



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments
527 S. Main St.
PO Box 219
Camp Verde, AZ 86322

IN REPLY REFER TO:

3/22/2024

To Whom it May Concern:

The Verde River is one of the last free-flowing rivers in Arizona. It provides exceptional habitat for wildlife, is an economic driver for communities along the river corridor, provides numerous recreational opportunities and is an important cultural location for Native American communities. Tuzigoot National Monument was established as a National Park Service unit on July 25, 1939 to “preserve, study, and interpret outstanding archeological resources... associated cultural artifacts, and the ecologically sensitive Tavasci Marsh”ⁱ. The proposed Wild and Scenic designation for the Upper Verde River includes 44 river miles just upstream of Tuzigoot National Monument.

The Verde River has provided water critical for human consumption, agriculture, commerce and recreation for thousands of years. Tuzigoot National Monument contains archeological evidence of human use along the river corridor for the last 1,000 years, with other nearby areas containing evidence going back to the last ice age. Native communities with strong ties to the Verde Valley curate stories of important events and place names for the river and its associated features. Later soldiers and settlers inhabited the area and relied on the Verde River and its tributaries for survival.

The Verde River is, and always has been, a central focus for National Park Service operations at Tuzigoot. We actively interpret the ecological, hydrological, social, historical and cultural importance of the river to our visitors. The river provides context for the amazing history of the Verde Valley and is a key component of how we develop and work toward achieving resource management objectives. We appreciate the Wild Verde River Coalition for recognizing the unique resources at Tuzigoot National Monument and across the Verde Valley.

Sincerely,

Matt Guebard

Acting Superintendent

ⁱ Foundation Document, Tavasci National Monument Arizona. February 2016. [Tuzigoot National Monument Foundation Document \(npshistory.com\)](https://www.nps.gov/history/monuments/tuzigoot-national-monument-foundation-document)