQ PERFORM PROPER ASSESSMENT OF WATER BODIES

1. Uses criteria for parameters set forth in Regulation No. 2

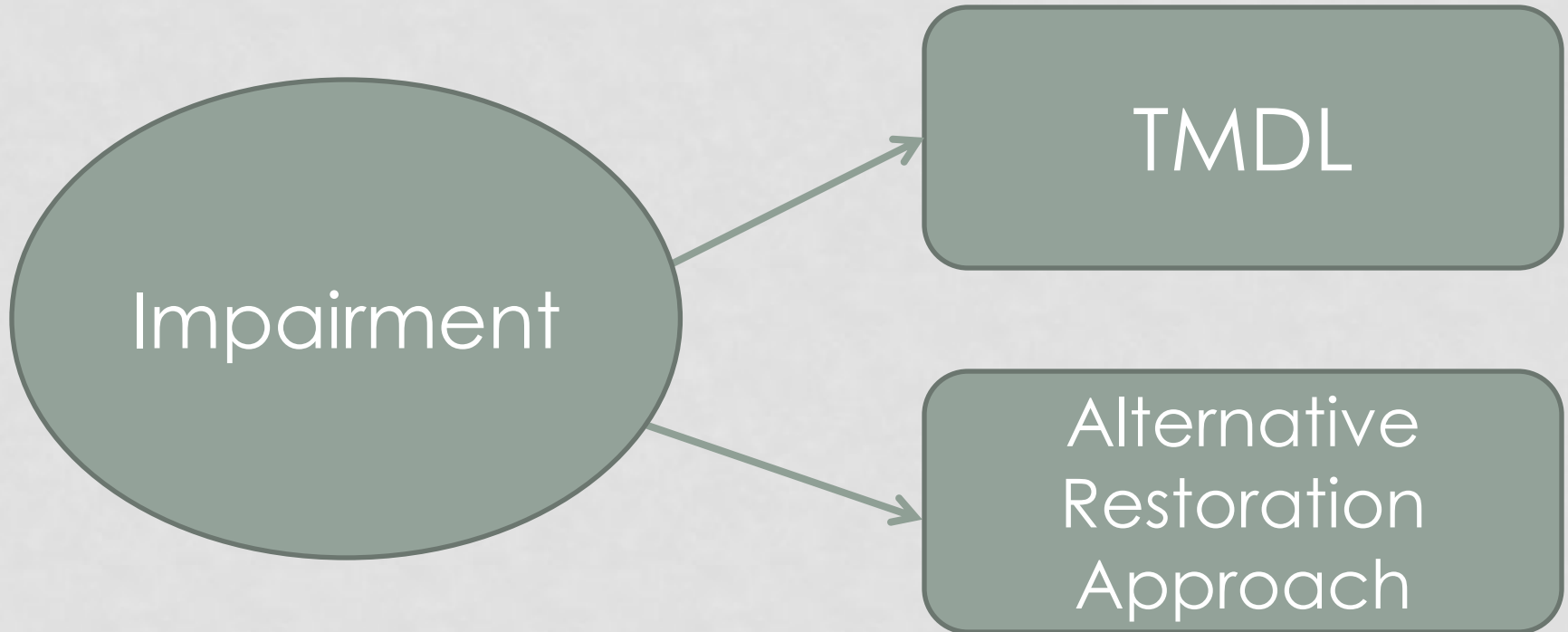
2. Analyzes data according to publicly available Assessment Methodology

3. Ensures data are within the current Period of Record

HOW DO ASSESSMENTS INFORM LISTINGS?

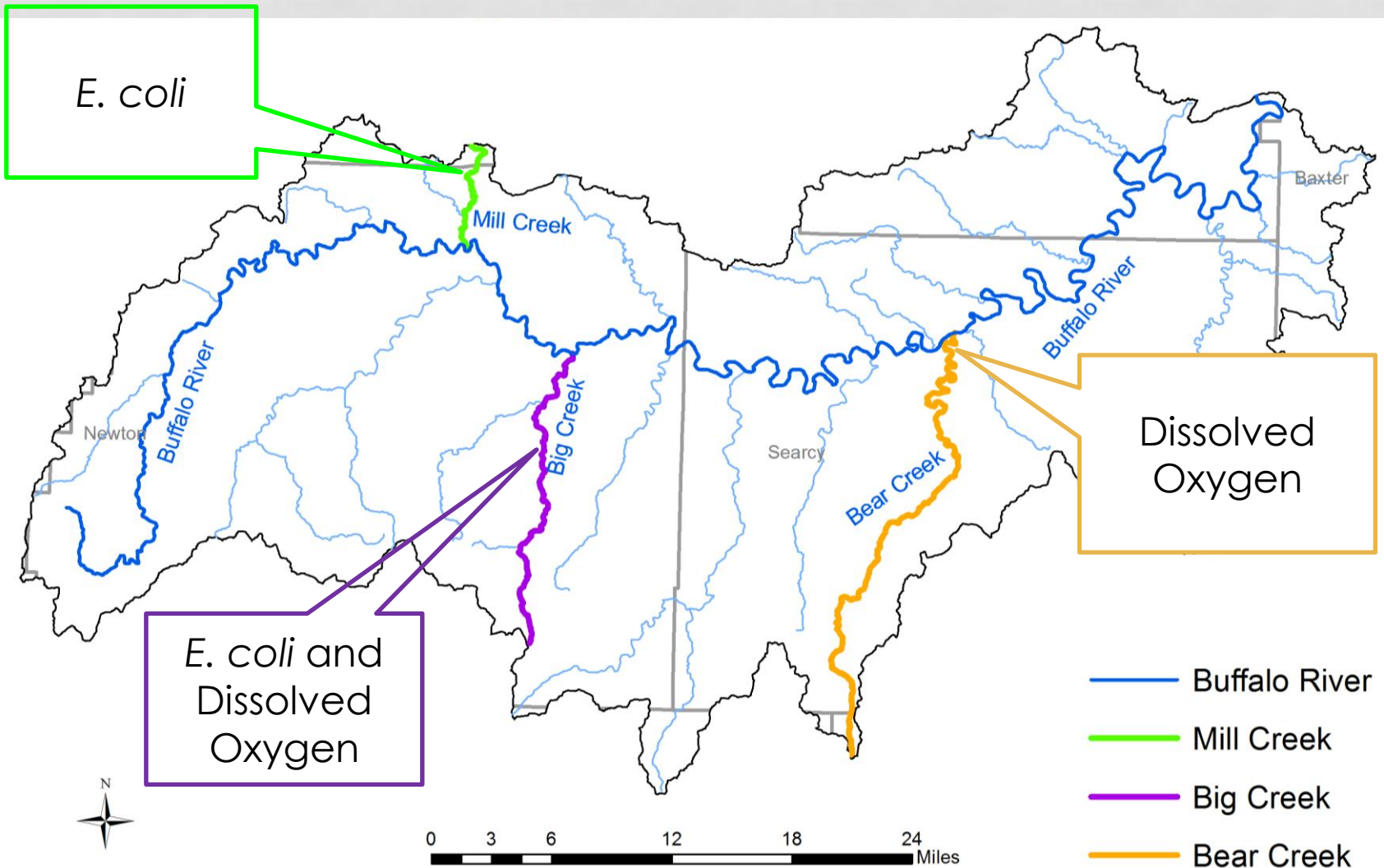


WHAT HAPPENS IF A WATER BODY BECOMES “IMPAIRED” AND IS LISTED ON THE 303(d) LIST?

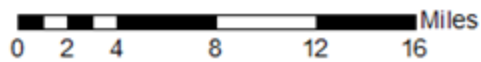
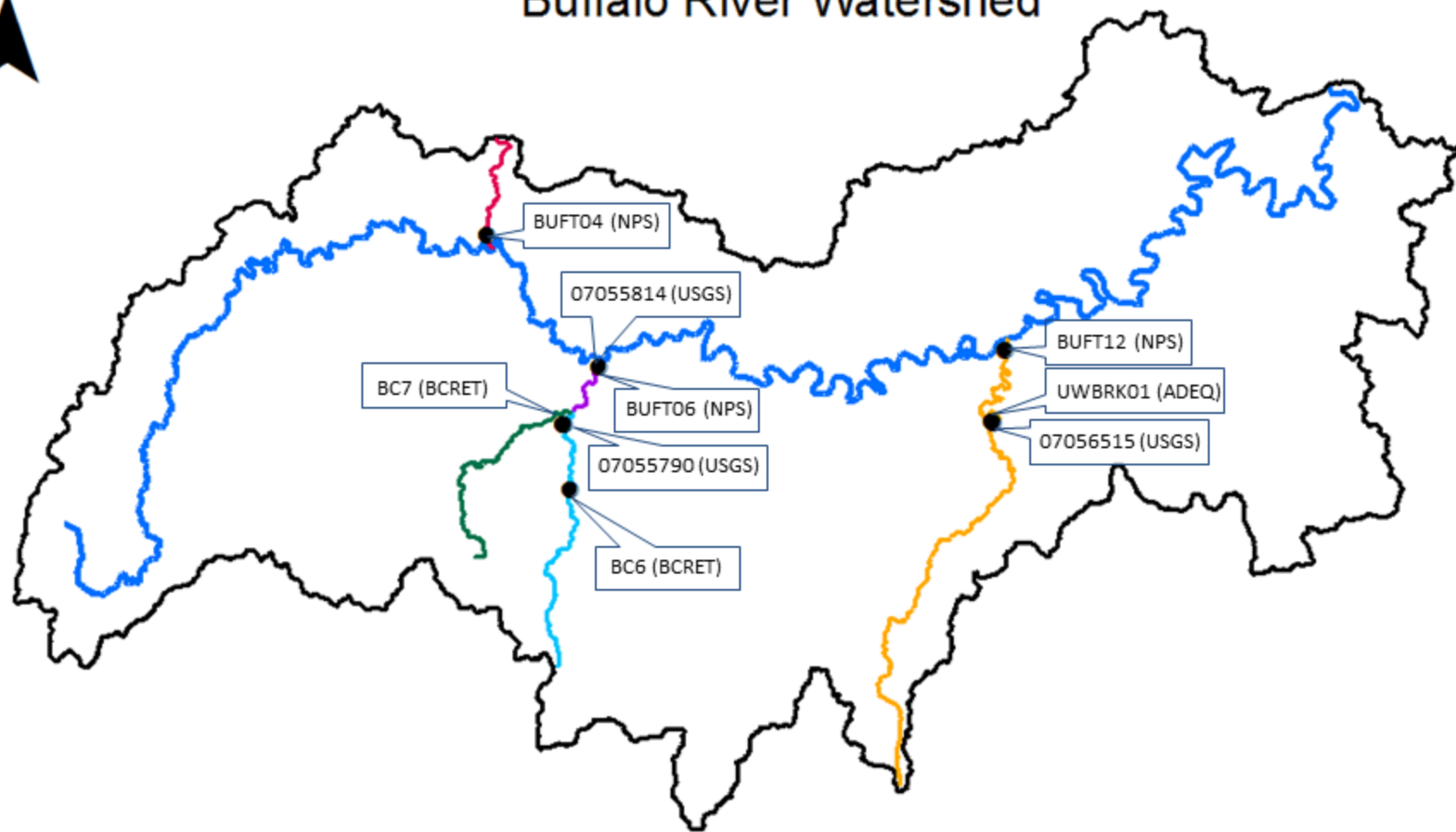


EPA and States will work together to determine the most effective tool to achieve water quality standards

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS



Buffalo River Watershed



Legend

- Buffalo River
- Big Creek -020
- Big Creek -022
- Left Fork Big Creek -021
- Mill Creek -912
- Bear Creek -026

WHAT DOES 2016 REVIEW SHOW?

- Completing Final Analysis and Preparation of the 2016 Recommendations
- Buffalo River is Impairment Free
- Standards established for tributaries are providing adequate protection of the Buffalo River and uses.
- Prudent to continue evaluations and potentially expand studies of the tributaries
- Prudent to act collaboratively to maintain water quality.
- Sound science critical to inform effective regulation.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- Presentation by :
 - Mr. Allen Gates, J. D.,
Mitchell, Williams, Selig, Gates, and Woodyard, P. L. L. C.