



YAVAPAI-APACHE NATION

Executive Office

Chairwoman Tanya Lewis

Vice Chairman Ricardo Pacheco

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February 16, 2023

Re: Support Statement for Designating the Upper Verde a Wild and Scenic River

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Verde River is an extraordinary ribbon of life through the heart of Arizona. The Upper Verde—extending from East of Paulden to the Town of Clarkdale—is one of the most clean, healthy, economically important, and culturally significant free-flowing rivers remaining in Arizona.

The Upper Verde River provides:

- Important habitat for fish, wildlife and birds
- A wide range of recreation opportunities including hunting, fishing, hiking, swimming, birding, paddling, horseback riding, and a scenic railway
- Stunning geology and scenery
- Clean water for downstream users – farms and ranches, cities, and Indigenous communities

We deeply value the Verde River and the community values that depend on it. We support keeping the Upper Verde River free-flowing for families, future generations, wildlife and the vitality of Arizona's economy.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tanya Lewis".

Tanya Lewis
Tribal Chairwoman