



Office of the Mayor

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To Whom it May Concern,

The City of Prescott is pleased to submit this letter in support of the proposed federal designation of the Upper Verde River as a Wild and Scenic River. This designation is crucial for the preservation of one of Arizona's last surviving perennial rivers, a resource that holds immense ecological, cultural, and recreational value for our community and the entire Verde Valley region.

During a recent workshop, the Prescott City Council expressed strong support for the designation of the Upper Verde River and its tributaries as a Wild and Scenic River. This designation would help safeguard the river's free-flowing character and its Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs), which include its exceptional scenic, recreational, cultural, wildlife, fisheries, and botanical attributes. Additionally, the Upper Verde River supports critical habitat for several endangered species, making its preservation even more vital.

The City of Prescott recognizes the importance of protecting this vital natural resource, which sustains the region's unique biodiversity and supports the economic and recreational activities of local businesses, residents, and visitors. We also support the collaborative approach to river management outlined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which emphasizes the participation of local stakeholders and ensures that the management plan for the area will include input from all relevant parties.

In addition, we respectfully request the inclusion of Alternative 2 as referred to in the Upper Verde River – Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study, which supports the use of fish barriers designed to protect native species while mitigating the negative impact of non-native fish. This approach will enable the river's ecosystem to thrive while maintaining the integrity of the Wild and Scenic River designation.

The City of Prescott is committed to advocating for the preservation and sustainable management of the Upper Verde River. We encourage the federal government to move forward with the designation process and to ensure that the river's unique ecological and recreational values continue to benefit future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of this important initiative. We look forward to the opportunity to continue supporting this project and working with stakeholders to preserve the Upper Verde River.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Goode", written in a cursive style.

Phil Goode  
Mayor