

**Finding Aid for the
Buffalo River Project records
OBU.1990.001**



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Ouachita Baptist University
410 Ouachita Street
Arkadelphia, AR 71998*

Repository: Archives and Special Collections, Ouachita Baptist University

Title: Buffalo River Project records

Dates: 1954-1971

Quantity: 1.28 c.f.

Abstract: Materials collected by Dr. Joe F. Nix (1939-2026), a water chemist and environmental activist, who taught at Ouachita Baptist University from 1966 to 1994. As a member of the Ozark Society, Nix participated in the fight to prevent damming the Buffalo River in northwest Arkansas in the 1960s-1970. The Ozark Society was successful in achieving national river status for the Buffalo, the first river to be awarded that distinction. Nix's project records include correspondence, government documents, reports, publications, speeches, and maps.

Identification: OBU.1990.001

Languages: English

Acquisition Information: Donated by Dr. Joe Nix, 1985.

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Biographical or Historical Summary

Joe Nix (1939-2026) was a water chemist and environmental activist who sought to protect water quality and usage patterns. Nix graduated from Ouachita Baptist University in 1961 with his B.S. degree in Chemistry. He received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Arkansas in 1966 and returned to teach at Ouachita. Nix's research on Arkansas streams and rivers led him to join the [Ozark Society](#), an Arkansas based environmental organization founded initially to resist construction of dams on the Buffalo River. Nix served and chaired numerous committees relating to water quality, including the Natural Resources Committee of the Arkansas Wildlife Federation and the State Committee on Stream Preservation. Nix retired from Ouachita in 1994, after which he served as Director of Programs for the Ross Foundation in Arkadelphia. For additional information see: "[Joe Franklin Nix](#)," [Encyclopedia of Arkansas](#). Nix passed away on 25 August 2026.

Scope and Contents and Arrangement

Correspondence, government documents, reports, publications, speeches, and maps relating to Buffalo River protection efforts. Includes material from various state and national conservation entities.

Keywords

Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Arkansas State Committee on Stream Preservation
Buffalo River (Ark.)
Conservation
Corps of Engineer, U. S. Army
Cox, Elbert (1906-1993)
Department of the Interior, U.S.
Eleven Point River Basin (Mo.)
Faubus, Orval (1910-1994)
Nix, Joe (1939-2026)
Ozark Society
Rivers
Water conservation
Water resources development
White River Basin

Processed by Dr. Lisa Speer, 2019

Box Contents

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1338/001	Correspondence, 1969-1974
1338/002	White River and Tributaries: Missouri and Arkansas, House Document No. 499, US GPO, 1954
1338/003	Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station press releases, 1962. 3 copies
1338/004	Remarks by Elbert Cox, Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, before Great Rivers Outdoors Writers, Lakeview, AR, 6 October 1962
1338/005	"Land Use Planning and Zoning in Rural Arkansas Areas: Legal and Economic Aspects," UA Agricultural Experiment Station, June 1962
/006-007	"Water Resources Development by the US Army Corps of Engineers in Arkansas," 1 January 1963
1338/008	"Field investigation Report Suggested Buffalo River Arkansas," US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Southeast Region, Richmond, VA, April 1963. 2 copies with map.
1338/009	"Economic Study of the Proposed Buffalo National River," prepared for the National Park Service, US Department of the Interior by Bureau of Business and Economic Research and Industrial Research and Extension Center, College of Business Administration, University of Arkansas, May 1963. 2 copies
1338/010	Audit of Southwestern Power System and Related Activities, Corps of Engineers (Civil Functions), Department of the Army and Southwestern Power Administration, Department of the Interior, 1960-1961, by the Comptroller General of the US, May 1963
1338/011	Facts/More Facts That You Should Know about the Buffalo River, distributed by the Ozark Society, circa 1963. 3 copies with map
1338/012	Fish and Wildlife Resources in Relation to Considered Water Development Plans, Eleven Point River Basin, Arkansas and Missouri, prepared by the US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1964
1338/013	Fish and Wildlife Resources in Relation to Considered Water Development Plans Buffalo River Basin, Arkansas, prepared by the US Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1964

- 1338/014 Water Resources Study, Buffalo River Basin Arkansas, US
Department of Health, Education and Welfare, June 1964. 2 copies
- 1338/015 Conservation of Water and Related Land Resources, Buffalo River
Basin, Arkansas, Interim Report, Volume III, White River Basin
Comprehensive Study Missouri and Arkansas, US Army Engineer
District, Corps of Engineers, Little Rock, circa 1964
- 1338/016 Statement by Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus to the Corps of
Engineers on the Disposition of the Buffalo River in Arkansas, 10
December 1965
- 1338/017 Arkansas River Valley Resource Conservation & Development Project:
A Plan for Development prepared by the USDA, Soil Conservation
Service, Little Rock, AR, May 1966
- 1338/018 Appraisal for Hydroelectric Licensing Upper White River Basin
Missouri-Arkansas, Federal Power Commission, Bureau of Power,
1966
- 1338/019 National Parks Magazine, September 1967
- 1338/020 Comprehensive River Basin Study, White River Basin, Arkansas-
Missouri, 1967
- 1338/021 Revised Economic Study of the Proposed Buffalo River National
River, prepared for the National Park Service, US Department of the
Interior, College of Business Administration, University of Arkansas,
February 1968
- 1338/022 Materials from Arkansas State Committee on Stream Preservation,
1968, 1970, 1971
- 1338/023 Materials from Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, 1965, 1969
- 1338/024 History of Stream Preservation Movement in Arkansas, by Rex M.
Terry, 20 December 1971
- 1338/025 Buffalo River legislation and hearings, 1971
- 1338/026 Report on trip to Washington, DC by J. Nix, 21-22 April 1971
- 1338/027 "Challenge on the Buffalo," excerpts of a report by the American
Landowners Association, Harper's Ferry, WV, not dated
- 1338/028 Man-Made Reservoirs in Ozark-Ouachita Region, map, not dated

1338/029	New Challenges for Wilderness Conservation from the Wilderness Society, not dated
1338/030	Nix notes, not dated