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Keeping the Natural State natural.

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Mr. Ray Smith
Chairman, Arkansas Council &
National Leader Council Representative
70 N. College Ave., Suite 11
Fayetteville, AR 72701

December 14, 2009

Dear Mr. Smith:

First, let me thank you and the other members of Trout Unlimited for taking the time to voice your thoughts on the regulation changes involving the Norfolk Tailwater catch-and-release area that were approved by our Commission earlier this year. I am confident that Director Henderson will convey the concerns outlined in your letter to him to our Commissioners. I understand your concern and frustration over the final decision to approve Option 2, particularly as it relates to the intensive public involvement process that was used to arrive at the initial staff recommendation, Option 1. I still believe strongly in the value of the public involvement process to the effective management of Arkansas' trout resources and hope for continued public participation. We remain committed to carrying out the numerous other strategies outlined in the management plan for Bull Shoals and Norfolk Tailwaters that are aimed at making these fisheries the best they can be. I look forward to having Trout Unlimited as a valuable partner in this endeavor. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Williams
Trout Program Coordinator

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The mission of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is to wisely manage all the fish and wildlife resources of Arkansas while providing maximum enjoyment for the people.