



June 13, 2023

**Letter of Support**

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 benefits to the human and natural communities.

The natural wild character of the Upper Verde River is especially important to citizens seeking recreational opportunities for hunting, fishing, camping, birding, hiking and other recreational activities. Additionally, the Upper Verde River and its tributaries provide vital wildlife habitat, protect many species listed by the Endangered Species Act, and preserve indigenous cultural and cultural sites.

The Upper Verde Wild and Scenic River will enhance our local economy. Outdoor recreation is a growing \$20 billion industry bringing revenue from outside Arizona and creating local jobs – over 120 local business owners in Yavapai County have signed letters of support.

Importantly, Wild and Scenic designation does not affect existing water rights or private property rights.

The Town of Chino Valley Council hereby supports local efforts to designate the Upper Verde Wild and Scenic River, thereby permanently protecting this unique and special place for present and future generations.

Jack W. Miller, Mayor

Annie Perkins, Councilmember

John McCafferty, Councilmember

Eric Granillo, Vice-Mayor

Tom Armstrong, Councilmember

Sherri Phillips, Councilmember

Bob Schacherer, Councilmember