

ARKANSAS COUNCIL



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Brett Morgan, Chairman
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
2 Rubra Ct.
Little Rock, Arkansas 72223

Re: Option One-Proposed Changes to the Trout Fishing Regulations-Norfolk Tailwaters

Dear Commissioner Morgan:

The over One Thousand members of Arkansas Trout Unlimited remain extremely disappointed as a result of the last minute backroom politics by the Commissioners to reject the "Option 1" Proposed Change to the Norfolk Tailwater Trout Fishing Regulations and approve a substitute "Option 2", contrary to the public input from numerous public meetings or forums, including the professional staff of the Fisheries Division. If your intent was to let backroom politics rule, then you have succeeded in ending the essential and vital requirement for public input and public meetings held by the professional staff. As a result, trout conservations now see little or no need for public meetings to gather public views or comments on future AGFC plans for the trout tailwaters if the Commissioners ignore public input/professional staff recommendations and use backroom politics to decide what is approved, i.e. Option "2". Public confidence in the decisions made and actions taken by the Commissioners is now at an all time low. What can be done to correct this? It is the opinion of the members of Trout Unlimited in Arkansas that public confidence could be restored if the Commissioners were to rescind the previous approval of "Option 2" and then approve "Option 1"; this would be a major step in the right direction.

Arkansas Trout Unlimited wants to trust the Commission to work in the best interest to protect the trout fisheries of Arkansas. The Commission needs to trust the AFGC professional staff and the public input process. Arkansas Trout Unlimited members along with many other conservationists have worked hard to develop and maintain the world class trout fisheries of the Norfolk Tailwaters, and "Option 1" is the right next step.

Sincerely,
Ray Smith, Chairman
Arkansas Council, Trout Unlimited