



STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATIE HOBBS  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

December 27, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to add my voice in support of the Upper Verde Wild and Scenic River designation, protecting this unique place for present and future generations.

Arizona's remaining free flowing rivers such as the Verde are treasures of biodiversity that provide rare habitat for threatened and endangered species and life sustaining flows to urban areas.

With only six major perennial rivers, the Verde stands as our state's longest surviving, living river. Although the Verde River watershed comprises only 5.8% of Arizona's land area, it supports a large number of our state's vertebrate species, including 78% of breeding bird species, 89% of bat and carnivore species, 83% of native ungulates, and 76% of reptiles and amphibian genera, according to the Upper Verde Wild and Scenic Coalition. This includes 21 species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

The Upper Verde also sustains rural economies. In Yavapai County, 216,000 residents participate in outdoor recreation on or along waterways, creating an annual \$1 billion economic impact and generating 9,400 jobs according to the Arizona Audubon Report and the 2019 Yavapai County Fact Sheet.

As Governor of Arizona I support keeping the Upper Verde River free-flowing for families to recreate, for wildlife, and for the vitality of Arizona's economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Hobbs", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Katie Hobbs  
Governor  
State of Arizona