

Buffalo River Air Project Publicized

"A soft, steady whir emanates from a secluded ridgetop above Arkansas' Buffalo National River. A few drops of rain begin to fall. As if by magic, a pyramidal metal plate glides through the air. Not far away on a tall metal tower, a black box clicks. Is it an invasion from outer space? No just a routine data collection at Buffalo River's air quality sampling site."

This catchy lead, designed to lure the average reader into "the rest of the story," is the way Park Volunteer Connie Toops opened her May 23 news release describing Buffalo National River's air quality data collection work.

The release goes on to describe the fine particulate sampling station and how it works as one of approximately 100 such sites sponsored by the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP), the way the park is conducting its visibility study, and the park's air quality monitoring site role as one of 38 collection points for the Arkansas Department of Ecology and Pollution Control.

"Although northwestern Arkansas is not heavily industrialized," the release concludes, "park studies reveal impact from emissions originating as far away as the Gulf Coast and the Ohio Valley. Resource management personnel at Buffalo NR. . . expect to benefit from the air quality data being collected for years to come."



A resource management technician at Buffalo National River replaces the drum graph in the NADP recording rain gauge. The instrument charts the intensity and duration of each rain or snow shower which falls on the sampling site.