

YAVAPAI COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

[www.yavapaiaz.gov](http://www.yavapaiaz.gov)



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May 3, 2023

To whom it may concern,

The Upper Verde River, and its tributaries, located between the Verde headwaters and the Town of Clarkdale in central Arizona, in the Prescott and Coconino National Forests, is an important and unique public resource that provides numerous recreational, aesthetic and conservancy benefits to the residents of Yavapai County.

The natural wild character of the Upper Verde River is especially important to those seeking opportunities for outdoor activities including camping, birding, hiking, hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities. Additionally, the Upper Verde River and its tributaries provide vital habitat for a wide variety of wildlife including 18 species protected by the Endangered Species Act, and protection for indigenous and other cultural sites.

Designating the Upper Verde as a "Wild and Scenic River" will enhance the local economy. Outdoor recreation is a growing \$20 billion per year industry that brings revenue from outside Arizona and creates local jobs. Over 120 local business owners in Yavapai County have signed letters to support the designation of the Upper Verde as a Wild and Scenic River. Importantly, a Wild and Scenic designation does not affect existing water rights or private property rights.

The Yavapai County Board of Supervisors hereby supports local efforts to designate the Upper Verde as a Wild and Scenic River, thereby permanently protecting this unique and special place for present and future generations.

Sincerely,

James Gregory, Chairman  
Yavapai County Supervisors